



SUPPLEMENTARY HUMAN DIMENSION MEETING

Freedom of Religion or Belief, Fostering Mutual Respect and Understanding 2-3 July 2015

Hofburg, Vienna

General Guidelines

1. Aim of the Meeting

According to the decision of the Permanent Council (PC.DEC/476, 23 May 2002), each year, the Chairman-in-Office organizes three informal Supplementary Human Dimension Meetings (SHDMs), in the framework of the Permanent Council, in order to discuss key substantive concerns raised at the previous Human Dimension Meetings or Review Conferences. The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) assists the Chairman-in-Office in preparing the SHDMs.

The meeting will address the topic of *Freedom of Religion or Belief, Fostering Mutual Respect and Understanding*. The meeting will provide a forum for discussion on the progress made in the implementation of relevant OSCE commitments, and will explore the opportunities and means that now exist to further strengthen the right to freedom of religion or belief and intensify the work on fostering mutual respect and understanding within the OSCE area.

Recommendations may be addressed to participating States, the OSCE at large, OSCE executive structures, other inter-governmental organizations, as well as civil society actors in OSCE participating States.

Additional information relevant to the SHDM, including the annotated agenda can be found on the ODIHR website at www.osce.org/odihr/shdm_2_2015.

2. Participation

Representatives of OSCE participating States, OSCE institutions, and OSCE executive structures, representatives of inter-governmental organizations, representatives of non-governmental organizations, and other civil society actors will participate in the SHDM. The Partners for Co-operation are invited to attend and contribute with respect to their co-operation and links with the OSCE in the field. Civil Society organizations can find more information in the document 'Information for Civil Society'.

3. Registration

On-line registration for all participants is available at <http://meetings.odihr.pl>. Participants are advised to **register by Wednesday, 17 June 2015**.

The registration will also be available after the date; however, early registration would be highly appreciated to facilitate the preparation of the SHDM. Registered participants will be able to collect their badges at the meeting's venue as of Thursday, 2 July 2015, from 9 a.m.in

the main entrance hall of the Hofburg Congress Centre. Those participants who experience problems with registration are requested to contact Ms. Anna Sierant (contact details below).

4. Modalities

The modalities of the meeting are set out in accordance with the decision of the Permanent Council (PC.DEC/476, 23 May 2002).

The meeting will take place in the Hofburg Congress Centre. It will start on Thursday, 2 July, at 15.00 with an opening session and will be followed by three working sessions. The closing session will finish on Friday, 3 July at 17.30.

The Meeting will be interpreted into the six official OSCE languages: English, French, German, Italian, Russian and Spanish.

5. Side events

Side events (SE) may be held over the course of two days during the SHDM. Civil society organizations are invited to organize side events. As we have introduced a new on-line SE Booking System, please register first in the ODIHR Registration System (<http://meetings.odihr.pl>.) and then proceed with the Side Event Booking. Organizations wishing to organize a side event are requested to register and book the slot at their earliest convenience as the system is based on ‘first come, first served’ basis. The system will be open on Friday, 12 June 2015, at 12.00 (CET) and will be closed by Tuesday, 23 June, 23:59 (CET). No bookings will be accepted after this date. Additional information on the content and objectives of planned side events, as well as on timing and duration, are available in the document Side Event Information.

6. Guidelines for the Debates

The intention is to develop a free-flowing discussion based on the keynote speeches, panellists’ inputs, discussions, background information and written statements circulated in advance or during the SHDM. To this end, a list of speakers is not envisaged in the course of the SHDM and interventions in the form of prepared statements are discouraged. Prepared statements, background documentation, comments or written materials may be submitted in advance for circulation by the Documents Distribution Centre and hence can feed the discussion.

In case of any questions, please contact:

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Organizational matters:

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Coordination of side events:

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Registration of participants:

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