

**DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA**

**Statement  
at the Opening Plenary Session  
of the OSCE 2006 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting  
Warsaw, 2 October 2006**

Mr. Chairman,

Delegation of the Republic of Armenia thanks all Speakers for their Opening Statements that introduced us to the problems we are going to discuss in the coming two weeks. We would like to express our particular gratitude to Mr. Thomas Hammarberg, Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe, for his key-note address. The Commissioner used some important concepts that we find useful for upcoming discussions, concepts that give us a theoretical and practical framework to guide our work.

First concept that caught our attention in the address by Mr. Hammarberg is the ‘culture of Human Rights’. Notion of culture cannot be exaggerated; it includes principled approach that clearly spins address by the Commissioner in his best effort to avoid double standards. In this he provides us with an example to follow. Another notion that he used and we found it very useful for all of us to take a good note of us is that of the weakness of a state, which may create obstacles for improvement in human rights protection in any country. We need to think of finding ways to empower states with and through the human rights agenda and prevent governments from seeing it as something that may undermine their stability and effectiveness.

Distinguished Director of ODIHR in his opening remarks advised us not to get disheartened by the ‘charges of disbalance’ in the OSCE three dimensions from some participating States that are viewed by some others as an attempt to undermine the OSCE human dimension activities. It stands to reason that almost everything done by human beings has got a human dimension and have implications on how societies are politically run. But meanwhile all those actions might have political and military, as well as economic and environmental consequences. This dilemma has also been addressed in the remarks of our distinguished Secretary General, who advised us to approach the problems we face multi-dimensionally. We think that is the correct way out of the conundrum.

Mr. Chairman,

We appreciate the Belgian Chairmanship’s emphasis for this year’s human dimension activities on the rule of law and due process. We encourage further work and resources to be committed – also beyond this year – to judicial reform and to improvement of due process and its respect everywhere in the area of our Organization. We support enhancement of ODIHR’s capacity to work with national Human Rights institutions and ombudsmen offices and ready to look into the budgeting aspect of it.

We are concerned about the attempts of technologizing democracy and its building processes and its reduction sometimes to elections only. We view this Meeting as a one more step in our cooperation and help to ODIHR in carrying out its Ljubljana given tasks. We will follow the reform process and its effects on ODIHR and its institutional interactions within, outside and inside the OSCE.

In conclusion, we would like to thank ODIHR for the preparatory work done to make this Meeting possible and our Polish hosts for their hospitality. We are looking forward to productive discussions with our colleagues representing governments and civil societies of the OSCE participating States.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.