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**CANADIAN INTERVENTION TO THE
2007 OSCE HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING
Warsaw, 24 September - October 5 2007**

**Working Session 15:
Discussion of human dimension activities
October 3, 2007
*Full version***

Again this year, we are pleased to express our overall strong satisfaction with the work of the ODIHR. Without any doubt, the ODIHR's established expertise, professionalism and credibility continues to make it a global leader in its field.

Canada proudly contributes to the OSCE and the ODIHR project work through, notably, the funding of the Canadian International Development Agency. With the goal of enhancing the human security of people in the OSCE area, our ongoing support to the ODIHR programming focuses on equality between women and men, the promotion of human rights, the fight against human trafficking and building democratic institutions.

Today, Canada would like to share our thoughts on donor contributions and on the ODIHR effectiveness, autonomy and role.

In line with Paris Declaration principles, Canada calls on all participating States to improve donor harmonization. We strongly encourage all participating States to establish a Master Agreement with the OSCE and the ODIHR for the provision of their extra-budgetary funding. Notably, such agreement helps the ODIHR in planning multi-year activities which in turn, leads to an increased capacity to achieve medium and long term objectives and results. Medium and long term capacity is a very good way to strengthen the ODIHR overall effectiveness.

Further, we wish to express that Canada would not support extra-budgetary contributions being submitted to the same decision-making mechanism and approval process as the unified budget.

We also attach significant importance to ensuring that Results Based Management, or Performance Based Program Budgeting in OSCE language, good practices are applied. We wish to reiterate our interest in assisting the OSCE and its institutions to develop the appropriate knowledge and practices related to this type of management. We welcome the efforts made by the OSCE and the ODIHR to date and hope that progress will continue.

Regrettably, some field missions still face difficulties and more precisely obstacles in implementing human dimension projects and programming. We urge all host States concerned to promptly eliminate hindrances and delays and speed up project approval.

Further, we remain concerned about proposals to restrict the ODIHR's operational capacity and autonomy. Changes that could interfere with its professional independence; stall projects or negatively impact the ODIHR capacity to plan and to achieve long term programming and objectives are simply not welcome.

In line with the OSCE fundamental goal to achieve security and stability, we also believe that the ODIHR rightly focuses and allocates proportionally more resources to those areas or States where the need for expertise or scrutiny is stronger; or where there are opportunities for substantial improvements in democratization and human rights.

To conclude, while we positively see the use, or increased use, by participating States of the ODIHR technical assistance programs on a voluntary basis, the ODIHR's reporting, analysis and evaluation of the respect of commitments by participating States must remain strong and independent, and at arms-length in its operations.