

**SPEECH BY MR. AHMAD ISMOILOV, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE
NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS CENTRE OF THE REPUBLIC OF
UZBEKISTAN, FOR OSCE HUMAN DIMENSION MEETING ON
NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS**

(14-15 April, 2011, Vienna)

Dear Mr. Chairman!

Dear meeting participants!

Ladies and gentlemen!

Let me greet the participants of the OSCE Supplementary Meeting on Human Dimension, representatives from national human rights institutions of the OSCE member-states, and the Lithuanian chairmanship over the OSCE ODIHR.

I would like to inform you that on 12 November 2010 H.E. Islam Karimov, the Uzbek President, presented his program-speech on “**Conception of further deepening of democratic reforms and formation of civil society in the country**” to the joint meeting of the Legislative Chamber and Senate of the Oliy Majlis, the Uzbek Parliament. In his speech the Uzbek President underlined 6 priority directions of further democratization and stable development of the country for the next period.

Democratic reforms, as well as consistent, systematic and cardinal Conception, create further favorable conditions for the national human rights institution of Uzbekistan to step up onto the next stage of their activities, i.e. to hold public monitoring over execution of laws, first of all by law-enforcement and controlling bodies, in the sphere of support, provision and protection of human rights and freedoms, formation of human rights culture in the society.

The process of formation of national human rights institutions in the states, which have chosen the democratic way of development, those difficulties, which their face while struggling against legal nihilism in the society, in the sphere of material and technical, personnel and informational support of the activities of national human rights institutions, require attention and all-round support from international organizations.

Significant assistance in formation and development of national human rights institutions is being provided by programs of technical assistance, accomplished by various international organizations.

The Paris Principles on the status of national human rights institutions note that national human rights institutions may play an important role in raising the educational level of various groups of population in the sphere of international and national norms on human rights.

In many countries, including Uzbekistan, national human rights institutions are urged to raise the level of knowledge of population on human rights and such functions are expressed in the laws, provisions, and charters on such institutions.

Presently in Uzbekistan a complex of activities is being realized on development of the **National Program of Activities in the sphere of Human Rights**, where NGOs take indeed active part. Also, existing international and foreign practice in this sphere is being learned as well.

15 years ago on the initiative of H.E. Islam Karimov, the Uzbek President, the system of national human rights institutions was created in Uzbekistan. During the past period those human rights institutions have gained a worthy place in democratic reforms, and became the bodies for provision of more channels for human rights defense, in case if human rights violations occur.

I would like to emphasize the role played by the OSCE, which provides assistance in development of national human rights institutions.

The Document of the CSCE Copenhagen Meeting notes: “The participating States will also facilitate the establishment and strengthening of independent national institutions in the area of human rights and the rule of law...” (Provision 27).

The Document of the CSCE Moscow Meeting contains the following: “The participating States, recognizing their common interest in promoting contacts and the exchange of information amongst Ombudsmen and other institutions... suggest that the appropriate CSCE fora consider expanding functions of the Office for Free Elections to enable it to assist in strengthening democratic institutions within the participating States.” (Provisions 29-30).

The OSCE provided a great assistance to development of national human rights institutions in Uzbekistan. Thus, a seminar-meeting on “**National Human Rights Institutions**” was held on 11-13 September 1996 in Tashkent, on the initiative and with participation from the OSCE ODIHR.

Cooperation of the UN and OSCE is being carried out in the following directions:

1. During the several years projects on assistance to development of national human rights institutions are being realized within the mandate of the OSCE Project Coordinator in Uzbekistan, For example, **a brochure on “The Death Penalty in the OSCE Area” was published in the Uzbek language** jointly by the National Human Rights Centre of Uzbekistan, OSCE ODIHR, and the OSCE Project Coordinator in Uzbekistan.

2. Issues of effective functioning of national human rights institutions are high on the agenda in the country. During the last two years amendments were made into the legislation, which foresaw widening of rights of national human rights institutions. Also measures were taken to provide material and financial, as well as personnel support to their activities. Those measures were directed at realization of recommendations of UN treaty bodies. **Activities of national human rights institutions in Uzbekistan fully meet the requirements of the Paris principles.**

3. Practical steps are being continued directed at realization of the **National Plan of Actions on realization of recommendations of the UN Human Rights Council based on its consideration of the National Report of Uzbekistan within the Universal Periodic Review.** Within realization of the National Plan of Actions cooperation with the OSCE ODIHR is being carried out. in July of 2010 international conference on “International standards and improvement of national legislation on political parties and NGOs” was held. Concrete plans have been set on realization of other initiatives as well.

4. National human rights institutions take active part in production of periodic reports and in realization of recommendations of the UN treaty bodies. During 2010 **3 periodic reports of Uzbekistan** we considered by the UN treaty bodies, which cover the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, International Convention on elimination of discrimination against women, and Convention on elimination of all forms of racial discrimination. National plans of actions were developed in order to accomplish recommendation from UN treaty bodies. State (public) bodies, national human rights institutions, as well as NGOs take very active part in above mentioned processes.

In 2010-2011 **2 periodic reports** were submitted to the UN treaty bodies on accomplishment of provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and of the

International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, including **2 provisional reports** on accomplishment of provisions of two Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

5. National human rights institutions of Uzbekistan take active part on activities, organized by the **UN High Commissioner for Human Rights**, for instance, a representative from the National Human Rights Centre of the Republic of Uzbekistan took part in the work of the 10th International Conference of National Human Rights Institutions in Edinburg, Scotland.

6. In June of 2010 the National Human Rights Centre of the Republic of Uzbekistan with assistance from the Office of OSCE Project Coordinator in Uzbekistan hold an international conference, devoted to scientific researches in the sphere of human rights. As a result of the conference, a Coordination Council was set up within the National Human Rights Centre of the Republic of Uzbekistan, which was ought to become a communication arena for discussion of various aspects of human rights, to accomplish scientific researches in that direction and to discuss their results.

7. In 2008 within the frame of celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights a special masters course was introduced at the University of World Economy and Diplomacy, which aimed at formation of knowledge on mechanisms for protection of human rights, on practical activities of national human rights institutions.

8. Practical lessons are held at the Centre for Raising Qualification of Judges and Personnel of Justice bodies, which cover the role and importance of national human rights institutions.

In October of this year we celebrate the 15th anniversary of the National Human Rights Centre of the Republic of Uzbekistan, which was established according to the recommendations of the Second World Conference on Human Rights. The Centre is planning to hold an international conference in October of this year with wide participation of representatives from foreign national human rights institutions and international human rights organizations.

Dear Colleagues!

At the end of my speech, I would like to express the following suggestions:

First: with the aim of strengthening regional cooperation among the national human rights institutions in the OSCE area it is reasonable to hold regular thematic conferences within the OSCE ODIHR.

Second: with the aim of development and improvement of activities of national human rights institutions, it is reasonable to take measures on preparation of the Compilation of international and regional standards on national institutions, as well as to translate materials, guidelines, comments and criteria for effective functioning of such institutions.

Third: The EU Agency on fundamental rights published a Report on National Human Rights Institutions in EU member-states. Based on existing practice, it would be reasonable to prepare a Compilation of best practices of national human rights institutions in the OSCE area.

Thank you for the attention!