

**CANADIAN INTERVENTION TO THE
2008 OSCE HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING
Warsaw, 29 September - October 10 2008**

Working Session 16: Discussion of Human Dimension Activities

Again this year, we are pleased to express our overall strong satisfaction with the work of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR). Without any doubt, ODIHR's established expertise, professionalism and credibility continue to make it a global leader in its field. Globalization and a rise in transnational security challenges highlight the increasing importance of multilateral organizations such as the OSCE.

Canada proudly contributes to the OSCE and the ODIHR project work through the funding of the Canadian International Development Agency. With the goal of enhancing human security in the OSCE region, our ongoing support to the ODIHR's programming focuses on equality between women and men, the promotion of human rights, combating human trafficking and building democratic institutions. From a Canadian perspective, the OSCE's most valuable asset is the unique expertise of ODIHR in the areas of democratization and election monitoring.

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

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

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

unified budget. On the Budget and Scales of Contribution, Canada will not accept an increase in its OSCE cost share; we also have a clear position of zero nominal budget growth.

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

With respect to Gender Equality, we welcome the progress made by the OSCE with the appointment of the new Special Advisor for Gender Equality. We further welcome the proposed development of a Gender Equality Toolkit to assist OSCE project officers mainstreaming gender equality issues into OSCE projects, an initiative which Canada has supported. It is our sincere hope that these initiatives will continue well into the future.

Regrettably, some field missions continue to face difficulties and, in particular, obstacles in the implementation of human dimension projects and programming. We respectfully urge all host States concerned to remove all obstructions to the implementation of these important projects and to speed up project approval.

We further remain concerned about proposals to restrict ODIHR's operational capacity and autonomy. Changes that might interfere with its professional independence; stall projects, or negatively impact ODIHR capacity to plan and to achieve long term programming and objectives are simply not welcome. Canada strongly opposes any attempts to impede the ODIHR mandate or undermine the OSCE's fundamental values and principles.

In line with the OSCE's fundamental goal to achieve security and stability, we also believe that 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.