



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
High Commissioner on National Minorities**

**10-YEAR REVIEW OF THE LUND RECOMMENDATIONS ON EFFECTIVE
PARTICIPATION OF NATIONAL MINORITIES IN PUBLIC LIFE**

Lund, Sweden, 18-19 May 2009

Chair's Summary

Policymakers and experts from governments, NGOs and academia in the OSCE area met in Lund, Sweden, on 18-19 May 2009 with a view to discuss and promote the effective participation of national minorities in public life. The 1999 Lund Recommendations formed the basis for the meeting, convened by the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities in co-operation with the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law.

Effective participation of national minorities in public life is an essential component of a fully democratic, peaceful and prosperous society. The Lund Recommendations aim to facilitate the inclusion of minorities within the State and enable minorities to maintain their own identity and characteristics, thereby enhancing the good governance and integrity of the State. The purpose of the Recommendations is to encourage and guide the adoption by States of specific measures to alleviate tensions related to national minorities and thus to serve the ultimate conflict prevention objective of the High Commissioner on National Minorities.

The meeting discussed general principles, successful practices and existing shortcomings of effective participation of national minorities in public life, and their development in the international arena. It focussed on effective participation in economic, social and cultural life, in decision-making, in executive and judicial bodies, and through territorial and cultural autonomy arrangements. There was general agreement that policies and measures, such as institutional structures and procedures for effective participation in decision-making, should be assessed first and foremost on their practical impact.

Following the meeting, the organizers will issue a report on the experiences shared, with a view to strengthening and broadening the implementation of the Lund Recommendations in the OSCE area. The High Commissioner on National Minorities stands ready to assist OSCE participating States on any aspects related to the implementation of the Lund Recommendations.