

**Second day of the Fifteenth Meeting**  
MC(15) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 8

**DECISION No. 10/07**  
**TOLERANCE AND NON-DISCRIMINATION:**  
**PROMOTING MUTUAL RESPECT AND UNDERSTANDING**

The Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming that respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law is at the core of the OSCE comprehensive concept of security, and that tolerance and non-discrimination are important elements in the promotion of human rights and democratic values,

Reaffirming that manifestations of discrimination and intolerance threaten the security of individuals and societal cohesion and reiterating that they may give rise to wider-scale conflict and violence,

Concerned by hate crimes throughout the OSCE region and acknowledging the need for co-operation to combat effectively such crimes, and taking note of the ODIHR's report on "Hate Crimes in the OSCE Region: Incidents and Responses", as tasked by participating States,

Recognizing the role that national parliaments play by enacting hate crime and anti-discrimination legislation, as well as serving as a forum for a national debate, and recognizing also the role that the Parliamentary Assembly plays in raising awareness of existing OSCE commitments in the field of tolerance and non-discrimination,

Highlighting the work of the three Personal Representatives of the Chairman-in-Office in support of the overall effort of the OSCE to combat intolerance and discrimination, and looking forward to the conclusions of the review by the Chairman-in-Office, in consultation with the participating States,

Underscoring that the primary responsibility for addressing acts of intolerance and discrimination rests with participating States, including their political representatives,

Reaffirming its commitment to raise awareness of the value of cultural and religious diversity as a source of mutual enrichment of societies and to recognize the importance of integration with respect for cultural and religious diversity as a key element to promote mutual respect and understanding,

Acknowledging the important role youth can play in fostering mutual respect and understanding between cultures and religions contributing to the promotion of democracy, human rights and fundamental freedoms, and in this regard taking note of the Youth Forum held in Madrid on 5 and 6 November 2007,

Recognizing that manifestations of intolerance and discrimination can undermine the efforts to protect the rights of individuals, including migrants, refugees and persons belonging to national minorities and stateless persons,

Recognizing the importance of freedom of religion or belief and education on tolerance and non-discrimination as a means to promote mutual respect and understanding and in this regard taking note of the presentation of the “Toledo Guiding Principles on Teaching about Religions and Beliefs in Public Schools”,

Reiterating the interest of the OSCE in the Alliance of Civilizations initiative with a view to considering an appropriate OSCE contribution to the implementation phase of the High-Level Group’s report,

Noting the appointment of the United Nations High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations and his presentation of the Implementation Plan (2007–2009) to the Group of Friends Ministerial Meeting in September 2007 in New York, as well as the upcoming First Annual Forum of the Alliance in Madrid in January 2008,

Recalling the OSCE commitments on promoting tolerance and non-discrimination, as undertaken by previous Ministerial Councils, and taking note of the outcomes of the various conferences focusing on tolerance and non-discrimination,

Appreciating the OSCE High Level Conference on Combating Discrimination and Promoting Mutual Respect and Understanding, follow-up to the 2005 Cordoba Conference on Anti-Semitism and Other Forms of Intolerance, held in Bucharest in June 2007, and noting the Declaration made by the Chairman-in-Office — Bucharest Declaration,

Recalling furthermore the OSCE Chairmanship Conference on Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims held in Cordoba in October, and noting the “Chairmanship Cordoba Declaration on Combating Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims”,

Acknowledging the specificity of different forms of intolerance, while at the same time recognizing the importance of taking a comprehensive approach and addressing cross-cutting issues in such fields as, *inter alia*, legislation, law enforcement, data collection and monitoring of hate crimes, education, media and constructive public discourse and the promotion of inter-cultural dialogue, in order to effectively combat all forms of discrimination,

1. Calls for continued efforts by political representatives, including parliamentarians, strongly to reject and condemn manifestations of racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism, discrimination and intolerance, including against Christians, Jews, Muslims and members of other religions, as well as violent manifestations of extremism associated with aggressive nationalism and neo-Nazism, while continuing to respect freedom of expression;

2. Underlines the continued need for participating States to collect and maintain reliable data and statistics on hate crimes and incidents, to train relevant law enforcement officers and to strengthen co-operation with civil society;
3. Encourages the promotion of educational programmes in the participating States in order to raise awareness among youth of the value of mutual respect and understanding;
4. Reiterates the recognition of the essential role that the free and independent media can play in democratic societies and the strong influence it can have in countering or exacerbating misperceptions and prejudices and in that sense continues to encourage the adoption of voluntary professional standards by journalists, media self-regulation and other appropriate mechanisms for ensuring increased professionalism, accuracy and adherence to ethical standards among journalists;
5. Calls on participating States to increase their efforts, in co-operation with civil society to counter the incitement to imminent violence and hate crimes, including through the Internet, within the framework of their national legislation, while respecting freedom of expression, and underlines at the same time that the opportunities offered by the Internet for the promotion of democracy, human rights and tolerance education should be fully exploited;
6. Calls for a strengthened commitment to implement the Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE Area;
7. Calls on participating States to protect migrants legally residing in host countries and persons belonging to national minorities, stateless persons and refugees from racism, xenophobia, discrimination and violent acts of intolerance and to elaborate or strengthen national strategies and programmes for the integration of regular migrants, which also requires active engagement of the latter;
8. Encourages participating States to share best practices in their legislation, policies and programmes that help to foster inclusive societies based on respect for cultural and religious diversity, human rights and democratic principles;
9. Commits to ensure efficient follow-up on the work done so far by the participating States and relevant OSCE institutions, particularly ODIHR through its Tolerance and Non-Discrimination programme, to promote within their mandates tolerance and non-discrimination, underlining the importance of implementing the existing OSCE commitments taking into account the experience and expertise of other relevant international and regional organizations in this field in order to avoid duplication, and shall consider future conferences at the political level, possibly at regular intervals, with implementation meetings in 2008;
10. Encourages the establishment of national institutions or specialized bodies by the participating States which have not yet done so, to combat intolerance and discrimination as well as the development and implementation of national strategies and action plans in this field, drawing on the expertise and assistance of the relevant OSCE institutions, based on existing commitments, and the relevant international agencies, as appropriate;
11. Decides to consider an appropriate OSCE contribution to the implementation phase of the Alliance of Civilizations' High-Level Group recommendations, taking into account the

Implementation Plan prepared by the United Nations High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations, and recommends that the OSCE Secretary General, in consultation with the Chairman-in-Office, attends the upcoming first Annual Forum of the Alliance in Madrid and reports on its outcome to the participating States.