



Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting

FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF: ISSUES, OPPORTUNITIES, AND THE SPECIFIC CHALLENGES OF COMBATTING ANTI-SEMITISM AND INTOLERANCE AND DISCRIMINATION AGAINST CHRISTIANS, MUSLIMS AND MEMBERS OF OTHER RELIGIONS

22- 23 June 2017

Hofburg, Vienna

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Aim of the Meeting

According to the decision of the Permanent Council (PC.DEC/476, 23 May 2002), each year, the Chairmanship-in-Office organizes three informal Supplementary Human Dimension Meetings (SHDMs), in the framework of the OSCE Permanent Council, in order to discuss key substantive concerns raised at previous Human Dimension Meetings or Review Conferences. The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and other OSCE structures, when required, assist the Chairmanship-in-Office in preparing the SHDMs.

The first Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting (SHDM) on the topic of *Freedom of Religion or Belief for All: Issues, Opportunities and the specific Challenges of Combating anti-Semitism and Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians, Muslims and Members of other Other Religions* will take place in Vienna from 22 - 23 June 2017. The meeting is organized by the Austrian OSCE Chairmanship and the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR).

The meeting will provide an opportunity for participants to take stock of OSCE human dimension commitments in the sphere of freedom of religion or belief and tolerance and non-discrimination in the wake of current and emerging issues in the OSCE region, to clarify and explore the multi-faceted dimensions of this right and its contribution to security, exchange views on good practices, and to offer recommendations.

This Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting will discuss best practices from across the OSCE area, with a focus on the following key areas:

- Freedom of religion or belief, non-discrimination and other human rights and fundamental freedoms as the essential normative basis for peaceful coexistence and security in the OSCE region
- Revisiting the normative status and scope of the right to freedom of religion or belief – issues of conceptualization and the challenge of implementing OSCE commitments

- Challenges of combating anti-Semitism and intolerance and discrimination against Christians, Muslims and members of other religions
- Interfaith and interreligious dialogue and cooperation and creating the conditions for peaceful and secure societies in the OSCE region

Additional information relevant to the SHDM, including the annotated agenda, which will be made available in due course, can be found on the SHDM website at http://www.osce.org/odihr/shdm_1_2017.

2. Participation

Representatives of OSCE participating States and OSCE executive structures, representatives of inter-governmental organizations, representatives of civil society and researchers having interest in the topic are invited to participate in the SHDM. The Partners for Co-operation are invited to attend and contribute with respect to their co-operation and links with the OSCE in the field. Civil society organizations can find more information in the document ‘Information for Civil Society’.

3. Registration

Participants wishing to attend the meeting are requested to register online at <http://meetings.odihr.pl> as of Monday, 5 June and **latest by the deadline of Monday, 19 June 2017 24:00 (CET)**. Important note: **registration after this date will be closed and registration on-site will not be available.**

Registered participants will be able to **collect their badges at the meeting venue** as of Thursday, 22 June 2017, from 9 a.m. in the main entrance hall of the Hofburg Congress Centre. Those participants who experience problems with registration are requested to contact Ms. Anna Sierant (contact details below).

Participation in the meeting is free of charge, although all travel and accommodation costs should be borne by participants. Civil society organizations are kindly requested to make their own travel and hotel arrangements.

A list of selected hotels in Vienna is available on the SHDM website.

4. Side events

Side events (SE) may be held over the course of two days during the SHDM. To book a side event, please register first in the ODIHR Registration System (<http://meetings.odihr.pl>) and then proceed with the side event booking. The side events booking system is based on “first come, first served basis”, so participants are advised to enter the booking system immediately after the opening. **The system will be open from Thursday, 8 June at 12.00 (CET) until Tuesday, 13 June (CET).** No bookings will be accepted after this date. Additional information on the content and objectives of planned side events, timing and duration are available on SHDM website, in the ‘Side Events Information’ document.

5. Modalities and Logistics

The modalities of the meeting are set out in accordance with the decision of the Permanent Council (PC.DEC/476, 23 May 2002).

Venue: The meeting will take place in the Hofburg Congress Centre, on **22nd and 23rd June at the Neuer Saal**, located on the 2nd floor.

Schedule: The SHDM will start on Thursday, 22 June 2017.

The side events might take place on Thursday, 22 June 2017 between 13:00 and 14:45 and on Friday, 23 June between 12:30 and 14:00 – for details please check the Side Events Schedule on SHDM website, prior to the meeting.

The opening session of SHDM will start on 22 June 2017 at 15.00. During this session the representatives of the Chairmanship-in-Office and the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights as well as the key-note speaker will present their opening remarks. No comments or statements are foreseen from participants due to short time of the opening session.

Four working sessions will follow:

- Working Session 1: Freedom of religion or belief, non-discrimination and other human rights and fundamental freedoms as the essential normative basis for peaceful coexistence and security in the OSCE region.
- Working Session 2: Revisiting the normative status and scope of the right to freedom of religion or belief – issues of conceptualization and the challenge of implementing OSCE commitments.
- Working Session 3: Challenges of combating anti-Semitism and intolerance and discrimination against Christians, Muslims and members of other religions.
- Working Session 4: Interfaith and interreligious dialogue and cooperation and creating the conditions for peaceful and secure societies in the OSCE region.

At the closing session, starting on Friday, 23 June at 16:00, the moderators of four working sessions serving as rapporteurs will present the reports from the working groups. There will be time for delegations of participating States to voice their comments and, finally, for the representatives of the Chairmanship-in-Office and ODIHR to make their closing remarks. Only the delegations of participating States have a right to speak during the closing session.

The meeting will end on Friday, 23 June at 17.00.

Seating: At the opening and closing session, the delegations of the participating States are seated at the main, plenary table. During the working sessions the name-plates will be taken down and all participants can sit wherever they wish, including the main plenary table.

Interpretation: The meeting will be interpreted into the six official OSCE languages: English, French, German, Italian, Russian and Spanish.

Guidelines for the debate: The intention is to develop a free-flowing discussion based on the keynote speeches, panelists' inputs, discussions, background information and written

statements circulated in advance or during the SHDM. To this end a speakers' list is not envisaged. Participants wishing to speak should attract the moderator's attention and to wait for the moderator to give the floor. A representative of a registered organization/institution/participating State can speak only once during a session. If there is time left before the end of the working session, it might be made available for questions or for other participants who have not had a chance to speak on a particular issue addressed earlier.

The moderator will help to ensure that the participants engage in a constructive debate aimed at achieving the meetings' objectives, improving the implementation of OSCE human dimension commitments and formulating recommendations. To this end, moderators might decide about the order of speakers, ensuring that participants speak on the topic under discussion. The moderator might set a maximum speaking time.

To ensure a free and interactive debate, participants are strongly discouraged from reading out prepared statements. Prepared statements, background documentation, comments or written materials may be submitted in advance for circulation by the Documents Distribution Centre and hence can feed into the discussion.

ODIHR reserves the right, in case a large number of participants wish to speak, to introduce in the course of the session a list of speakers and a maximum speaking time.

Right of reply: At the end of working sessions as well as at the closing plenary participating States will have a right to exercise their right of reply. Participating States should indicate to the moderator early enough before the end of the session their wish to exercise their right of reply so sufficient time is allocated.

Display and distribution of documents: Participants may display information materials on the tables in the lobby of the main meeting room. They may also distribute documents during the SHDM by giving one copy of each document (maximum 3 pages in length) to staff of the Document Distribution Centre. There are no copying and translation services available at the venue.

Contact information:

Overall co-ordination of meeting:

Ms. Kamila Czerwinska at kamila.czerwinska@odihr.pl or +48 22 5200 657

Programme matters:

Dr. Kishan Manocha at kishan.manocha@odihr.pl or tel. +48 22 5200 757

Coordination of side events:

Mr. Ireneusz Stepinski at ireneusz.stepinski@odihr.pl or +48 22 5200 658

Registration of participants:

Ms. Anna Sierant at hdim@odihr.pl or +48 22 5200 627