

**Human Dimension Implementation Meeting,
Warsaw, 28 September 2009**

Opening Session

Address by

H.E. Mr. Konstantin Kavtaradze
Ambassador of Georgia to the Republic of Poland

Mr. Chairman/Madam Chairperson,
Excellences,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to greet you at the opening session of the 2009 OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting on behalf of Georgia. I would like to thank the Government of Poland, the Greek Chairmanship and the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) for organizing the set of meetings on some vital issues concerning the security of the OSCE Participating States. Human dimension is one of the key pillars of the indivisible, comprehensive security as enshrined in the founding documents of the OSCE, hence it is of utmost importance that we once again gather to confront the most acute challenges we face with regards to the fulfillment of human dimension commitments across the whole OSCE area. I also hope the discussion in the frames of this unique forum will contribute to the wider dialogue on the European Security and the Corfu follow-up Process currently underway.

Mr. Chairman/ Madam Chairperson,

The agenda of the forthcoming meetings that was thoroughly elaborated by the OSCE Chairmanship and the ODIHR, with the input of all 56 Participating States, is a vivid token that Human Dimension encompasses vast array of critical issues for the OSCE. Since 1975, when the link between the 3 indivisible dimensions of the comprehensive security was established, OSCE participating states have been commonly identifying the needs of the security and transforming them into our joint commitments. Today we need to dwell on them and continue to further explore and advance in the areas where significant gaps still remain. Indeed, abiding by our obligations in good faith is the key to moving forward and we need to think on how to best utilize the existing mechanisms to ensure our compliance with our commitments and if needed - not hesitate to embark on the road to creating new ones.

Excellencies,

Let me agree with the Representative of the European Union, that in our joint endeavor we shall be sincere, open and frank, because human dimension commitments do not belong exclusively to the internal affairs of one State and must be confronted by our

unanimous efforts. In this regard it is of paramount importance, that OSCE revitalizes and, where necessary elaborates the instruments for the monitoring of the massive human rights violations, including ethnic cleansing in the OSCE area. Special emphasis should be given to the territories that are left without any international monitoring. Here, let me recall, that this year one country - member of the OSCE, blocked the UN and OSCE missions to Georgia that would monitor the situation in the occupied territories of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali Region/South Ossetia, thus creating so called black holes with the fertile ground for the undocumented gross human rights violations.

Another pressing issue that is of our common deep concern is the IDPs and Refugees. As part of our frank discussion we must recognize that this issue has not been treated with sufficient consideration in the OSCE. We need to create, and where possible, improve the mechanisms for facilitating the safe and dignified return of the IDPs and refugees to the places of their permanent residence. Last year, two human rights watchdogs in the OSCE – ODIHR and HCNM – under the instructions of the Finnish OSCE Chairmanship reported on the systematic violations of the human rights of the IDPs in the aftermath of the Russian-Georgian war and provided extensive recommendations for all stakeholders. We still need to manage to promote a dialogue on the status of the implementation of these recommendations and a follow-up to the report.

Mr. Chairman/ Madam Chairwoman,

Finally, I want to stress the special role of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) that does invaluable work for promoting Human Rights and Fundamental freedoms across the OSCE area and enjoys special support of my country. Much has been achieved through this institution; at the same time existing challenges in the Human Dimension call for more action. We firmly believe that no piece of land in the OSCE area shall be inaccessible to this institution. Further empowerment of the ODIHR and more leadership are the ways forward into the right direction.

Excellencies,

I am hopeful that we will be able to discuss these issues during the upcoming working sessions in a most substantial way and have a meaningful dialogue that will contribute to higher level of security and protection of the human rights across our common space.

Thank you for your attention.