



United States Mission to the OSCE

**Session 10: Discussion of Human
Dimension Activities
Right of Reply**

As delivered by Ambassador David Johnson
OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting
Warsaw, October 3, 2011

Mr. Moderator,

I'm not sure that I would characterize this as a Right of Reply, although perhaps that is the correct conception under the rules of procedure. I'm not taking the floor because my country was specifically cited, though it was in one or two cases.

I would say, though, that I found the Norwegian delegate's response to my colleague from Russia's remarks particularly apt and well thought out.

This may represent my misunderstanding of the extemporaneous remarks that the delegate from the Russian Federation articulated, but I thought he said that the Moscow Mechanism was improperly invoked because it did not have consensus. I note, at least in my copy, that if a participating State considers if a particularly serious threat to the fulfillment of the provisions of the CSCE human dimension has arisen in another participating state, it may, with support from at least nine other participating States, engage the Moscow Mechanism.

It is my understanding that provision was well complied with. But if there is some misunderstanding I have with respect to the way that the mechanism works and this mechanism, having been agreed by consensus and still being a commitment of all of us, no matter when it might have been adopted, I think I would stand corrected if, indeed, I should be.