
124th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 124, Agenda item 3

DECISION No. 183**ORGANIZATIONAL MODALITIES, INDICATIVE AGENDA AND
WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION MEETING ON
HUMAN DIMENSION ISSUES**

(Warsaw, 12-28 November 1997)

I. ORGANIZATIONAL MODALITIES

1. The Implementation Meeting will begin with two plenary meetings* . Subsequently, two Subsidiary Working Bodies (SWB) will discuss the implementation of Human Dimension commitments and the procedures for monitoring compliance with them.

One moderator and one rapporteur will be appointed for each of the two SWBs for the whole period of the Implementation Meeting on the basis of proposals by the Chairman-in-Office following appropriate consultations. At least one plenary meeting will be held during the second week to consider the progress of business at the Meeting. The concluding two plenary meetings will be held during the third week. As a general rule, no intervention should exceed seven minutes.

2. Broad attendance by representatives of all the participating States, in particular those recently admitted, will be essential. Upon request, financial assistance could be provided from the OSCE Voluntary Fund to foster the integration of recently admitted participating States.

3. The participation of NGOs in the meeting will be in conformity with the relevant decision of the 29th Meeting of the CSO Vienna Group (see CSO Vienna Group Journal No. 29, Annex 2), based on the experience of the first and second Implementation Meetings. All sessions of plenary and subsidiary working bodies will be open to NGOs. Representatives of NGOs may be invited by the Meeting to make oral contributions in plenary or in Subsidiary Working Bodies on the basis of written presentations submitted to ODIHR in advance.

In order to provide better opportunities for possible contacts with NGOs, no formal

* At the opening and closing plenary meetings, the chair will be taken by a representative of ODIHR. After the opening meeting the chair will be selected by lot and taken in daily rotation, in French alphabetical order of the participating States.

sessions will be scheduled for the mornings of 15 and 27 November 1997.

4. In accordance with OSCE precedent and practice, all aspects of the Human Dimension may be discussed during the Implementation Meeting on Human Dimension Issues.

II. INDICATIVE AGENDA

1. Opening Plenary

The plenary proceedings will consist of:

- (a) Opening statements, including a statement by the representative of the Chairman-in-Office
- (b) Report of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities
- (c) Report of the Director of ODIHR
- (d) Contributions by Heads of the OSCE Missions and by Personal Representatives of the Chairman-in-Office

2. Subsidiary Working Body 1: Review of Implementation

A thorough dialogue on the implementation of Human Dimension commitments by participating States in the OSCE area, as well as consideration of ways and means of improving implementation, on the basis of the broadest possible information, in particular from OSCE bodies and institutions. The discussion will be structured in the following order unless otherwise decided:

(a) SWB 1: Sessions 1-4

Human rights and fundamental freedoms, including:

- Freedom of thought, conscience, and religion or belief;
- Freedom of expression, free media and information;
- Freedom of association and the right of peaceful assembly;
- Freedom of movement;
- Prevention of torture;
- International humanitarian law

(b) SWB 1: Sessions 5-6

Culture and education;
Cultural heritage;
Human contacts;
Treatment of citizens of other participating States

(c) SWB 1: Sessions 7-8

Tolerance and non-discrimination:

- Equality of opportunity for men and women
- Preventing aggressive nationalism
- Ethnic cleansing
- Racism
- Chauvinism
- Xenophobia
- Anti-semitism

Migration, refugees and displaced persons;
Migrant workers

- (d) SWB 1: Sessions 9-10

National minorities;
Roma and Sinti

- (e) SWB 1: Sessions 11-12

Rule of Law, including:

- Legislative transparency;
- Independence of the judiciary;
- Right to a fair trial;

Exchange of information on the question of the abolition of capital punishment;

Democratic institutions, including:

- Free and fair elections
- Democracy at the national, regional and local levels;

Citizenship and political rights;

Civic education

- (f) SWB 1: Session 13

Role of NGOs

3. Subsidiary Working Body 2: Review of the Human Dimension of the OSCE with a special focus on monitoring and enhancing compliance with commitments and on the use of existing mechanisms and procedures:

- (a) SWB 2: Session 1

Enhancing the implementation of Human Dimension commitments;
Human Dimension mechanisms and other procedures relevant to the Human Dimension;
The Human Dimension aspect of OSCE Missions

- (b) SWB 2: Session 2

The functioning of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights in the Human Dimension;

Further integration of the Human Dimension in the regular activities of the Permanent Council

(c) SWB 2: Session 3

Review of the activities of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities;
Review of the activities of the Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues

(d) SWB 2: Session 4

Programme of Co-ordinated Support for recently admitted participating States;
Improved dissemination of information regarding the Human Dimension;
Outcome and improvement of, and follow-up to, the Human Dimension Seminars and regional seminars; proposals for the seminars in 1998

(e) SWB 2: Sessions 5-6

Election observation: reports, procedures and co-operation framework

(f) SWB 2: Session 7

Co-operation between the OSCE and other international organizations in the Human Dimension;
Role of NGOs in OSCE Human Dimension Activities

4. Closing Plenary

(a) Presentation by the Rapporteurs of the two Subsidiary Working Bodies of informal recommendations for improving implementation

(b) Concluding statements (each not to exceed seven minutes)

WORK PROGRAMME

Working hours: 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
3 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Week 1	Wednesday 12 November	Thursday 13 November	Friday 14 November	Saturday 15 November
Morning		SWB 1/1	SWB 1/2	NGO meetings
Afternoon	PL	SWB 2/1	SWB 1/3	

Week 2	Monday 17 Nov.	Tuesday 18 Nov.	Wednesday 19 Nov.	Thursday 20 Nov.	Friday 21 Nov.	Saturday 22 Nov.
Morning	SWB1/4	SWB 1/5	SWB 1/7	SWB 1/9	SWB 1/10	PL
Afternoon	SWB 2/2	SWB 1/6	SWB 1/8	SWB 2/3	SWB 2/4	

Week 3	Monday 24 November	Tuesday 25 November	Wednesday 26 November	Thursday 27 November	Friday 28 November
Morning	SWB 1/11	SWB 1/12	SWB 1/13	NGO meetings	PL
Afternoon	SWB 2/5	SWB 2/6	SWB 2/7	PL	

- PL = Plenary meeting
- SWB 1 = Subsidiary Working Body 1 (13 meetings)
- SWB 2 = Subsidiary Working Body 2 (7 meetings)

NB: The 14 morning sessions start at 10 a.m. instead of 10.30 a.m. as at previous Implementation Meetings.

Interpretative statement under paragraph 79 (Chapter 6) of
the Final Recommendations of the Helsinki Consultations

By the delegation of Turkey:

“Our long-standing policy and concerns regarding terrorism are well known. Therefore, I shall not go into a lengthy discussion of that subject here. But let me briefly remind participating States that paragraph 6 of the Document of the Copenhagen Meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension of the CSCE clearly and explicitly recognizes the fight against terrorism as a human dimension commitment of this Organization, when it states (and I quote):

‘They (i.e., the participating States) recognize their responsibility to defend and protect, in accordance with their laws, their international human rights obligations and their international commitments, the democratic order freely established through the will of the people against the activities of persons, groups or organizations that engage in or refuse to renounce terrorism or violence aimed at the overthrow of that order or of that of another participating State.’ (end of quote)

Acting strictly in conformity with OSCE practice and referring to explicit documentation of this institution signed by participating States, the Turkish Delegation, during the discussion of the agenda for the Implementation Meeting on Human Dimension Issues to be held in Warsaw from 12 to 28 November 1997, requested that the subject of combating terrorism be included in the agenda of Working Body 2, which is intended to focus on monitoring and enhancing compliance with OSCE commitments. We were faced with various objections. The arguments ranged from the inappropriateness of including terrorism within the context of the human dimension to concerns that certain commitments should not be singled out and given prominence over others and that the agenda should not be overcrowded.

Yet, at the request of one delegation, which stated that the authorities of that delegation wanted to see more attention given to a certain, very specific subject, that subject was inserted in the agenda. We did not object to this because we felt that it certainly is an important issue. Ironically, neither did other delegations that had previously objected to the Turkish proposal on grounds of not singling out certain issues. Ladies and gentlemen, this kind of double standard should not be allowed to become a hall-mark of this Organization.

At the express request of the Chairman-in-Office of this Organization, and so as not to impede what is certainly an important meeting for the OSCE, I have withdrawn our proposal that combating terrorism be included in the agenda of the Human Dimension Meeting. But, ladies and gentlemen, let me make one thing very clear. The combating of terrorism is not so frivolous and trivial a matter as to be dubbed a hobby-horse. It is not a hobby-horse for Turkey, and it cannot be a hobby-horse for participating States. It can only be what it was clearly defined to be by participating States: a commitment within the scope of the human dimension, and a very serious one at that.

And even if our delegation is the only one to bring the subject up during the Warsaw meeting, you can rest assured that it will do so.

And lastly, Mr. Chairman, I would kindly request you to have my statement included as an annex to the journal of this session of the Permanent Council.”