

## **OSCE Human Dimension Seminar**

# **IMPROVING OSCE EFFECTIVENESS BY ENHANCING ITS CO-OPERATION WITH RELEVANT REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

**Warsaw, 12-14 May 2014**



**CONSOLIDATED SUMMARY**

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## OVERVIEW

The Human Dimension Seminar on *Improving OSCE effectiveness by enhancing its co-operation with relevant regional and international organizations*, held in Warsaw from 12 to 14 May 2014, provided an opportunity for representatives of the OSCE participating States, OSCE institutions and field operations, representatives of regional and international organizations and civil society actors to review the unique role of international co-operation in assisting OSCE participating States in meeting their human dimension commitments. Taking the OSCE's body of commitments as a starting point for discussion, the Seminar examined the formal and informal co-operation arrangements established over time between the OSCE and a wide range of regional and international organizations, with the aim of identifying practical steps to improve this co-operation. In doing so, participants were called upon to identify specific challenges, possible opportunities and best practices to improve and broaden co-operation between the different OSCE structures and their respective counterparts in other relevant regional and international organizations. The Seminar also offered participants an opportunity to consider four issues from a closer perspective, namely: how to better promote OSCE commitments by learning from and increasing interaction with partner organizations; existing areas of co-operation and arrangements between the OSCE and partner organizations; data and information exchange practices with partner organizations; and existing best practices and ways to replicate these in a number of different areas. Seminar participants – including from OSCE institutions and field operations, regional and international organizations and civil society – shared their experiences and proposed concrete solutions to further enhance international co-operation. The Seminar participants were guided in their discussions by the expertise and insights provided by keynote speakers, as well as by the introducers and moderators of each of the four working group sessions.

It was noted during the Seminar that, despite the importance and relevance of the issue to participating States and the OSCE, this was the first Seminar devoted exclusively to the topic of co-operation between the OSCE and relevant regional and international organizations working in the human dimension. Nevertheless, the Helsinki +40 process provides a constructive framework to further reflect on these issues and identify the most appropriate solutions to increase the effectiveness of OSCE mechanisms for promoting the implementation of commitments by all participating States. It is also worth highlighting that a complementary conference on “Addressing implementation gaps: improving co-operation between global and regional human rights mechanisms” was held from 23 to 25 January 2014 by Wilton Park and sponsored by the Norwegian and Swiss Governments.<sup>1</sup> The event shed some light on the importance of optimizing co-operation among international organization in order to strengthen the implementation of human rights.

Discussions during the Seminar highlighted that greater awareness is needed and further steps should be taken to strengthen co-operation between the OSCE and regional and

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<sup>1</sup> For more information on this event, please visit the conference website:  
[https://www.wiltonpark.org.uk/conference/wp1291/#conference\\_introduction](https://www.wiltonpark.org.uk/conference/wp1291/#conference_introduction)

international organizations. Many speakers raised specific issues tied to the costs and benefits of co-operation, taking into account the different mandates, decision making modalities, negotiating methods and voting procedures among partner organizations. While much of the discussion focused on reviewing formal and informal co-operation arrangements, outlining good practices and ways to replicate these in other areas of co-operation, a key issue raised during the Seminar concerned gaps in the content of OSCE commitments as compared to standards set by other international organizations, particularly in the areas of freedom of expression and media and internet freedoms. While there are no contradictions as such between the human dimension commitments and human rights standards as set forth in other international organizations, it was held that differences in scope and existing gaps should not lead to major discrepancies which could threaten the universality of human rights. In this line, it was noted that co-operation contributes to the enforcement of existing international standards, the development of common interpretations and a common reflection on soft law standards.

The Seminar was not mandated to produce a negotiated text. The main conclusions and recommendations of the Seminar are included in Section II of this Summary. Recommendations put forward by Delegations of OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation, international organizations, and NGOs are wide-ranging and addressed to various actors including OSCE institutions and field operations, governments, partner organizations and civil society. Seminar conclusions and recommendations have no official status and are not based on consensus; however, they should serve as useful indicators for the OSCE in setting priorities and planning its programmes. Documents from the Seminar are available at: <http://www.osce.org/odihr/117337>.

## **I. CONCLUSIONS AND KEY RECOMMENDATIONS**

The 2014 Human Dimension Seminar was opened and chaired by Ambassador Janez Lenarčič, Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights. Ambassador Lenarčič addressed the opening plenary session (see Annex II), underlining that multilateral co-operation is in constant evolution. He stressed that the ultimate beneficiaries of international assistance are the people and citizens of OSCE participating States, who increasingly demand that their rights and freedoms be respected. As such, the Chair noted that while regional and international organizations may sometimes have similar goals, mandates or memberships, a certain degree of overlap may not be a bad thing per se, as this can help partners to mutually reinforce their activities and their impact. Nonetheless, he stressed that in times of austerity and in light of the high number of existing human rights organizations, the OSCE needs to analyse and reinforce the areas and tools of co-operation with other regional and international organizations, in order to avoid the wasteful use of resources and unnecessary duplication of projects and activities. The Chair concluded by saying that partner organizations need to ensure that co-operation is activity-driven, and successfully draws upon the comparative strengths of the partners involved.

The following conclusions and key recommendations emerged from the plenary and working group sessions.

## **Conclusions**

Participants noted that co-operation between the OSCE and other regional and international organizations already takes place in a range of different areas, at different levels and through various formal and informal mechanisms and arrangements. However, owing to resource constraints, efforts to strengthen co-operation should be further enhanced. The event also reaffirmed that co-operation can be mutually beneficial, as it helps to avoid duplication, improves the exchange of information and prevents beneficiary fatigue, among other uses. Many noted the multiplier effect that co-operation has on the impact of projects and activities implemented. For all these reasons, participants stressed that it is important to look for complementarity and synergies among international partners in an effort to reflect on activities and improve existing practices. In doing so, many also noted the importance of forging partnerships with organizations that share the same values and standards.

Some participants added that co-operation comes at a price, and sometimes requires a considerable amount of time and energy as well as confrontation with institutional barriers. Therefore, it is important that new mechanisms are supported by additional resources, while the cost of co-operation should be backed up by appropriate funding. The benefits of informal co-operation and personal contacts, as well as organizational culture, were raised, especially as these types of co-operation are cost-effective and flourish without requiring much management.

Furthermore, several gaps in relation to the OSCE's co-operation with regional and international organizations were identified during the conference. These included gaps in those commitments that are focused on increasing co-operation, in the implementation of existing commitments on co-operation and in assessing co-operation between the OSCE and its partner organizations towards strengthening the implementation of OSCE human dimension commitments. To address these gaps, participants suggested that several practical steps could be initiated as an immediate follow-up to the Seminar, namely providing further opportunities for involving representatives of partner organizations in OSCE meetings and events, and possibly formalizing the co-operation between the OSCE and the OHCHR. The issue of tracking the implementation of commitments in a systematic, efficient and thorough manner was thought to require further elaboration, and it was suggested that an event dedicated to discuss this issue among OSCE participating States should be organized.

Although the primary focus of the Seminar was co-operation among partner organizations, several participants stressed the need to develop and assess intra-OSCE co-operation as well as co-operation between the OSCE, its institutions and field operations and participating States. The latter was deemed as crucial in the implementation of assistance and in guaranteeing national ownership. Many participants also highlighted the crucial role played by civil society in increasing co-operation among partner organizations, but also in monitoring the implementation of existing standards.

The OSCE and its institutions were praised for the wealth of experience and human capital they have developed in the human dimension. A number of speakers highlighted that the specific comparative advantages of the OSCE were the flexibility of its institutional architecture, the knowledge and expertise of its institutions and field operations, its use of “quiet diplomacy” to achieve common goals and its engagement with civil society. On thematic issues, participants noted that the OSCE has often taken a leading role in advancing certain issues in the human dimension in OSCE participating States among international actors, including in the areas of elections, rule of law, tolerance and non-discrimination, anti-trafficking and gender equality. Some participants noted that the OSCE could increase its efforts in some other areas, such as freedom of expression, the protection of journalists and ensuring internet freedoms, arguing that these issues should not be neglected and that participating States should not adopt positions at the OSCE that fall short of international standards.

Discussions were held on the “balance” that the OSCE should achieve in dealing with certain areas in the human dimension. Some argued for the enhanced transparency of OSCE institutions is needed, and that their thematic focus should be more geographically balanced and widened to encompass issues such as social and economic rights, children’s rights, combating nationalism and extremism, national minorities, statelessness and trafficking in human beings, with a particular focus on trafficking in human organs. However, others said that the focus of human rights issues was to be dealt within the OSCE and that it should be selected on an impartial basis with a focus on the most pressing human rights violations in the OSCE region.

A number of participants emphasized that co-operation is not a panacea for all the challenges facing the OSCE. They added that this concept should not be seen as a magic potion to ensuring the implementation of OSCE commitments, adding that the implementation of commitments rests primarily with the participating States.

### **Key recommendations**

*To the OSCE participating States:*

- Participating States should co-ordinate their requests for assistance to international organizations, in order to avoid confusion as well as unnecessary overlap;
- Participating States should allocate sufficient resources to support enhanced co-operation among partner organizations in the human dimension;
- Participating States should have a shared vision of the mandates of OSCE institutions in order to ensure a smooth implementation of activities and projects;
- Participating States should try to tackle emerging threats to human rights and should not neglect existing gaps in OSCE commitments;
- Participating States should not adopt positions that fall short of international standards, or standards they adopted in other international forums;
- New technologies should be fully exploited in the effort to increase co-operation with other regional and international organizations;

- Participating States should strive to provide a consistent flow of financial resources in order to ensure an efficient and effective management of resources and the sustainability of on-going co-operation programmes;
- Participating States should further discuss how to track the implementation of OSCE commitments in a more systematic, efficient and thorough manner; and
- Incoming OSCE Chairmanships should continue the good practice of outlining the Chairmanship priorities and the establishment of joint work plans of consecutive OSCE Chairmanships.

*To the OSCE, its institutions and field operations:*

- The OSCE should formalize and institutionalize the modalities for their co-operation with relevant regional and international organizations. In particular, the OHCHR and ODIHR should formalize the modalities of their co-operation;
- The OSCE should set-up joint ad hoc working groups with relevant partner organizations to take stock of and assess current forms of co-operation, and to discuss concrete measures to strengthen co-operative efforts;
- The OSCE should systematically share, reference and build on jurisprudence and standards elaborated by partner organizations, and vice-versa, partner organizations should take stock of OSCE commitments and their presence in the field, where the majority of OSCE officials operate (2,000 out of 2,800 OSCE staff are deployed in field operations);
- The OSCE should strengthen action-oriented co-operation with partner organizations in an innovative and dynamic manner by building on established memoranda of understanding or other formal arrangements, and by enhancing informal co-operation mechanisms;
- The OSCE should enlarge their thematic focus in the human dimension by devoting more attention to areas such as social and economic rights, children's rights, tackling nationalism and extremism, national minorities, statelessness and combating trafficking, including in human organs;
- The OSCE should raise awareness in participating States and partner organizations of existing areas of assistance and tools developed in the human dimension to strengthen co-operation;
- The OSCE should be aware of and promote its specific comparative advantages when engaging with other organizations;
- The OSCE should mainstream the culture of co-operation and solidarity within its structures. Furthermore, informal contacts and co-operation should be ensured despite staff turnover or a lack of funding in some areas of assistance;
- The OSCE should assess current forms of intra-institutional co-operation through expert meetings and focused consultations on specific topics;
- The OSCE should strengthen their co-operation with civil society organizations; and
- The OSCE should harness the opportunities provided by new technologies in its efforts to strengthen co-operation with partner organizations.

## II. PARTICIPATION

The Seminar was attended by 120 participants, among them 67 representatives from 37 OSCE participating States,<sup>2</sup> four participants from two Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation (Morocco and Tunisia) and 18 representatives from nine international organizations, namely: the Council of Europe (CoE), the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE), the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (EU FRA), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International IDEA, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Besides representatives of ODIHR, the Seminar was also attended by nine representatives from the OSCE and its institutions (the OSCE Secretariat, the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre, the OSCE Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, the OSCE Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media, the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly) and seven representatives from five OSCE field operations (the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Baku, the OSCE Mission to Moldova, the OSCE Mission to Montenegro, the OSCE Office in Tajikistan and the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan). 15 representatives of 12 NGOs took part in the Seminar.

## III. AGENDA AND ORGANIZATIONAL ASPECTS

The Seminar on *Improving OSCE effectiveness by enhancing its co-operation with relevant regional and international organizations* was organized in Warsaw between 12 and 14 May 2014 by ODIHR, in co-operation with the Swiss Chairmanship of the OSCE in accordance with PC Decisions No. 1116 of 13 March 2014 and No. 1121 of 8 May 2014.

This was the 30th event in a series of specialized Human Dimension Seminars organized by ODIHR further to the decisions of the CSCE Follow-up Meetings in Helsinki in 1992 and in Budapest in 1994. The previous Human Dimension Seminars were devoted to the following subjects: Tolerance (November 1992); Migration, including Refugees and Displaced Persons (April 1993); Case Studies on National Minorities Issues: Positive Results (May 1993); Free Media (November 1993); Migrant Workers (March 1994); Local Democracy (May 1994); Roma in the CSCE Region (September 1994); Building Blocks for Civic Society: Freedom of Association and NGOs (April 1995); Drafting of Human Rights Legislation (September 1995); Rule of Law (November/December 1995); Constitutional, Legal and Administrative Aspects of the Freedom of Religion (April 1996); Administration and Observation of Elections (April 1997); Promotion of

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<sup>2</sup> According to paragraph IV.1(B)1. of the OSCE Rules of Procedure (MC.DOC/1/06), working languages of the OSCE are English, French, German, Italian, Russian, and Spanish.



Women's Participation in Society (October 1997); Ombudsman and National Human Rights Protection Institutions (May 1998); Human Rights: the Role of Field Missions (April 1999); Children and Armed Conflict (May 2000); Election Processes (May 2001); Judicial Systems and Human Rights (April 2002); Participation of Women in Public and Economic Life (May 2003); Democratic Institutions and Democratic Governance (May 2004); Migration and Integration (May 2005); Upholding the Rule of Law in Criminal Justice Systems (May 2006); Effective Participation and Representation in Democratic Societies (May 2007); Constitutional Justice (May 2008); Strengthening the Rule of Law in the OSCE Area, with a special focus on the effective administration of justice (May 2009); Strengthening Judicial Independence and Public Access to Justice (May 2010); Role of Political Parties in the Political Process (May 2011); Rule of Law Framework For Combating Trafficking in Human beings (2012); and Media Freedom Legal Framework (2013).

The Annotated Agenda of the Seminar can be found in Annex I. The Seminar was opened at 10:00 on Monday 12 May 2012, and closed at 17:00 on Wednesday 14 May 2012. Plenary and working group sessions were open to all participants. The closing plenary session in the afternoon of 14 May focused on practical recommendations emerging from the four working groups. The plenary and working group sessions took place in accordance with the Work Programme. Ambassador Janez Lenarčič, Director of ODIHR, chaired the opening plenary session, and Beatriz Balbin, ODIHR First Deputy Director, chaired the closing plenary session of the Seminar. The Rules of Procedure of the OSCE and the modalities for OSCE meetings on human dimension issues (PC.DEC/476) were followed, *mutatis mutandis*, at the Seminar. The guidelines for organizing OSCE meetings (PC.DEC/762) were also taken into account. Discussions were interpreted into all six working languages of the OSCE.<sup>3</sup>

#### **IV. SUMMARY OF THE PROCEEDINGS**

Ambassador Janez Lenarčič, Director of ODIHR, opened the seminar. Welcoming remarks were made by Ambassador Thomas Greminger, Chair of the OSCE Permanent Council, on behalf of the Swiss OSCE Chairmanship, and Ms. Krystyna Żurek, Director of the Department of the United Nations and Human Rights, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland.

The keynote addresses were delivered by Ambassador Ivan Šimonović, Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ambassador Zoltán Taubner, Director of External Relations of Council of Europe and Ambassador Adam Koberacki, Director of the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre.

During his speech, Ambassador Ivan Šimonović stressed the long-standing co-operation between the OHCHR and the OSCE, its institutions and the OSCE field operations.

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<sup>3</sup> According to paragraph IV.1 (B)1. of the OSCE Rules of Procedure (MC.DOC/1/06), working languages of the OSCE are English, French, German, Italian, Russian and Spanish.

Common initiatives include informal consultations on issues of common concern, exchanges of information and desk-to-desk working consultations, working-level meetings on various thematic areas, OSCE inputs to OHCHR on the human rights situation in the context of elections and contributions to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of OSCE participating States. Assistant Secretary General Šimonović praised the excellent co-operation at the level of headquarters, but stressed that in the climate of shrinking resources and limited funding available, co-operation in the field could be further intensified, including strengthening partners' respective roles in addressing human rights protection gaps and supporting governments in the implementation of their legal obligations and political commitments made in the context of the UPR. According to Ambassador Šimonović, the Ukrainian crisis is a timely illustration of the positive collaboration and complementarity of the OSCE and OHCHR on the ground. As forward-looking organizations, the OHCHR and the OSCE could consider working more closely in assisting the Government of Ukraine in implementing and following up on recommendations made by partner organizations. Assistant Secretary General Šimonović also proposed formalizing the good co-operation between the OSCE and the OHCHR through a Memorandum of Understanding. Such efforts to formalize co-operation could help to enhance transparency in terms of the respective roles of the organizations and provide a roadmap for co-operation.

Ambassador Taubner thanked ODIHR and the Swiss Chairmanship for the prominent place reserved for the Council of Europe in the Seminar, demonstrating the quality of the co-operation between the Council of Europe and the OSCE. He stressed the role of participating States who are key players in implementing the human dimension commitments, adding that this compliance should be supported by good co-ordination and co-operation among partner organizations. Ambassador Taubner highlighted that co-operation between the Council of Europe and the OSCE takes place through a range of sophisticated and institutionalized mechanisms that are constantly updated and that cover both political and technical exchanges on all levels. He highlighted that two offices had been established in Warsaw and in Vienna to facilitate co-operation between the Council of Europe and the OSCE. Referring more specifically to the OSCE institutions, the keynote speaker commended the co-operation between the CoE Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) and ODIHR in matters related to legislation and constitutional issues, as well as the frequent interaction of the CoE with the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media. Ambassador Taubner stated that co-operation should be sustained for the duration of activity cycles, ideally starting from the programming phase. Additionally, he emphasized that partner organizations should assist each other and promote each other's standards.

Ambassador Kobieracki stated that the OSCE bases its interaction with other organizations on the Platform for Co-operative Security – the operational document of the Charter for European Security adopted at the Istanbul Summit in 1999. The document sets out the principles and modalities for collaboration with partner organizations at the strategic level, among headquarters and in the field, and defines the OSCE's role as a “flexible co-ordinating framework to foster co-operation”. Its underlying principles are inclusiveness, equality, transparency, comprehensiveness and complementarity. The co-operation mechanisms at various levels include a wide range

of formal and informal mechanisms, such as events and meetings, bilateral consultations, as well as working relations and expert-to-expert co-operation, and are designed to provide opportunities for the exchange of information and lessons learned and to co-ordinate on thematic and regional issues. Ambassador Kobieracki went on to stress that informal forms of interaction should not be downplayed, as they are based on trust and mutual understanding, as well as a demonstrated willingness to engage in common efforts and are cost effective. He also noted that these mechanisms have proven successful when driven by demand and prompted by specific situations, but stressed that the platform remains underutilized, especially in crisis situations when international organizations need a fast and flexible co-ordination mechanism to respond promptly and efficiently to threats. He emphasized that a more pragmatic approach to co-operation is needed, stemming from a genuine culture of interaction based on shared values, common interest and an understanding of each other's roles.

After the opening plenary session of the Seminar, discussions took place in four consecutive working groups. The following Working Group reports are prepared on the basis of notes taken by ODIHR staff and the presentations of the Rapporteurs, who summarized the working group discussions at the closing plenary session. These reports cannot exhaustively convey the details of the working group discussions but rather aim to identify their common salient points. The recommendations from working groups were not formally adopted by the Seminar participants and do not necessarily reflect the views of any participating State.

<b>Working Group I</b>
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*Moderator:*       **Mr. Thomas Vennen**, Head of the Democratization Department, OSCE/ODIHR

*Introducers:*     **Ms. Ruth Pojman**, Acting Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, OSCE

**Mr. Gianni Magazzeni**, Chief of the Americas, Europe and Central Asia Branch, OHCHR

**Mr. Walter Kälin**, Director of the Swiss Center of Expertise in Human Rights

*Rapporteur:*      **Ms. Anne Helene Marsøe**, Permanent Delegation of Norway to the OSCE

The first Working Group Session focused on how the OSCE can better promote commitments in the human dimension by learning from and increasing its co-operation with regional and international organizations. Participants also discussed ways the OSCE can better assist OSCE participating States in developing new and implementing existing human dimension commitments through increased co-operation.

The first introducer, Ms. Ruth Pojman, highlighted the catalyst role played by the OSCE in the fight against human trafficking, and presented some good practices in terms of co-operation with relevant regional and international organizations. These include the “Alliance against Trafficking in Persons” platform hosted by the OSCE, developed to facilitate consultations between partner organizations, the organization of joint activities or projects and information-sharing on trends and challenges. The platform also helps to review successful practices and the implementation of OSCE commitments. Other examples mentioned include the co-operation between the OSCE and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) in combating trafficking in human beings; the co-ordination with the CoE Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA) in terms of country visits and reporting; and the joint UNODC-OSCE Plan for Action which provides for a co-operative approach to combat transnational threats.

Ms. Pojman also highlighted the need to increase the OSCE’s collaboration with organizations such as the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the European Economic and Social Committee and the UNHCR, particularly on issues relating to the protection of trafficking victims. She stressed the need for the OSCE to meet with NGOs and international and regional organizations in a more systematic manner during country visits to enable joint advocacy efforts, and the lack of understanding of certain human dimension issues by participating States, as demonstrated by the difficulty in reaching consensus in the adoption of the 2013 OSCE Addendum to the Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings. In that area, she recommended drafting a commentary to the Addendum to the Action Plan to clarify how to translate OSCE commitments into actions. She pointed out that a lack of political will is one of the biggest challenges in anti-trafficking work, together with a lack of human capacity and financial resources to implement policies, legislation and to ensure the functioning of national mechanisms.

Ms. Pojman concluded by saying that the focus in the field of anti-trafficking should not necessarily be on drawing up new commitments but on implementing the existing ones, and as such, co-operation among international organizations is crucial to raise awareness of existing standards and to promote their implementation. Tools which could be used to achieve this include the following: international fora such as the OSCE-hosted “Alliance against Trafficking in Persons”; other co-ordinated efforts among international organizations such as country visits, joint projects, and joint capacity-development initiatives and information sharing; and increased efforts at the strategic level of international organizations to strengthen political commitment and national ownership of the fight against human trafficking.

Mr. Gianni Magazzeni discussed the excellent co-operation of the OHCHR with the OSCE/ODIHR and other human rights organizations, such as the Council of Europe, at both the executive and local levels. He highlighted the need for partner organizations to build on one another’s efforts and increase their impact by enhancing partnerships and aligning their engagement at country level when undertaking actions to effectively respond to recommendations by human rights monitoring mechanisms and ensuring greater compliance with international human rights standards. In that respect, he deemed it important for partner organizations to take into account gaps identified by the UPR

process in the implementation of UN human rights obligations, as well as recommendations made to Member States.

Furthermore, Mr. Magazzeni listed several tools that could facilitate mutual co-operation between the OSCE and the OHCHR in a more effective and efficient manner. These include the establishment by participating States of national co-ordination mechanisms in charge of analysing actions undertaken in terms of implementation, monitoring and reporting of human rights obligations; the development of National Action Plans on Human Rights by states to identify priority actions in implementing UPR recommendations, as well as recommendations made by other UN human rights treaty monitoring bodies. Mr. Magazzeni also noted the importance of linking human rights issues with the development agenda of bilateral donors and the need to develop an implementation mechanism that is in line with the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and OECD-DAC mechanisms.

Mr. Magazzeni also pointed out the need for more information sharing and increased institutional contacts among partner organizations in the field and at the executive level, particularly during planning and programming processes. He recommended the development of standard operating procedures between partner organizations and the OSCE as mechanisms to ensure the implementation of UPR recommendations as well as those issued by UN human rights treaty monitoring bodies. International community and regional organizations should speak with one voice when advancing the protection and promotion of human rights and OSCE commitments at the national level.

Mr. Walter Kaelin began his speech by highlighting that the OSCE and the United Nations share a long-standing interest in the protection of human beings and their rights as part of their respective missions. The two organizations also share a long history of co-operation in these areas. He recalled that co-operation among partner organizations is important for at least two reasons, namely that *speaking with one voice* is important where governments lack the political will to protect, respect and fulfil the rights of their citizens, while *acting as one* – or at least in a concerted manner – is necessary whenever a State wants to address human rights problems but lacks the capacity and resources to do so. Taking a more systematic look at the ways the OSCE and the UN work together on human rights, he distinguished three areas of co-operation: exchange of information, standard setting and the interpretation of standards, as well as the implementation of these standards, and gave examples of each.

Mr. Kaelin emphasized that existing co-operation between the OSCE and the UN could be further strengthened and improved. In his experience, co-operation between the OSCE and the UN has the potential to create real synergies where the relevant actors are mindful of and focus on advancing the common interest, namely advancing human security. Furthermore, partner organizations should understand their comparative strengths, in order to reduce incoherence and duplication. This can, for instance, be ensured by respective early consultations on work plans, programs or specific projects. Finally, respect for each organization's independence and mandate must form part of any co-operative partnership. This ensures that co-operation is guided by mutual respect and does not compromise the work of different bodies and institutions.

Mr. Kaelin also recommended ways to enhance co-operative efforts further in the areas of information-sharing, standard-setting, monitoring and implementation of international standards. For instance, information sharing needs to be more systematic and targeted. Furthermore, a more methodical approach to the application of standards of other organizations to further develop and interpret its own standards would help strengthen the OSCE human dimension commitments and the UN human rights treaty law. As a good practice he noted the key role played by the Joint OSCE/ODIHR-Venice Commission Guidelines on Freedom of Peaceful Assembly, which are increasingly used by the United Nations Human Rights Committee to interpret human rights standards pertaining to the right to freedom of peaceful assembly. In relation to the monitoring and implementation of international standards, the relevant OSCE bodies should continue to provide and systematize its targeted contributions to the UPR process, while OSCE experts and UN Human Rights Council Special Rapporteurs should strengthen co-operation through information exchanges. The OSCE field missions and the UN country teams should co-operate more systematically when providing follow-up to recommendations by UN treaty bodies and special rapporteurs.

A number of speakers argued that despite the fact that regional and international organizations have different mandates, decision making procedures, negotiating methods and voting procedures, they should be consistent in their negotiation and application of standards in different international and regional fora. They emphasized that there are discrepancies between the content of OSCE commitments and standards set in other international organizations, particularly in the areas of freedom of expression, the protection of journalists and internet freedoms,<sup>4</sup> LGBT rights and the abolition of death penalty. While there are no contradictions as such between Human Dimension commitments and international human rights standards and some small differences can be expected, these should not be so big so as to jeopardize the universality of human rights.

Some participants emphasized the leading role that the OSCE is playing in providing support to OSCE participating States in areas such as the protection of journalists, combating trafficking in human beings, the fight against xenophobia and hate crimes, combating all forms of discrimination, elections, freedom of association, the protection of human rights defenders and the rule of law and gender equality. They also highlighted the uniqueness of certain tools and instruments applied by the OSCE in these areas. One speaker explained that the added-value of the OSCE is its contribution to the regional implementation of human rights standards; as such, its role should not be to reformulate universal international standards that are already in place, but rather to strengthen their implementation at the regional level through tailored assistance. Additionally, participants also pointed out the specific links that the OSCE has developed with civil

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<sup>4</sup> The United Nations General Assembly has adopted a Resolution entitled “The Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity” during its 68th session in November 2013 (RES/68/163) and the Resolution of the Human Rights Committee (HRC/RES/20/8) on “The Promotion, Protection and Enjoyment of Human Rights on the Internet”.

society actors in the field and through mandated human dimension events, which was seen as one of the strengths of the OSCE.

Participants disagreed on the focus the OSCE should adopt in terms of future co-operation. Some argued that, while implementing the existing commitments is important, there is a need to update existing OSCE human dimension commitments to adapt to the evolving world and broaden the scope of OSCE interventions. Others, meanwhile, stressed that it is important to focus solely on implementing the existing human dimension commitments, while concentrating on a smaller number of current thematic problems such as freedom of movement and the right to privacy. All participants highlighted the need to continue strengthening partnerships with other regional and international organizations, and to leverage efforts and avoid unnecessary duplication. Some mentioned that the Helsinki +40 Process represents a good opportunity to enhance the effectiveness of the OSCE as a whole.

Finally, speakers from partner organizations highlighted existing areas of co-operation with the OSCE, and expressed their willingness to ensure greater co-operation. Some speakers commended the co-operative efforts with the OSCE in Ukraine, in particular their ability to engage with civil society, and called on all international organizations and NGOs involved on the ground to co-ordinate their future assistances and actions. Others highlighted the need to replicate good practices identified during the session to other areas of the OSCE's work, and drew attention to existing tools developed by partner organizations, such as the OHCHR country-specific website.

The following section includes specific recommendations offered by participants.

*To OSCE participating States:*

- Participating States should adopt a consistent approach to matters of substance and principles when negotiating OSCE human dimension commitments in different regional and international forums;
- Participating States should establish national co-ordination mechanisms to ensure the participation of all relevant international organizations and local stakeholders, such as representatives from line ministries, the national human rights institution and law enforcement authorities in charge of analysing actions towards implementing United Nations human rights obligations, monitoring and reporting, including the preparation of the United Nations UPR review in co-operation with civil society; and
- Participating States should develop National Action Plans on Human Rights to identify priority actions to be undertaken by international organizations to implement United Nations UPR recommendations as agreed on the state, as well as recommendations made by other human rights treaty monitoring bodies.

*To the OSCE, its institutions and field operations:*

- The OSCE should be more strategic in its co-operation with relevant regional and international organizations, and should work together not on short-term interventions, but also in terms of medium- and long-term planning and the implementation of interventions, in particular programmes and projects;
- The OSCE should focus in particular on and ensure the results and impact of its interventions;
- The OSCE should enhance partnerships and increase its alignment at the country level when undertaking actions to effectively respond to recommendations by United Nations human rights monitoring mechanisms;
- The development and setting-up of international platforms/forums, such as the Alliance against Trafficking in Persons hosted by the OSCE, should be replicated and promoted;
- The OSCE should jointly develop with partner organizations tools providing guidance to OSCE participating States, and should systematically cross-reference their respective standards and tools;
- The OSCE should continue to provide and systematize their involvement in the UN UPR process and the examination of country reports by UN human rights treaty monitoring bodies;
- The OSCE should develop an addendum to existing Action Plans (such as in the field of anti-trafficking) on certain OSCE commitments to clarify how to translate these commitments into action;
- The OSCE should formalize/institutionalize the modalities for its co-operation with relevant regional and international organizations. In particular, the OHCHR and ODIHR should formalize the modalities of their co-operation in a manner similar to what was achieved with the Council of Europe in 2013; and
- In follow-up to the Human Dimension Seminar, the OSCE/ODIHR and the OHCHR should set-up a joint ad hoc working group, composed of representatives of OSCE/ODIHR and OHCHR, to take stock of the current forms of co-operation and to discuss concrete measures to implement the Seminar's recommendations.

<b>Working Group II</b>
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*Moderator:*       **Ms. Beata Martin-Rozumilowicz**, Head of the Election Department, OSCE/ODIHR

*Introducers:*     **Ambassador György Szabó**, Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan, OSCE

**Ms. Simona Granata-Menghini**, Deputy Secretary of the Venice Commission, Council of Europe

**Mr. Yuri Dzhibladze**, Center for the Development of Democracy and



## Human Rights

*Rapporteur:* **Ms. Natalia Kravtsova**, Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the OSCE

The second Working Group Session focused on identifying existing areas of co-operation between the OSCE and regional and international organizations, and on how the OSCE can strengthen this co-operation in providing assistance to participating States to meet their human dimension commitments.

The first introducer, Ambassador György Szabó, gave some examples on the existing co-operation between the OSCE and regional and international organizations in the human dimension in Uzbekistan. For instance, building on the recommendations of the Universal Periodic Review of Uzbekistan, the Project Co-ordinator actively contributed to the development of the National Action Plan, which was developed in collaboration with all relevant stakeholders on the ground, including state bodies, NGOs and international organizations. Furthermore, the field operation was part of a mapping exercise that detailed the international community's support to the emerging National Action Plan. The Project Co-ordinator also developed ongoing and planned activities according to the four clusters of the UPR recommendations. Other areas of co-operation with partner organizations include support to enhance the skills and expertise of government representatives and inter-agency networking.

Ambassador Szabó noted that the OSCE's co-operation with other regional and international organizations comes with both advantages and disadvantages. One of the advantages is the opportunity to unite efforts in achieving a common goal. Moreover, certain topics and/or forms of assistance may be "closed" for one international organization but "open" for others. Another advantage is the ability to share the financial burden for assistance, especially in light of the recent global economic crisis. At the same time, co-operation with other international organizations also brings with it certain challenges. Each international organization has its own mandate, tasks and priorities, as well as budget resources that need to be utilized. Sometimes, this leads to the overlap and duplication of efforts and – at worst – to competition between international organizations. He concluded by saying that the most important thing in fostering co-operation between international organizations is, on the one hand, to find an "intelligent" balance of national needs and, on the other hand, to define the different mandates and priorities of international organizations.

Ms. Simona Granata-Menghini, underlined that the OSCE and the Council of Europe have interacted for many years within an established framework of co-operation based on shared values, shared geography and the principle of complementarity. She stressed the value-added of co-operation in terms of common principles, as well as substantial and political reasons, but noted the structural and operational-level differences between the two organizations. For instance, the work of the Council of Europe is focused in its headquarters, while the OSCE carries out the core of its work in the field. Co-operation arrangements also depend on several other factors, including the country and region in

question, national partners, funds, donors and the teams involved. Furthermore, partner organizations are also sometimes in competition for resources. Therefore, there is more to co-operation than simply agreeing on basic principles.

Ms. Granata-Menghini elaborated on ways in which co-operation can be strengthened further. Awareness at the operational level of existing co-operation agreements and arrangements, as well as possibilities for the potential development of co-operation, needs to be promoted. Other recommendations included the need to increase information-sharing on short- and medium-term programmatic planning among headquarters and in the field, the necessity to cross-reference one another's work and standards and to carry forward a common reflection on soft law standards, as well as the importance of compiling best practices in co-operation activities. Ms. Granta-Menghini ended her introduction by saying that co-operation and co-ordination may only function efficiently if friendly relations, good faith, transparency and trust among partner organizations are present.

The third introducer, Mr. Yuri Dzhibladze, underlined the importance of increasing practical co-operation among partner organizations, especially in times of economic downturn where the attention of governments is sometimes diverted away from human rights concerns. He called on all OSCE actors to be bold, to apply creativity and to test and try different formats for co-operation with its partner organizations in the human dimension. Mr. Dzhibladze highlighted the role of civil society in improving the OSCE's effectiveness and enhancing its co-operation with other organizations. In particular, several annual Parallel Civil Society Conferences have been organized on the margins of the Ministerial Council meetings by the Civic Solidarity Platform, an OSCE-wide coalition of more than 60 NGOs. These conferences, together with the annual declaration issued by the platform, have produced a package of recommendations for the OSCE, which should be taken into account by OSCE participating States.

Mr. Dzhibladze commended existing good examples of co-operation among the OSCE, international organizations and NGOs, with particular reference to the new OSCE/ODIHR Recommendations on the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, the OSCE/ODIHR-CoE Venice Commission Guidelines on Freedom of Association and the third revised version of the OSCE/ODIHR-CoE Venice Commission Guidelines on Freedom of Peaceful Assembly. Building on these, Mr. Dzhibladze outlined a range of areas which would benefit from increased co-operation among international organizations and the OSCE. Co-operation can help to: identify new trends and challenges in the human dimension; develop new and expand on existing OSCE commitments in relevant areas; develop a process of systematic and regular assessment of the implementation of commitments by all participating States; develop joint guidelines and discuss ways to implement them; develop action plans; and enhance assistance to participating States in the implementation of OSCE commitments, including through needs assessments, legislative assessments, trainings of NHRIs and capacity building activities, among others.

In the discussion, all participants stressed that many examples of successful co-operation already exist between the OSCE and regional and international organizations, including

in the field of the protection of minorities, combating hate speech and hate crime, racism and intolerance, conflict prevention, training for border managers and internal displacement. Representatives of partner organizations highlighted existing formal and informal forms of co-operation and good practices between ODIHR and the CoE Venice Commission, in particular with regards to joint legal reviews and the development of soft law standards through joint Guidelines on Freedom of Assembly, Freedom of Association and Freedom of Religion or Belief. They also highlighted co-operation between UNHCR and the OSCE, including through the co-moderation of the Geneva International Discussions, developing a Protection Checklist for internally displaced persons, conducting trainings for border guards, implementing the Regional Housing Programme for Refugees and Displaced Persons in the Western Balkans, jointly advocating for the protection of the human rights of persons of concern and national minorities, including Roma and Sinti, and in drawing attention to the plight of displaced people within the OSCE region. Co-operation between ODIHR and the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) was cited as an example of progressive co-operation through regular consultations and participation in mutually-organized events. A speaker also pointed out that issues such as the protection of socio-economic rights, the rights of the child, freedom of movement and combating trafficking in human beings would benefit from further co-operation between States.

Some speakers stated that the OSCE's value-added is its expertise, which is reinforced by field operations and institutions in the areas of the human dimension, and the direct involvement of civil society actors. Other speakers mentioned the value of OSCE tools, including guidelines, publications, databases and reports developed by the OSCE. A representative of the field operation in Tajikistan outlined some good examples of collaboration with state officials and civil society actors, praising the effectiveness of quiet diplomacy in achieving common goals in Central Asia. Challenges in co-operation were mentioned as well, including the competition for resources, and the risk of overlap in activities implemented. However, according to some participants, a certain degree of overlap can lead to the diversification and increased exchanges of views, ultimately benefiting participating States.

Some participants noted that, while assistance to participating States is very important, this assistance should be provided only upon the requests of States, and should correspond to specific tasks, in accordance with the consensus-based approach of the OSCE. Others argued that although it is important that OSCE activities take place within the mandate defined by participating States, the same mandate does not require a request from participating States for the implementation of activities. One participant argued that a lack of consensus among participating States can lead to the suspension of activities and, therefore, to a distortion of the mandate, and reiterated the need to increase available resources to strengthen the implementation of human dimension commitments. A number of speakers highlighted the need to raise awareness among participating States of the possibilities within the OSCE to provide assistance in the human dimension, and the existing tools to do so.

Specific recommendations included:

*To OSCE participating States:*

- Participating States should increase the resources available to OSCE structures to provide expertise in the human dimension, and should consider including legislative support activities in the Unified Budget;
- Participating States should have a shared vision of the mandates of OSCE institutions in order to ensure the smooth implementation of activities and projects; and
- Participating States should consider the participation of the Council of Europe in Permanent Council meetings.

*To the OSCE, its institutions and field operation:*

- The OSCE should pool its efforts to ensure that co-ordination with relevant regional and international organizations takes place at different levels and during every stage of project implementation;
- The OSCE should create a common roster of experts and consultants with relevant regional and international organizations in an effort to share expertise and knowledge in a more systematic way, and to bring about an overall increase in the visibility of their actions in partner organizations;
- The OSCE should institutionalize a culture of co-operation with relevant regional and international organizations at all levels of their institutions;
- The OSCE should compile best practices with relevant regional and international organizations, increase information-sharing and cross-reference its respective work and standards;
- The OSCE should find a balance between national needs and the different mandates and priorities of international organizations in fostering co-operation in the human dimension in the field;
- The OSCE should co-operate with other international organizations in identifying new concerns in the human dimension, in particular in relation to the protection of privacy and personal data, both online and offline, as well as within and across national boundaries;
- The OSCE should increase the consistency of its work and take a more systematic approach in responding to new challenges in the field of combating discrimination and hate crimes. Documents and expertise of relevant UN treaty bodies, including the UN Special Rapporteurs, the work of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance, among other bodies, should be mutually referenced and used in this area;
- The OSCE should take into account the package of recommendations produced during the Parallel Civil Society Conferences, as well as the annual declarations of the Civic Solidarity Platform held on the margins of OSCE Ministerial Councils, towards enhancing its co-operation with partner organizations; and

- The OSCE should raise awareness among participating States of the possibilities of OSCE structures to provide assistance in the human dimension, and the existing tools to do so.

<b>Working Group III</b>
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*Moderator:* **Ms. Floriane Hohenberg**, Head of the Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Department, OSCE/ODIHR

*Introducers:* **Ambassador Miroslava Beham**, Senior Adviser on Gender Issues, OSCE

**Ms. Joanna Goodey**, Head of Freedoms and Justice Department, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights

**Ms. Virginie Coulloudon**, Group Director External Relations, Transparency International

*Rapporteur:* **Mr. Chad Wilton**, United States Mission to the OSCE

This Working Group Session focused on how the OSCE structures can increase collaboration with their respective counterparts in other regional and international organizations to more effectively collect, exchange and disseminate data, statistics and other information concerning the human dimension.

The first introducer, Ambassador Miroslava Beham, pointed to the importance of structured data collection to inform policy and address deficiencies. Data collection and information exchange create knowledge and transparency, help to reveal the full extent of certain problems and allow international organizations to design effective responses and track progress in a resource-efficient manner. This important task is also resource-intensive in both financial and human terms, and the EU budget on data collection is roughly half that of the total annual budget of the OSCE. While the OSCE budget is under constant strain, a number of OSCE Ministerial Council Decisions call for more data collection to improve OSCE policy programmes. To address this gap, the OSCE Gender Section has proposed establishing a Gender Equality Network which could act as a data co-ordination hub for regional organizations in the OSCE region. In addition to this initiative, other good practices include a partnership between the OSCE Gender Section and the EU FRA aimed at expanding the FRA methodology to non-EU countries of the OSCE in the area of sexual and gender-based violence.

Ms. Beham emphasized that – despite some formalized processes - data is often collected in an ad hoc manner, through research, fact-finding and monitoring missions and voluntary reporting methods, but also through access to information requests or following invitation by host governments. She suggested several ways to systematize

and structure international co-operation in the data collection field. For instance, participating States could include considerations on data collection in the relevant clusters of the Helsinki +40 Process. The OSCE could also explore the possibility of acting as a data co-ordination hub for regional organizations in the OSCE region. Additionally, OSCE structures could identify and apply existing data and information collection methodologies used in other international organizations. Finally, an expert meeting on data collection in the human dimension could be organized to discuss this further. These initiatives should also take into account how best use new technologies to enhance online information-sharing.

The second introducer, Ms. Joanna Goodey, urged participants to think of how data will be used ahead of its collection. In this vein, she noted the significant gaps in data on fundamental human rights, which is often collected sporadically and is not directly comparable between states. Various means of data collection exist, including through direct means such as large-scale surveys of rights holders or focus groups. She also emphasized the need to develop good indicators on fundamental human rights, as well as to collect data on trends over time. Ms. Goodey noted that legislation and case-law is easier to collect, but that it is more difficult to assess what individuals are actually experiencing.

Ms. Goodey drew attention to the Regulation of the Council of the European Union which established the EU FRA, and which specifically refers to co-operation with the OSCE in the field of data collection. The Regulation states that in order to achieve complementarity and guarantee the best possible use of resources, EU FRA should take account of information collected and of activities undertaken by the OSCE and other partner organizations.<sup>5</sup> She also highlighted that the EU FRA already co-operates actively with ODIHR in areas such as hate crime. While ODIHR focuses, for instance, on data collected through participating States, awareness raising and training activities for governmental officials, the EU FRA conducts surveys targeting the general population, thus helping to assess the data-collection mechanisms of EU Member States. In this area, she referred to the importance of using methodologies which question individuals directly about their experiences, and outlined some good practices, including the EU FRA surveys on Ethnic Minorities and Immigrants, Anti-Semitism, LGBT and Violence against Women. Other co-operation with the OSCE includes contributions to co-organized events, as well as the exchange of information on data collection methodologies.

Ms. Goodey outlined another example of complementary in action – namely, the co-operation between EU FRA and the Council of Europe. The Council of Europe has set standards in a number of areas pertaining to fundamental rights, while FRA has assisted by providing the necessary data. Ms. Goodey also highlighted as a good practice the EU FRA's data collection on Roma, which was used by the EU FRA Roma task force to inform EU member States on the situation of Roma and assist in developing adequate

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<sup>5</sup> The document is available online: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?;jsessionid=vFhITNnTIJyggvr1P2wfQZF06SWSzqfv1HrvvVWsmjR2Z2IM5hZN!-1040576058?uri=CELEX:32007R0168>

policy measures to address identified problems. Similarly, national equality bodies use EU FRA data as evidence for discussions with their governments on how policies can be improved.

The third introducer, Ms. Coulloudon, referred to the Helsinki Final Act, the Copenhagen Document and the Astana Commemorative Declaration as a basis for co-operation. All these documents acknowledge the role of civil society in monitoring compliance with international standards and pushing for the implementation of OSCE commitments. As such, civil society plays a crucial role in monitoring the implementation of standards set forth in the ODIHR/CoE VC Guidelines for Political Party Regulation in practice. That is why civil society collaboration with international organizations has long been established and institutionalized in many ways.

Ms. Coulloudon elaborated on some good examples of co-operation between Transparency International and individual states or groups of states, as well as with international organizations such as the OECD. In particular, she referenced Transparency International's annual corruption perception index, which allows data to be compared over time. Moreover, she highlighted the importance of treaty monitoring mechanisms and automatic data sharing as effective means to close loopholes and gaps in information. Ms Coulloudon made four recommendations to the OSCE. First, the OSCE should convene discussions on how to ensure an automatic exchange of information on specific topics among international organizations. Second, organizations should contribute to the current discussion on the UN Post-Millennium Development Goals (MDG) framework in 2015. Third, the OSCE should recognize that greater unity against corruption and the illicit transfer of assets across borders is also a way to combat transnational threats. Finally, the OSCE could support a constructive dialogue on the status of civil society space at both the national and international levels, as this space is being constantly reduced in some participating States.

During the discussions, many participants provided examples of good practices in data collection at the national and international levels. These included information and data collection on hate crimes based on international standards, open data and open government initiatives that provide the public with opportunities to collect data, the national contact points on human rights issues, such as the Roma and Sinti and hate crimes national points of contact systems, the use of Advisory Expert Panels in the field of fundamental human rights at ODIHR, the opportunities offered by fact-finding and monitoring missions to gather information, in particular in the field of assembly monitoring, as well as existing ODIHR online databases, including *Legislationline*, the *Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Information System (TANDIS)* and ICHLR tools such as *Legaltools.org*.

Speakers also pointed out areas where co-operation could be strengthened in order to prevent assessment and reporting fatigue on the part of OSCE participating States. For instance, partner organizations could better co-ordinate their country visits. They should also be more active in taking stock and building on reports produced by other international organizations or civil society actors. Increased co-operation could also help to bridge data gaps in the area of fundamental freedoms. In this effort, the contribution

of civil society organizations is crucial, especially as gathering information also requires gaining the trust of certain communities. All participating States would benefit from these initiatives, as providing customized responses are costly for states.

Several participants were of the opinion that the real value in data collection lies in the qualitative analysis of the information, not just in its collection. Others highlighted the challenges regarding the methodology applied in gathering information. One of the speakers stressed that a key issue is the way information is presented, adding that governments that are confident on fundamental rights are more willing to have data gathered and published. Many participants suggested that the outcomes of human dimension events should be promoted and used more efficiently, in particular with regards to monitoring efforts.

Finally, one participating State stated that OSCE institutions need to be more transparent in planning programmes and activities, and in this respect, should strengthen their accounting and reporting mechanisms. Furthermore, the same representative noted the geo-political imbalance in terms of themes focused on in the human dimension and the cherry-picking of OSCE commitments to discuss and analyse in terms of implementation.

Specific recommendations included:

*To OSCE participating States:*

- Participating States should develop structured data collection tools together with other international organizations;
- Participating States should employ new technologies to share information and data;
- Participating States should ensure a more systematized follow-up to reports and recommendations issued by the OSCE and other regional/international organizations, and should involve civil society representatives in follow-up activities; and
- Participating States are encouraged to submit relevant materials and documents to databases compiled by OSCE structures and other international organizations, and to use the databases, for example, in education and awareness-raising activities, in reporting on compliance with human rights and/or in the adjudication of court cases.

*To the OSCE, its institutions and field operations:*

- The OSCE should explore the possibility of acting as a data collection hub in the OSCE region, gathering data produced by various international organizations operating in the OSCE region;



- The OSCE should organize expert meetings on data collection, particularly in the area of gender, anti-corruption and good governance, together with other international organizations, in particular the United Nations;
- The OSCE should collect more data in the OSCE region on issues such as children rights, statelessness, trafficking phenomena, including trafficking in human organs, and social and economic rights;
- The OSCE should use new information technologies to stay up to date, both in terms of conducting surveys and collecting data, as well as in disseminating results to OSCE participating States;
- The OSCE should avoid duplication and work with other international organizations effectively for the purposes of data collection, including through the standardization of questionnaires and data collection techniques;
- The OSCE should make more use of data collected by other international organizations, or should feed data into their existing data collection mechanisms, including the Universal Periodic Review and the CEDAW Convention;
- ODIHR should continue to collect data by increasing its use of national points of contact, advisory expert panels and fact-finding missions in OSCE participating States.

<b>Working Group IV</b>
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*Moderator:*        **Mr. Omer Fisher**, Deputy Head of the Human Rights Department, OSCE/ODIHR

*Introducers:*     **Ms. Ilze Brands Kehris**, Director of the Office of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, OSCE

**Mr. Juan Barata Mir**, Principal Adviser to the Representative on Freedom of the Media, OSCE

**Ms. Beatriz Balbin**, First Deputy Director, OSCE/ODIHR

*Rapporteur:*       **Ambassador Sanja Milinković**, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Serbia to the OSCE

This Working Group Session focused on the identification and discussion of good practices of co-operation between OSCE structures, institutions and field missions and regional and international organizations, and how they can benefit from the best practices of their respective counterparts in other regional and international organizations.

The first introducer, Ms. Ilze Brands Kehris, stated that the topic of co-operation between the OSCE and other relevant regional and international organizations is an important topic,

especially in times of financial restraints, where some States may be reluctant to engage in discussions on the human dimension commitments. On the strategic level, she stressed that our attention should be directed at ensuring the functioning of existing instruments, achieving consistency in the interpretation of standards, as well as the efficient cross-referencing of international standards. Furthermore, international partners should strive to reinforce each other's work, taking into account the differences in their respective mandates and roles. On the level of practical co-operation, Ms. Brands Kehris stated that the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM) has established good co-operation with a number of partner organizations, including the CoE, thereby building on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and its Advisory Committee work, the UN and its agencies and the EU. One of the good practices presented include the HCNM Ljubljana Guidelines on Integration of Diverse Societies, where discussions were held with a number of partner organizations in the preparation of the document, as well as following its completion to discuss its dissemination.

Ms. Brands Kehris spoke in favour of inter-institutional dialogue, despite clear differences in institutions. As a lesson learnt she stated that formal agreements and meetings are useful on a political level, but stressed the importance of informal co-operation on an operational level, which is very dependent on individuals and the trust among them; therefore, it should be ensured that existing working-level networks are maintained despite, for example, issues involving staff turnover.

The second introducer, Mr. Juan Barata Mir, presented examples of good practices on ways to seek co-operation with partner organizations. The Representative on the Freedom of the Media (RFoM) co-operates with many international organizations, including the UN, the EU and the Organization of American States (OAS), in particular with their specialized bodies working in the field of freedom of expression. These partnerships are guided by mutual respect for one another's work and the understanding that even if the areas of focus are the same – namely media freedom and freedom of expression – problems are often viewed from different perspectives, including where the geographical scope of their work overlaps. There are also different approaches and different ways to work on a specific issue. For instance, the European Court of Human Rights requires a certain amount of time to reach a decision, whereas RFoM can react quickly. As such, the approaches of these different organizations and bodies are complementary.

Mr. Barata Mir also outlined some tools for co-operation, such as joint statements, (a powerful advocacy tool), participation in mutually-organized events and agreed interventions, informal working-level co-operation, information gathering and the compilation of common publications and tools. He stressed the advantages of co-operation, namely consistency in addressing human rights issues, complementarity of activities, enhanced efficiency in the use of resources, increased impact, better event organizing, knowledge sharing and improved assessments of the situation in OSCE participating States. He added that all these factors have an impact on fundraising and donor co-operation. If co-operation is in place and the division of responsibilities is clear, then fundraising is easier and more effective. Also, joint activities are particularly attractive to donors.

The third introducer, Ms. Beatriz Balbin, noted that ODIHR's co-operation with international and regional organizations takes many forms, including the exchange of data and information, common programmatic activities and resource mobilization, as well as the establishment of institutional links. Within this wealth of co-operation, she highlighted some examples of good practices. These include the contribution to the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation or the joint ODIHR/Venice Commission legislative reviews – 30 in total since 2011 – that are prepared upon request of OSCE participating States, as well as the elaboration of joint ODIHR-CoE Venice Commission Guidelines on fundamental human rights. Other close partnerships have been developed with the OHCHR, UNESCO, UN Women, the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) and a number of international agencies in various areas.

Ms. Balbin also emphasized that, owing to the many requests for assistance, financial and human resources constraints require strengthened co-operation and increased pooling of resources among partner organization. In addition, the abundance of financial resources, which are often made available at short notice and are focused on a specific issue or a particular crisis, pose challenges to the efficient and effective management of resources while affecting the sustainability of other on-going programmes. Other challenges in co-operation include a lack of joint strategic planning, an upsurge in the number of different human rights providers and a lack of political will to further advance the implementation of human dimension commitments.

Ms. Balbin also provided some recommendations on ways to enhance co-operative efforts, and suggested that partners strive to find practical ways to replicate good practices. In this vein, efforts could be directed towards developing more goal- and project- oriented co-operation activities, integrating operational-level co-operation in wider strategic co-operation agreements and/or applying references to mutual standards and jurisprudence more systematically. For example, ways to ensure that ODIHR election observation and trial monitoring reports and recommendations are systematically referred to by policy makers, both internationally and nationally, could be explored. Enhanced engagement and co-ordination with national actors, including civil society, should also be considered. Partners should provide each other with mutual access to databases and information networks, in particular to enhance monitoring efforts. In relation to Human Dimension events, ODIHR fully supports efforts to make these more effective and attractive, and encourages that timely decisions are made on the organization of these events through an agreed standing agenda for the HDIM. In addition, a more targeted and specialized focus on selected topics for Human Dimension Seminars and Supplementary Human Dimension Meetings could result in an improved review process for the human dimension, and thus could support the implementation of OSCE commitments.

Many participants included examples of best practices in co-operation between the OSCE and partner organizations, including the Council of Europe, in the following areas: joint conferences on combating trafficking, joint initiatives in the field of minority rights and legislative support and the issuing of joint political statements, such as statements issued together with the ECRI and EU FRA on the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Other successful forms of co-operation include collaboration in the field with the ICRC, particularly in South Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus, as well as in

the framework of contributions to the OSCE Minsk process and co-operation between the current Swiss OSCE Chairmanship-in-Office and Austrian presidency of the Council of Europe. Once again, collaboration with civil society was highlighted as crucial, and the Swiss Chairmanship was commended in its efforts to actively engage with civil society organizations. The OSCE's flexibility in responding quickly to crisis situations in OSCE participating States was also praised.

A number of representatives highlighted the need for the OSCE to work with all types of international organizations and NGOs that share the same values and principles, regardless of their size. It was also recommended that the organization apply both formal and informal means of co-operation consistently. In addition, other important elements for enhanced co-operation were identified, including the need to improve the institutional culture of co-operation on all levels, as well as to better harness the opportunities offered by new technologies. It was noted that intra-OSCE co-operation is as important as collaboration among regional and international organizations, and that this also needs to be assessed and improved.

Some participants suggested that it would be valuable to include representatives of partner organizations in relevant OSCE meetings as much as possible. Others noted that OSCE structures should seek appropriate opportunities to join forces in highlighting common challenges in the protection of human rights, focusing on result-oriented co-operation. One speaker was of the opinion that increased formal co-operation could in turn foster more opportunities for informal co-operation. Many agreed that co-operation is important, as it shapes the interpretation and consensus of human rights standards.

Specific recommendations included:

*To OSCE participating States:*

- Participating States should support the participation of representatives of partner organizations in OSCE meetings and events, including by giving the Council of Europe a seat at the Permanent Council; and
- Participating States should agree on a standing agenda for Human Dimension events to ensure that discussions focus on the selected topics in the human dimension, and to further co-operation between the OSCE and other regional and international organizations.

*To the OSCE, its institutions and field operations:*

- The OSCE should strengthen and broaden its co-operation with as many regional and international organizations as possible that share the same values and principles, through formal and informal co-operation mechanisms;
- The OSCE should promote the use of new technologies to enhance co-operation across all OSCE institutions and at all levels;

- At an appropriate time in the future, the OSCE should assess the positive and negative experiences in co-operation both within the Organization and with partner organizations, in particular drawing on lessons learned from the crisis in Ukraine, so as to enhance co-operation with its partners;
- The OSCE should continue and strengthen its engagement with civil society in its co-operation efforts, to the benefit of OSCE participating States;
- The OSCE should organize meetings with international and regional organizations to discuss and enhance modalities of co-operation, in particular with the EU and the CoE; and
- The OSCE should seek appropriate opportunities to join forces when identifying common challenges faced in the protection of human rights in OSCE participating States.

## ANNEX I: ANNOTATED AGENDA

### **2014 Human Dimension Seminar**

#### **Improving OSCE effectiveness by enhancing its co-operation with relevant regional and international organizations**

Warsaw, 12-14 May 2014

#### **Annotated Agenda**

##### **I. Introduction**

Human Dimension Seminars are organized by the OSCE/ODIHR in accordance with the decisions of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) Summits in Helsinki (1992) and Budapest (1994). The 2014 Human Dimension Seminar is devoted to *Improving OSCE effectiveness by enhancing its co-operation with relevant regional and international organizations* in accordance with PC Decision No.1116.

As a recognized regional organization under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, the OSCE co-operates with numerous regional and international organizations in accordance with their mandates. Although the OSCE participating States determine how to implement OSCE human dimension commitments, they have established and mandated OSCE executive structures to assist them. These structures include the OSCE Secretariat, the OSCE Field Operations, Special Representatives of the Chairman-in-Office and the Institutions of the OSCE, namely the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), the Representative on the Freedom of the Media (RFoM) and the High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM), as well as the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE.

In numerous CSCE and OSCE documents, the participating States have highlighted the importance of practical co-operation among OSCE participating States in the human dimension. In Helsinki 1992, the participating States reaffirmed their commitments to the Charter of the United Nations and pledged “*to improve contact and practical co-operation with appropriate international organizations*”, and “*to expand its relations with all organizations and institutions that are concerned with the promotion of comprehensive security within the OSCE area*” (Maastricht 2003).

In Istanbul (1999), the OSCE participating States committed themselves to “*joint measures based on co-operation, both in the OSCE and through those organizations of which we are members, in order to offer assistance to participating States to enhance their compliance with OSCE principles and commitments. We will strengthen existing co-operative instruments and develop new ones in order to respond efficiently to requests for assistance from participating States [...]*”.

The OSCE structures co-operate in the human dimension based on formally established and informal co-operation arrangements with a wide range of regional and international organizations which include the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR), UN Women, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) as well as the Council of Europe (CoE), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and the agencies and other structures of the European Union (EU).

In keeping with the 2010 Astana Commemorative Declaration, the OSCE participating States reiterated the common vision that comprehensive and lasting security is not possible without respect for human rights and democratic standards. The OSCE participating States thus initiated the Helsinki +40 process, to reflect on progress achieved in the implementation of the OSCE commitments, and to consider means to strengthen their implementation by all participating States and to ensure effective follow-up to recommendations made by the OSCE institutions. To effectively tackle these challenges, the OSCE's co-operation with relevant regional and international organizations is an important component to ensure synergies in programming and complementarity in potentially overlapping areas, to avoid duplication of efforts. Strengthened co-operation could also increase political "buy-in" by participating States on policies aimed at implementing OSCE commitments.

## **II. Aims**

States are primarily responsible for implementing the OSCE human dimension commitments. The OSCE has created different structures (Institutions, Field Operations, CiO Representatives) in order to assist the participating States in implementing their OSCE human dimension commitments. OSCE structures work together with similar entities of other relevant regional and international organizations in order to improve their effectiveness when fulfilling their mandates.

The 2014 Human Dimension Seminar will review the current state of co-operation between the different OSCE structures and their respective counterparts in other relevant regional and international organizations. OSCE delegations, representatives of the civil society and the concerned entities of the OSCE and other relevant regional and international organizations will identify specific challenges, possible opportunities and best practices to improve their co-operation, and as a consequence improve implementation of OSCE commitments at the national level.

The discussion should be guided by the mandates of the OSCE structures and embrace all segments of the implementation cycle of OSCE commitments. The discussion should be specific and outcome oriented. It should allow the identification of immediate improvements of co-operation between OSCE structures and their counterparts that will contribute to enhancing implementation of OSCE commitments at the national level.

### **III. Participation**

Representatives of OSCE participating States and structures and relevant regional and international organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations and development agencies will participate in the Seminar.

The OSCE's Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation as well as other Partners for Co-operation are invited to attend and share their views and ideas on the effectiveness of co-operation between the OSCE and other regional and international organizations.

OSCE participating States are requested to publicize the Seminar widely within their networks of co-operation, with a particular focus on including experts and delegation representatives working with regional and international counterparts in the human dimension.

All participants are encouraged to submit in advance written interventions outlining proposals regarding the topic of the Seminar, which will be distributed to the delegates. Participants are also encouraged to make brief oral interventions during the Seminar. While prepared interventions are welcomed during the plenary sessions, free-flowing discussion and exchanges are encouraged during the Working Group Sessions.

### **IV. Organization**

The Seminar venue is the Novotel Hotel (Ul. Marszalkowska 94/98, Warsaw).

The Seminar will open on Monday, 12 May, 2014, at 10:00. It will close on Wednesday 14 May, 2014 at 18:00.

All plenary sessions and working group sessions will be open to all participants. The plenary and working group sessions will take place according to the Work Programme below.

Four Working Group Sessions will be held consecutively. They will focus on the following topics:

Working Group I: OSCE Human Dimension Commitments in the Context of OSCE Co-operation with Relevant Regional and International Organizations

Working Group II: Providing Assistance and Expertise

Working Group III: Collecting, Processing, Exchanging and Disseminating Data, Statistics and Other Information

Working Group IV: Best Practices for Co-operation between the OSCE and Other Relevant Regional and International Organizations

The closing plenary session, scheduled for the afternoon of 14 May 2014, will focus on practical suggestions and recommendations for addressing the issues discussed during the working group sessions.



A representative of ODIHR will chair the plenary sessions.

The Rules of Procedure of the OSCE and the modalities for OSCE meetings on human dimension issues (Permanent Council Decision No. 476) will be followed, *mutatis mutandis*, at the Seminar. Also, the guidelines for organizing OSCE meetings (Permanent Council Decision No. 762) will be taken into account.

Discussions during the Plenary and Working Group sessions will be interpreted from and into the six working languages of the OSCE.

Registration will be possible during the Seminar days from 8:00 until 18:00.

By prior arrangement with the OSCE/ODIHR, facilities may be made available for participants to hold side events at the Seminar venue. A table for display/distribution of publications by participating organizations and institutions will also be available.

### **Work Programme**

	<b>Monday 12 May 2014</b>	<b>Tuesday 13 May 2014</b>	<b>Wednesday 14 May 2014</b>
<b>Morning 10:00-13:00</b>	<b>Opening Plenary</b>	<b>Working Group II</b>	<b>Working Group IV</b>
<b>Afternoon 15:00-18:00</b>	<b>Working Group I</b>	<b>Working Group III</b>	<b>Closing Plenary</b>

### **Work Plan**

*Monday 12 May 2014*

#### **10:00-13:00 Opening Plenary Session**

##### ***Opening remarks:***

**Ambassador Janez Lenarčič,**  
Director of the OSCE/ODIHR

**Ambassador Thomas Greminger,**  
Chairperson of the OSCE Permanent Council  
Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the OSCE

**Ms. Krystyna Żurek,**  
Director of the United Nations and Human Rights Department, Ministry of  
Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland

**Keynote addresses:**

**Ambassador Ivan Šimonović,**  
Assistant Secretary General for Human Rights, OHCHR

**Ambassador Zoltán Taubner**  
Director of External Relations, Council of Europe

**Ambassador Adam Kobieracki,**  
Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre, OSCE

**Technical Information:**

**Ms. Beatriz Balbin,** First Deputy Director of the OSCE/ODIHR

**15:00-18:00 Working Group Session I: OSCE Human Dimension Commitments in the Context of OSCE Co-operation with Relevant Regional and International Organizations**

*Panelists:* **Ms. Ruth Pojman,** Acting Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, OSCE

**Mr. Gianni Magazzeni,** Chief of the Americas, Europe and Central Asia Branch, OHCHR

**Mr. Walter Kälin,** Director of the Swiss Center of Expertise in Human Rights

*Moderator:* **Mr. Thomas Vennen,** Head of Democratization Department, OSCE/ODIHR

*Rapporteur:* **Ms. Anne Helene Marsøe,** Permanent Delegation of Norway to the OSCE

The OSCE participating States have affirmed their “*full and active support for the United Nations and for the enhancement of its role and effectiveness in strengthening international peace, security and justice.*” They have also pledged to “*act in conformity with the UN Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and to fulfil their obligations as set forth in international declarations and agreements, including inter alia the International Covenants of Human Rights*” (Helsinki 1975).

While OSCE participating States are primarily responsible for implementing human rights and democratic principles at national level, relevant regional and international organizations play complementary roles in promoting, protecting and enhancing the universality of human rights and democratic governance principles, together with civil society organizations.

Specifically, the OSCE participating States have recognized the *“important expertise of the Council of Europe in the field of human rights and fundamental freedoms”* (Copenhagen 1990) and have agreed to consider ways to further enable the Council of Europe to contribute to the human dimension of the OSCE. The OSCE has sought to strengthen and formalise co-operation with the Council of Europe through the establishment of the OSCE-CoE Co-ordination Group which prioritises areas of co-operation in the human dimension such as combating terrorism, trafficking in human beings, the promotion of tolerance & non-discrimination, Roma and Sinti and the protection of national minorities. Co-operation between the EU and the OSCE is based on inter-institutional arrangements such as political dialogue and staff talks.

The mandates of OSCE structures often specifically include tasks to establish co-operation with regional and international organizations to avoid overlap and duplication. For example, OSCE participating States have directed ODIHR *“to work closely with other institutions active in the field of democratic institution building and human rights, particularly the Council of Europe and the European Commission for Democracy Through Law (Venice Commission)”* (Prague 1992) and to *“consult and co-operate with relevant bodies of the Council of Europe and examine ways how they can contribute to ODIHR’s activities”* (Helsinki 1992).

Similarly, OSCE participating States have directed the OSCE RFoM *“to co-operate, on the basis of regular contacts, with relevant international organizations, including the United Nations and its specialized agencies and the Council of Europe, with a view to enhancing co-ordination and avoiding duplication”*. (Copenhagen 1997). The RFoM attends for example meetings of the CoE Committee of Experts on Protection of Journalism and Safety of Journalists as an observer.

On the basis of OSCE Action Plans, the OSCE has also created specific formal co-operation arrangements to assist OSCE participating States in implementing commitments, in areas such as anti-trafficking or improving the situation of Roma and Sinti. Participating States have explicitly set up such arrangements to co-operate and co-ordinate with the United Nations and its specialized agencies the UNODC, the UNHCR, UNICEF, ILO, ICMPD, the EU, Interpol and Europol to name a few (Maastricht 2003).

OSCE structures have entered into numerous formal co-operation arrangement on the basis of Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) and Co-operation Agreements with relevant regional and international organizations such as OHCHR, UNHCR, or the Council of Europe and the EU, and in the case of Field Operations with their host countries, which also regulate co-operation with international organizations and development agencies.

Other co-operation arrangements also exist, such as regular consultations and staff meetings between OSCE structures and the United Nations, the Council of Europe and the EU. In addition, the OSCE and relevant regional and international organizations co-operate in the form of information exchange with regard to UN treaty body reporting, judicial mechanisms and other human rights related instruments.

OSCE Field Operations also play an important role in particular in relation to early warning and conflict prevention. In their commitments the participating States have emphasized *“the need for enhanced co-operation and co-ordination with relevant international organizations such as the Council of Europe, as well as with non-governmental organizations”* (Rome 1993).

Civil society representatives can contribute their expertise and experience to discussing how the OSCE and relevant regional and international organizations can better promote OSCE commitments, by making recommendations on how existing co-operation can profit from and better integrate information provided by civil society networks and build on their advocacy efforts with OSCE participating States. This contribution in return will *“enhance the ability of NGOs to make their full contribution to the further development of civil society and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms”* (Istanbul 1999).

This Working Group Session will focus on how the OSCE can better promote commitments, by learning from and increasing their co-operation with regional and international organizations to better assist OSCE participating States in developing new and implementing existing human dimension commitments.

Thus participants could consider:

- What are the most effective instruments of co-operation and co-ordination and lessons learned in promoting OSCE commitments? What are the strengths and weaknesses?
- What role can regional and international organizations and mechanisms play in relation to the role of the OSCE? How could the respective roles be strengthened?
- How does co-operation and co-ordination work between the OSCE and relevant regional and international organizations?
- Are existing MoUs and co-operation agreements appropriately implemented? How can they be monitored? Should the existing ones be extended, amended or new ones drafted?
- Are there gaps in co-operation arrangements between the OSCE and key regional and international organizations? If so, how can they be filled?
- How can the OSCE and relevant regional and international organizations better contribute to the development of OSCE commitments?
- How can regional and international organizations harmonize their approaches to co-operation in the human dimension?
- How does the OSCE use the resources and networks of its relevant regional and international counterparts and vice-versa for the promotion of OSCE commitments? How can their use be strengthened?
- How can participating States and civil society support increased co-operation between the OSCE and other regional and international organizations?

*Tuesday 13 May 2014*

**10:00-13:00 Working Group Session II: Providing Assistance and Expertise**

*Panelists:* **Ambassador György Szabó**, Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan, OSCE

**Ms. Simona Granata-Menghini**, Deputy Secretary of the Venice Commission, Council of Europe

**Mr. Yuri Dzhibladze**, Center for the Development of Democracy and Human Rights

*Moderator:* **Ms. Beata Martin-Rozumilowicz**, Head of Election Department, OSCE/ODIHR

*Rapporteur:* **Ms. Natalia Kravtsova**, Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the OSCE

OSCE structures provide assistance and expertise to OSCE participating States in the human dimension through a variety of means, including programme and project implementation, capacity building in the form of roundtables, workshops and training, facilitating good practice exchange, and the development of practical tools and publications. They provide expertise in areas such as human rights and fundamental freedoms, legislative assistance and the rule of law, democratic governance, women's political participation and gender equality, tolerance & non-discrimination, election observation and follow up to election-related recommendations, media freedom and the protection and promotion of rights of persons belonging to national minorities, including Roma and Sinti. OSCE assistance ensures follow-up to recommendations made in OSCE assessments and reports, such as OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission Reports, Human Rights Assessment and Mission Reports, OSCE/ODIHR legal opinions, trial monitoring reports and HCNM recommendations.

In providing assistance, OSCE structures co-operate with a number of relevant regional and international organizations in the implementation of joint activities and projects, for example in the framework of the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation which gathers key counterparts such as the United Nations Electoral Assistance Division (UNEAD), the European Union and Parliament, the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), the National Democratic Institute (NDI), International IDEA, and the Carter Center.

The OSCE/ODIHR also acts as the OSCE liaison to the Council of Europe on local governance issues, bringing together OSCE Field Operations and Council of Europe field offices and regularly facilitates a criminal justice forum in Central Asia, bringing together OSCE Field Operations and UN entities such as UNODC, UNDP, the Council of Europe and the EU. The OSCE and the Council of Europe have set up a co-ordination group to co-ordinate assistance in the field of anti-terrorism, and the OSCE, CODEXTER and

UNCTED regularly meet to exchange information and expertise in the field of anti-terrorism.

The HCNM regularly co-operates with the relevant structures of the Council of Europe, including the Advisory Committee of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, the Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, the Venice Commission and the Commissioner for Human Rights. Such co-operation is particularly important in the provision of advice to participating States, as it ensures coherence of the system of rights protection as well as an opportunity to compare priorities of the institutions whose goals coincide while mandates and competences differ. The HCNM also co-operates with the UN, in particular with the OHCHR on minority rights and the UNHCR in specific and regional cases of mutual concern.

The RFoM co-operates closely with the United Nations, including with the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Opinion and Expression. On the initiative of the RFoM, the special rapporteurs on freedom of opinion and expression of the United Nations, the Organization of American States, the African Union and the OSCE RFoM issue joint statements on media issues that require global and urgent attention. The Office also co-operates with the European Platform of Regulatory Authorities (EPRA) and the European Audiovisual Observatory, where it has observer status and is an Advisory Board member.

The OSCE Field Operations provide input to National Action Plans and Reform Strategies and chair international sector working groups in their host countries in close co-operation with their relevant regional and international counterparts. They also co-operate on joint projects and capacity building activities.

Civil society representatives make key contributions to OSCE assistance programmes and projects often in co-operation with relevant regional and international organizations. They can thus provide recommendations and their insights into how the OSCE can strengthen co-operation by integrating civil society expertise into their programmatic work.

This Working Group Session will focus on identifying existing areas of co-operation between the OSCE and regional and international organizations and how the OSCE can strengthen them to provide assistance to participating States in meeting their human dimension commitments.

Thus participants could consider:

- What are the existing areas of co-operation in the human dimension between the OSCE and regional and international organizations? How can they be strengthened? Which gaps exist?
- Is there sufficient awareness within the OSCE and regional and international organizations of existing co-operation arrangements? How can such awareness be increased to activate co-operation enshrined in these agreements?

- What are the strengths and weaknesses of co-operation between the OSCE and regional and international organizations in providing assistance to OSCE participating States?
- How can coherence of co-operation in the provision of assistance be ensured?
- How can requests made by OSCE participating States to OSCE structures be better addressed through improved co-operation?
- What impact does the competition for resources have on co-operation between the OSCE and regional and international organizations?
- How can assistance provided by the OSCE and regional and international organizations to OSCE participating States be made more effective to avoid duplication?
- Should the OSCE focus more on regional approaches to assistance in co-operation with regional and international organizations and do they have a greater impact than tailor-made national projects/activities? Who drives the demand for regional approaches?
- What types of co-operation arrangements should the OSCE focus on in terms of providing assistance to bring the greatest added value to beneficiaries?
- How can “beneficiary fatigue” resulting from multiple programmes and projects implemented by the OSCE and regional and international organizations be tackled to generate more ownership and thus better ensure sustainability and impact of assistance to OSCE participating States?
- What can participating States and civil society contribute to enhancing co-operation between the OSCE and regional and international organizations?

### **15:00-18:00 Working Group Session III: Collecting, Processing, Exchanging and Disseminating Data, Statistics and Other Information**

*Panelists:*     **Ambassador Miroslava Beham**, Senior Adviser on Gender Issues, OSCE

**Ms. Joanna Goodey**, Head of Freedoms and Justice Department, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights

**Ms. Virginie Coulloudon**, Group Director External Relations, Transparency International

*Moderator:*   **Ms. Floriane Hohenberg**, Head of Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Department, OSCE/ODIHR

*Rapporteur:*   **Mr. Chad Wilton**, United States Mission to the OSCE

In fulfilling their human dimension mandates, the OSCE structures collect, process, exchange and disseminate data, statistics and other information for the purposes of data collection. They also maintain expert networks and conduct research and assess and write analytical reports focused on the human dimension situation in the OSCE region. Such information forms the basis for the setting and interpretation of OSCE commitments and

international standards, and for specific and tailor-made recommendations provided by OSCE structures to OSCE participating States with a view to enhancing the implementation of OSCE commitments.

The OSCE co-operates with relevant regional and international organizations as well as civil society networks to collect and ensure accuracy, comprehensiveness and objectivity of collected information. This is done through a variety of ways including the organization of regular staff talks, the conduct of joint missions, and contributions to mutually established reporting tools, research and publications.

Examples of research and publication of tools designed to assist OSCE participating States include the *OSCE/ODIHR-CoE Venice Commission Guidelines on Freedom of Assembly, on Political Party Regulation, and on Freedom of Religion and Belief*, the *OSCE/ODIHR-CoE-UNESCO Guidelines for educators on countering intolerance and discrimination against Muslims*, and OSCE-HCNM recommendations, including the *Bolzano/Bozen Recommendations on National Minorities in Inter-State Relations*, and the *Ljubljana Guidelines on Integration of Diverse Societies*.

OSCE structures also collect and exchange information and data during fact-finding missions, which result in specific recommendations for OSCE participating States. They benefit from regular and co-ordinated information exchange with regional and international organizations such as the Venice Commission and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), ECRI, the EU, UN agencies and specialized committees, the NATO Parliamentary Assembly and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), as well as from exchanges with the Community of Democracy and civil society actors and networks such as the ICRC, ICNL, ECNL.

OSCE structures also contribute information and expertise to established annual reporting tools and procedures of their regional and international counterparts, particularly in the fields of human rights and rule of law. Examples are the OSCE contributions to the annual co-operative Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process to assess the human rights situation of UN member States by the Human Rights Council, or the support provided to OSCE participating States in relation to UN treaty body reporting (CEDAW). OSCE structures also provide expertise and input to UN studies, EC Instruments for Pre-Accession (IPA) Progress Reports and the GRECO Reports of the Council of Europe.

Data collection, the creation of and provision of access to databases on specific human dimension themes is a further area of co-operation between the OSCE and regional and international organizations. For example, OSCE/ODIHR has contributed to the development of International IDEA's political financing database and maintains databases as resources for governments, civil society and Field Operations such as *Legislationline* which collects information on human dimension legislation in the OSCE region, *Associationline* which collects information on freedom of association, and the Tolerance and Non-discrimination Information System (TANDIS). Furthermore, OSCE/ODIHR produces an annual report on hate crime – Incidents and Responses – which is based on data received from participating States, as well as reports of hate crime incidents from more than hundred non-governmental organizations from the entire OSCE region.



The OSCE Secretariat Gender Section has also established successful partnerships with regional and international organizations to collect and share data on gender-related issues. For example, the Gender Section intends to apply the EU Fundamental Rights Agency's (FRA) violence against women survey methodology, designed to collect data from the 28 EU member states on incidences of violence against women, to the broader OSCE region.

Civil society representatives and their networks are a key resource for information collection and research for the OSCE structures, including in their co-operation with relevant regional and international organizations. Civil society often are a key link between the OSCE and regional and international organization to exchange information, contribute to reports and assessments and provide support in relation to data collection and dissemination. Their expertise and recommendations on how to improve data collection, exchange and dissemination will add value to the discussions.

This Working Group Session will focus on how the OSCE structures can increase collaboration with their respective counterparts in other regional and international organizations to more effectively collect, exchange and disseminate data, statistics and other information concerning the human dimension.

Thus participants could consider:

- Are existing co-operation arrangements effective for the purposes of collecting, exchanging and disseminating information? How can they be strengthened?
- What challenges do OSCE structures and their regional and international counterparts face in the collection, exchange and dissemination of data and information?
- How can new technologies contribute to improved information exchange, dissemination and data collection within the OSCE and between the OSCE and regional and international organizations?
- How can information exchange, data collection and dissemination between the OSCE and regional and international counterparts help to address implementation gaps in human dimension commitments?
- How can complementarity in the collection, processing, exchange and dissemination of data as result of co-operation be ensured?
- How can proper follow-up to data collection, information exchange and dissemination by OSCE structures in co-operation with relevant regional and international organizations be ensured?
- How do relevant regional and international organizations maintain mutual databases and use the information and expertise provided by the OSCE and vice-versa?
- What can civil society contribute to and benefit from co-operation between the OSCE and regional and international organizations?

*Wednesday 14 May 2014*

**10:00-13:00 Working Group Session IV: Best Practices for Co-operation between the OSCE and Other Relevant Regional and International Organizations**

*Panelists:* **Ms. Ilze Brands Kehris**, Director of the Office of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, OSCE

**Mr. Juan Barata Mir**, Principal Adviser to the Representative on Freedom of the Media, OSCE

**Ms. Beatriz Balbin**, First Deputy Director, OSCE/ODIHR

*Moderator:* **Mr. Omer Fisher**, Deputy Head of Human Rights Department, OSCE/ODIHR

*Rapporteur:* **Ambassador Sanja Milinković**, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Serbia to the OSCE

Co-operation between OSCE structures and relevant regional and international organizations takes many forms, and as such best practices exist where co-ordination and co-operation is effective, leading to the identification of human dimension implementation gaps and the setting of international standards for the benefit of OSCE participating States and civil society in the OSCE region.

Practices include the setting up of institutional co-operation arrangements which foresee the holding of regular meetings and the addressing of decision-making bodies by the respective Chairmanships, Secretaries General and Heads of Institutions between the OSCE and regional and international organizations, such as the United Nations, the EU and the Council of Europe. Interaction includes political dialogue and cross-participation in Ministerial meetings and 2+2 High Level meetings, as well as regular senior officials' meetings and working level staff talks.

Examples of good co-operation practices include the regular co-operation between OSCE/ODIHR and the CoE Venice Commission on the issuance of joint legislative opinions in the human dimension and of Guidelines which include good practices and international standards to support participating States and civil society in implementing commitments. OSCE/ODIHR also initiated the 2009 compilation of a compendium of good practice in the field of human rights education in co-operation with the Council of Europe, the OHCHR and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). ODIHR co-operates with the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) to promote remembrance of and teaching about the Holocaust, with UNESCO in the International Task Force on Education for Roma and with the Council of Europe on promoting Roma women and youth empowerment.

The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media co-operates regularly with the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Opinion and Expression and the Council of Europe

(CoE) Commissioner for Human Rights to promote free expression and media freedom in OSCE participating States. Joint statements on topics of mutual concern are issued and contributions made to publications; the two offices also share information and legal assessments on issues concerning both organizations.

The OSCE HCNM engages in regular informal co-operation at the expert level with counterparts in the Council of Europe and the UN, while also systematically engaging in structured dialogue on thematic issues, including the development of thematic commentaries and recommendations issued by the organizations on issues concerning national minorities, which contributes to a consistent interpretation of existing standards even as these evolve over time. The HCNM has been co-operating with the UNHCR and the EU in addressing through a regional approach the lack of access to civil registration of the Roma population in South Eastern Europe, resulting in the adoption of the 2011 Zagreb Declaration.

The OSCE Field Operations often act as focal points of donor co-ordination in their host countries or host regular co-ordination meetings among international organizations with the aim of exchanging information. Examples of such co-operation exist in the conduct of co-ordination meetings between IOM, UNHCR, ICMPD and ILO in the field of anti-trafficking, election co-ordination meetings, donor co-ordination with the EU, UNDP, GIZ, USAID and the Council of Europe in the fields of rule of law and human rights. OSCE Field Operations with the respective mandate also co-operate with and follow-up on UN Special Rapporteur visits, and contribute to the Universal Periodic Review process.

Civil society actors in the OSCE region have also established good practices in co-operation with OSCE structures, and relevant regional and international organizations. Examples include the participation of civil society in OSCE Civil Society Fora and OSCE Human Dimension Meetings, their regular inclusion in programmatic activities of OSCE structures, as well as their consultation through OSCE Chairman-in-Office Representatives and fora. Civil society can thus contribute recommendations to the OSCE on how to strengthen and replicate good practices in co-operating with other regional and international organizations.

This Working Group Session will focus on the identification and discussion of good practices of co-operation between OSCE structures, institutions and field missions and regional and international organizations, and how they can benefit from best practices of their respective counterparts in other regional and international organizations.

Thus participants could consider:

- Which best practices exist in relation to the OSCE's co-operation with relevant regional and international organizations? Why are they effective?
- Which types of co-operation arrangements are the most effective for the purposes of data collection, information exchange and dissemination? Which actors should be involved?

- How can best practices be replicated and extended so as to increase co-operation between the OSCE and relevant regional and international organizations and to enhance efficient use of resources?
- Do donor co-ordination and other co-ordination arrangements function effectively? What can be done to strengthen them?
- How can best practices in co-operation increase the impact and accountability of the OSCE?
- What specificities of the OSCE can be strengthened to establish best practices in co-operation with relevant regional and international organizations?
- How can co-operation between the OSCE and relevant regional and international organizations enhance the effective use of resources?

### **15:00-18:00 Closing Plenary Session**

Rapporteurs Summaries from the Working Group Sessions

Statements by Delegations

*Closing Remarks:*

**Ms. Beatriz Balbin**, First Deputy Director of the OSCE/ODIHR

**Closing of the Seminar**

## **ANNEX II: OPENING AND CLOSING REMARKS**

### **OPENING REMARKS**

**Ambassador Janez Lenarčič, Director, OSCE/ODIHR**

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to welcome all participants to this 2014 Human Dimension Seminar on “Improving OSCE effectiveness by enhancing its co-operation with relevant regional and international organizations”. Together with the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting and three Supplementary Human Dimension Meetings (SHDMs), the annual Human Dimension Seminar is one of five mandated events within the OSCE held in the year. I mention these mechanisms, because they form some of the OSCE’s core instruments aimed at strengthening the implementation of OSCE commitments in the human dimension. Cooperation with other international organizations is one of them. This Seminar is thus a good platform to assess where we stand in relation to our co-operation and how it can be enhanced.

We are delighted to have a distinguished group of speakers for each session, including State officials, representatives of partner organizations and civil society actors from across the OSCE region. I am confident that their contributions will spark a fruitful discussion. I am also glad to be joined at this table by the Chairperson of the Permanent Council Ambassador Thomas Greminger and Krystyna Żurek, Director of the United Nations and Human Rights Department in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland. I would also like to warmly welcome our key note speakers Ambassador Ivan Šimonović, Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Ambassador Zoltán Taubner, Director of External Relations of the Council of Europe and Ambassador Adam Kobieracki, Director of the OSCE Conflict Prevention Center.

Multilateral co-operation is subject to supply and demand of its beneficiaries and those that provide assistance. As such, it develops and evolves constantly, provided that its stakeholders interact with each other in a constructive and complementary manner. We should take into account that the ultimate beneficiaries of our assistance are the people who are endowed with rights and freedoms, as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and who increasingly demand that these rights be respected. The OSCE participating states thus have the obligation to work in their best interest and to ensure the effective functioning of state institutions in the implementation of policies in line with OSCE commitments.

Our role as regional and international organizations, as well as that of civil society, is to support the OSCE participating States in their efforts to provide the best possible services to their citizens. The international community and civil society act as an intermediary

between public and governments' concerns, providing a regulatory and operational framework against which states' performance can be assessed, and helping to solve mutual problems or ease tension in times of crisis, like the one happening right now in Ukraine. As such, the goals, mandates, membership and activities of regional and international organizations may seem to overlap to a certain extent. However, this need not be a bad thing per se, should this help them to mutually reinforce their actions and their impact. Our goal in the following days is to ensure that the OSCE, as a regional organization based on a comprehensive approach to security, makes the best use of its instruments and tools to strengthen its impact and the efforts of partner organizations in the human dimension.

The Working Sessions of this Seminar will discuss ways the OSCE can better promote commitments adopted by participating States in the human dimension, by learning from, and increasing its co-operation with, other regional and international organizations. As stated in Helsinki 1992, the participating States pledged "to improve contact and practical co-operation with appropriate international organizations". In many subsequent documents, they also reaffirmed their willingness to expand their relations with all relevant organizations and institutions, including the United Nations and its specialized agencies, the Council of Europe, other governmental as well as non-governmental organizations.

The OSCE and relevant regional and international organizations have developed a number of informal and formal tools and instruments for co-operation. These include - for instance - joint actions, strategic planning, resource mobilization and/or institutional links in areas such as freedom of the media, national minorities, elections, democratization, human rights, tolerance and non-discrimination and Roma and Sinti issues. While some of these mechanisms have been formalised in various memoranda of understanding, the most important thing is effective practical co-operation.

The OSCE and its international partners have access to and collect a wealth of information through their Institutions and Field Operations on the ground, expert networks and co-operation with civil society. The question is how to more effectively collect, exchange and disseminate such data and how to enhance the usefulness of recommendations. The mechanism of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the United Nations and its recommendations is an example of a resource that we as the OSCE utilize and can build on.

There are also a number of good practices for co-operation with other relevant regional and international organizations. For instance, ODIHR regularly co-operates with the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe in preparing reviews of draft legislation in the human dimension. Since 2011, more than 30 joint legal reviews<sup>6</sup> have been prepared helping a number of participating States successfully reform their legal framework. In the context of election observation our Office established effective co-operation with parliamentary delegations, including the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and its Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, the European Parliament, and the NATO Parliamentary Assembly. Through such interactions, we create synergies and ensure complementarity, by systematically cross-referencing each other's standards and building on each other's work. We must strive to find ways to

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<sup>6</sup> This figure includes legal reviews done for the entire human dimension, including election reviews.

replicate such good practices in a more systematic manner to the benefit of OSCE participating States and their citizens.

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

In times of economic austerity, and in light of the many regional and international mechanisms for the protection of human rights, it is our duty to carefully analyze and reinforce the areas and tools of cooperation. With this we provide added value and avoid the wasteful use of resources. Drawing on the examples mentioned above, we should ensure that our co-operation is activity-driven, and successfully draws upon the comparative strengths of partners involved. To make a musical analogy, we are more effective if as during a concert, our multiple voices sing in harmony when we co-operate, even if solos are important as well. Therefore, I hope our discussions will result in practical recommendations for short- and mid-term improvements in cooperation so that we can all better assist OSCE participating States in implementing existing human dimension commitments.

In closing, let me thank once again the introducers and moderators who have accepted to share with us their ideas, good practices, and critical reflections in what I hope will be an engaging three-day event.

## **OPENING REMARKS**

**Ambassador Thomas Greminger, Chairperson of the OSCE Permanent Council,  
Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the OSCE**

Ambassador Lenarčič,

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

At the occasion of his speech at the UNSC in February, the Chairperson-in-office, President of the Swiss Confederation, Didier Burkhalter, stated that “A spirit of cooperation lies at the very heart of all the OSCE's activities. As a regional organization under Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter, the OSCE contributes to the efforts of the UN to maintain or re-establish peace, security and stability at the international level”. The Helsinki Final Act recognised for the first time that violations of human rights constitute as much of a threat to stability and security as do arms and economic crisis. Today, this multi-dimensional concept of security is more relevant than ever. This is why a primary focus of the Swiss OSCE Chairmanship is to strengthen cooperation between regional organisations and the

UN in order to improve implementation of international norms relating to human rights, democracy, and the rule of law.

In numerous CSCE and OSCE documents, the participating States have highlighted the importance of practical co-operation among OSCE participating States in the human dimension. The OSCE structures co-operate on formal and informal co-operation arrangements with different regional and international organizations. The cooperation can be specific or broad, horizontal or vertical and takes place at the expert as well as at the highest political level.

In the past four years, I have witnessed many forms of interesting cooperation between the OSCE structures and other organizations:

The cooperation between the OSCE and the Council of Europe is one example at the regional level. This cooperation is regular and formalized. No later than a month ago I attended the OSCE-CoE Coordination Group in Strasbourg chaired by my Austrian colleague. My perception is that there is a well-established and effective cooperation between secretariats. These are also good practices of creative and result-oriented cooperation between the chairmanships of the organisations. In February, the Swiss OSCE Chairmanship together with the Austrian Chairmanship of the Council of Europe organized a joint conference on combating trafficking in human beings. The goal of the conference was precisely to strengthen institutional cooperation between the two organizations in the fight against trafficking. The conference was a success, and a joint action plan that identifies concrete measures was elaborated. However, I don't want to paint an exclusively rosy picture and be also self-critical. When I look at our response to the Ukrainian crisis, I believe, OSCE and CoE tried, at best, to avoid stepping on each other toes. A clear division of labor is the diplomatic terminology for this. There was unfortunately no determined attempt to cooperate, to join forces, to mobilize synergies between our two organisations. So I would encourage all future Chairmanships of the OSCE and the Council of Europe to systematically seek synergies between both organisations.

There are other types of cooperation that are less formalized. I remember speaking with the UNSR Juan Mendes or UNSR Chaloka Beyani a few weeks ago and they both explained to me how they engage with the OSCE field missions to prepare their country visits. Moreover, OSCE field missions may play a crucial role in supporting national governments implementing recommendations of UNSR or treaty bodies. And this is yet another example, last Wednesday, Dunja Mijatovic continued a 15 years old tradition and issued the annual joint declaration on universality and the right to freedom of expression together with the Special Rapporteurs on freedom of expression of the United Nations, the Organization of American States, and African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. And I think Prevention of torture is a good example to illustrate this successful vertical cooperation.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The 2014 Human Dimension Seminar aims at reviewing the current state of co-operation between the different OSCE structures and their respective counterparts in other relevant



regional and international organizations. Specific challenges, possible opportunities, best practices and lessons learned from the different settings can be identified and discussed to improve co-operation, and as a consequence improve implementation of OSCE commitments at the national level.

Strengthening implementation of OSCE commitments is at the core of our Chairmanship's priorities. It can be assumed that coordination assists effective implementation, and that certainly lack of coordination runs the risk of less implementation.

While OSCE participating States are primarily responsible for implementing human rights and democratic principles at national level, relevant regional and international organizations play complementary roles in promoting, protecting and enhancing the universality of human rights and democratic governance principles. Together with civil society organization, global and regional organizations assist States in implementation.

Within the OSCE, the United Nations and the Council of Europe we speak about the same fundamental freedoms, it is the approaches of the organizations that are different according to their respective mandate. Participating States can benefit from the expertise of the different organizations to improve implementation of what they have committed to.

I am particularly glad that we can conduct this reflection about the cooperation potential between regional and global organizations in presence of relevant key actors: Assistant Secretary General Ivan Šimonović of the United Nations, Ambassador Adam Kobieracki, Director of the OSCE's Conflict Prevention Centre, Mr. Zoltán Taubner, Director of the Council of Europe's Directorate for External Relations, and of course, ODIHR Director Ambassador Janez Lenarčič in this Seminar.

Civil society representatives are key in promoting implementation of commitments at the national level. They do the groundwork, they inform regional and global mechanisms on the situation in their national setting, they cooperate with the national human rights institutions to promote implementation on the ground. They will definitely bring a crucial contribution with their expertise, experience and advocacy role to this discussion.

Let me conclude by highlighting that we would like to discuss the issue of cooperation not only in technical terms but more from the political angle. Cooperation among organizations in the field exists but it needs to be backed up at the highest political level in the organizations and by the participating States. Political will is particularly relevant, when we face situation where there is a lot of lime light, where we have a lot of media and political attention. The risk of outright competition instead of smart cooperation is particularly big in these situations. Political will is at the root of implementation of human rights at the national level. Political will should not be taken for granted; renewed efforts are required to reinforce the implementation of international standards. At the end of the day, States will be held accountable for implementation of their human rights commitments.

Finally I would like to thank Ambassador Janez Lenarčič and his team for the excellent preparation and organisation of this event as well as our Polish hosts for welcoming all of us again in the beautiful city of Warsaw. I wish us all fruitful discussion.

## **OPENING REMARKS**

### **Ms. Krystyna Żurek, Director of the Department of the United Nations and Human Rights, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland**

Mr. Chairman,  
Your Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentleman,

I would like to welcome you all to another Human Dimension Seminar in Warsaw. I am in particular happy to welcome distinguished speakers, who will offer key-note addresses this morning. I would also like to welcome ambassador Thomas Greminger, representing the Swiss Chairmanship in the Organisation. Let me thank the Chairmanship for energetic and successful leadership over the Organisation's work at this extremely difficult time.

Facing the current crisis in Ukraine, the OSCE responded very actively and with courage by monitoring the situation on-site, easing tension and seeking ways out of the crisis. The way our Organisation reacts proves the usefulness of the instruments and mechanisms at our disposal, ranging from confidence and security building measures to human dimension tools. I am deeply convinced that we ought to maintain these instruments and continue our engagement in Ukraine.

I would like to thank the Chairmanship for selecting the issue of cooperation between international organisations to promote and strengthen the protection of human rights as the theme of this year's seminar. We appreciate the significance of the theme, as well as its cross-sectional nature. Strengthening cooperation between international actors in the specified areas is crucial. It is necessary for the organisations to exchange experiences, best practices, information on assumed obligations, implemented projects, and to undertake joint initiatives. Effective coordination requires time and efforts but at the end of the day it always pays off.

It is common belief that international organisations should avoid duplication of actions and it is hard not to agree with this statement. However, the issue should be approached with some caution, since it is always better if tasks and areas of interest of different organisations overlap, than if the international community shows lack of interest in a given issue. When one organisation is not able to meet the expectations and tasks set for it, another one can take its place and fill the gap. Thus in that sense overlapping of competences of international organisations is, to some extent, justified. First of all however, we should always aim at effective coordination and cohesion.

Appreciating the role and significance of the "classical" international organisations acting in the field of human rights and democratisation, we are deeply convinced that it is also important to launch and develop mechanisms and instruments that are less formalised, but sometimes more operational and effective. Thus Poland continues to promote such instruments as the Community of Democracies or the European Endowment for Democracy

assuming that their flexibility allows them to act as complementary elements to actions of other international organisations.

2014 marks the 25th anniversary of the beginning of democratic transition in Poland and in our region. It will be an excellent opportunity not only to look back at our achievements, but also to express support for those who still struggle to defend democracy and civil freedoms. It is in this purpose that the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Poland established in January 2014 the Solidarity Prize - the first worldwide award dedicated to support democracy and freedom around the world. As you may know, last week Minister Sikorski announced that the award will be given to brave leader of Crimean Tatars, Mustafa Dzhemilev. The award ceremony which will take place on 3 June this year, in the presence of many distinguished guests, will provide another opportunity to remind of the significance of democratic change for socio-economic development and building trust in international relations. Let me also mention another Polish initiative - the Warsaw Dialogue for Democracy. The third edition of Dialog is scheduled for the second half of October this year. It will mainly cover the issues pertaining to civil society and the problem of shrinking room for action of the non-governmental organisations in many countries, including OSCE countries.

In the end, I ought to thank, as usual, ODIHR for its involvement in the preparations to the Seminar, which this year were particularly difficult given the late adoption of the meeting agenda. Let me especially thank Ambassador Lenarčič for whom, as it would appear, this is the last Warsaw Human Dimension Seminar in which he participates as the Director of ODIHR. His devotion, professionalism and impartiality during six years of chairing the works of the Office deserve the highest recognition.

I wish you all fruitful debate.  
Thank you for your attention.

## **KEYNOTE SPEECH**

**Ambassador Ivan Šimonović, Assistant Secretary General for Human Rights, OHCHR**

Thank you for the invitation to address the Human Dimension Seminar. This is a unique opportunity to contribute to the reflection on how our two organizations are cooperating in the human rights area. At the same time, this occasion allows us to identify potential areas where we can do more to strengthen the protection and promotion of human rights in the region.

In my remarks, I would first like to briefly provide some background on our engagement with the OSCE, and ODIHR specifically. However, I would then like to focus my remarks on the practical example of the Ukraine crisis, which provides a very clear case in point when discussing OHCHR and OSCE engagement in Ukraine. In particular, I wish to

highlight the positive collaboration and complementarity of our two organisations and the excellent cooperation OHCHR has with the OSCE on the ground.

OHCHR has long-standing cooperation with OSCE. Since 1993, regular Tripartite Meetings are held between the UN, OSCE and the Council of Europe (CoE) aiming to provide a forum for informal consultations among the three organizations on issues of common concern. Exchanges of information and desk-to-desk working consultations are held regularly on a number of initiatives and activities, including on the Programme on Human Rights Education, monitoring Roma rights in Europe, Universal Periodic Review of OSCE participating States, protracted conflicts, human rights concerns in Belarus etc.

Good cooperation also unfolds between OHCHR and the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR). When the High Commissioner for Human Rights and Ambassador Lenarčič met in June 2011 they committed to continue and deepen cooperation between OHCHR and ODIHR. This was followed-up by a visit of the OHCHR delegation to ODIHR in Warsaw in May 2013, resulting in focused working level meetings on various thematic areas and country situations between ODIHR and OHCHR. This subsequently led to ODIHR providing regular information on the human rights situation in the context of elections, and the OSCE sending inputs for the UPR review of OSCE participating States.

During her mission to Poland in October 2013, the High Commissioner visited ODIHR and met Ambassador Lenarčič and Heads of Departments of the organisation, including Elections, Democratization, Human Rights, Tolerance and Non-discrimination, and the Contact Point on Roma and Sinti Issues, leading to the development of a format for regular working-level meetings in Warsaw or Geneva, in order to exchange information on possible future cooperation.

Ladies and gentlemen,

This cooperation also takes place between OHCHR field presences and OSCE mission and offices in Europe and Central Asia, as illustrated by numerous examples from Kosovo, FYROM, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, South Caucasus and Central Asia, where good practices demonstrate that strengthened and concerted cooperation among international and regional mechanisms increase effectiveness and leverage.

The importance of joint programming and planning among international/regional actors and its benefits in terms of ensuring effective implementation of the human rights mechanisms' recommendations cannot but be reiterated, since the gaps that exist in the implementation of human rights standards are often caused by lack or inadequate consultations between key international and regional players.

Ladies and gentlemen,

While OHCHR has developed excellent cooperation with the Council of Europe and OSCE, both at the HQ level and in the field, there is definitely more room for improvement. Our cooperation at the field level could be strengthened, including our role in

addressing human rights protection gaps. We can also do more to support Governments in the implementation of their legal obligations stemming from their ratification of international human rights treaties, as well as political commitments made in the context of Universal Periodic Review.

This should be done through better coordination and involvement of international and regional actors in order to avoid possible parallel tracks. This approach with the UN and key regional actors jointly pulling in the same direction towards the implementation of all recommendations of the international human rights mechanisms becomes even more important today in the climate of shrinking resources and limited funding available.

Let me now say a few words about the UN Secretary-General's Rights Up Front initiative, which has brought new perspectives on how to address the need for early action to prevent mass atrocities. One central aspect of the Rights up Front Action Plan is to improve information-gathering on human rights violations as well as analysis, in order to prevent human rights violations. It also calls for better organizational preparedness by the UN in order to ensure that the UN System, both on the ground and at Headquarters, is appropriately prepared – early on – to deal with evolving crisis situations. This includes, without a doubt, also a need to work closely with relevant regional actors, not only in the area of information-sharing, but also in the area of joint public messaging. It is when we speak in harmony that we are most effective.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The UN response to the crisis in Ukraine is a timely illustration of action within the Rights Up Front initiative. The UN including OHCHR had been closely following the situation unfolding as of November 2013. UN response stepped up as the situation on the ground deteriorated in February 2014, with the assessment that the UN can contribute towards deescalating tensions, including through human rights monitoring.

I joined the DSG in Kyiv on 6 March, at the urgent request of the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner for Human Rights. My mission to Ukraine had the following overall objectives: to get first-hand exposure to the human rights situation; to raise the issue of accountability and bring visibility to human rights violations and concerns; to make strong calls for the protection of human rights (including those of minorities); and to place human rights promotion and protection as a critical factor in deterring pre-electoral, electoral and post-electoral violence and possible further violations. During my mission, I visited Kyiv, Kharkiv, and Lviv, and I returned to the country on a second mission, on 21-22 March, during which I was able to gain access to Crimea.

As a result of this close engagement, the Government invited OHCHR to deploy the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (HRMMU) as of 14 March, with the objective to monitor the human rights situation in the country and provide regular, accurate and public reports and recommend concrete follow-up actions to relevant authorities, the UN and the international community. The recommendations are aimed at preventing human rights violations and mitigating emerging risks; establishing facts and circumstances and conducting a mapping of alleged human rights violations committed in the course of the

demonstrations and ensuing violence between November 2013 and February 2014. In addition, the HRMMU aims to establish facts and circumstances related to potential violations of human rights committed during the course of the deployment.

The deployment of the UN human rights monitors to Ukraine is very much in line with the spirit of the Secretary-General's Rights Up Front Plan of Action. There are three main features of the UN's Ukraine engagement, which illustrate this:

First, the UN acted well-coordinated, with OHCHR and the Department of Political Affairs as well as the SG's office, deciding and carrying out sequenced visits to the country at the height of the crisis in March 2014.

Second, the HRMMU team, comprising 34 staff was operational within days after the invitation of the Government, with staff deployed to Lviv, Kharkhiv, Odesa and Donetsk, allowing for thorough and sustained monitoring of the situation.

Third, OHCHR diligently brought the evolving human rights situation in the country to the attention of member States, through its public reports. I also had the opportunity to brief the UN Security Council twice, with a view to providing Member States with accurate information about the human rights situation.

As mentioned at the outset of this presentation, I believe that the Ukraine crisis demonstrates clearly the complementarity of our two organisations in the field. Since the beginning of our engagement on Ukraine, we have maintained close contacts with the OSCE. I have had the opportunity to discuss issues of mutual interest with the OSCE Secretary-General, Ambassador Zannier, as well as with Special Envoy, Ambassador Guldemann. I am pleased to note that the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission and the HRMMU cooperate very closely in Ukraine, in accordance with mutually agreed modalities that support the complementarity and effectiveness of the human rights work undertaken by both organisations. Specifically, it is foreseen by the heads of the missions to hold regular meetings between the teams of HRMMU and SMM and ensuring complementarity with respect to their activities in Kyiv, Donetsk, Kharkhiv, Odesa, Lviv and with regard to the situation in Crimea. The cooperation developing on the ground aimed at reinforcing the effectiveness of the human rights work undertaken by regional and international organisations in Ukraine is a unique opportunity for the UN, OSCE, ODIHR and the Council of Europe to take forward regional responsiveness.

For example, while the OSCE monitors through their significantly stronger presence on the ground are in a position to carry out vastly more monitoring activities than OHCHR, the HRMMU is in a position to monitor the situation in Crimea, through its Odesa office, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 68/262 of 27 March 2014 on the Territorial Integrity of Ukraine.

Hopefully, in the long-term, if we manage to avoid the escalation of conflict, independent monitoring and analysis of the human rights situation will be able to outline technical, legal or other assistance needs, in the area of human rights. This will help in the implementing

recommendations received by Ukraine from UN human rights mechanisms, and may contribute to addressing the root causes of the violence.

The first OHCHR public report on Ukraine released on 15 April, based on the findings of my missions and the first weeks of the HRMMU's work, provides a broad set of recommendations aimed at de-escalating tensions and to assisting the Government in initiating an inclusive, sustained and meaningful national dialogue based on the respect of legal obligations of Ukraine under international human rights law. Recommendations range from ensuring accountability for all human rights violations committed during the Maidan events, to ensuring inclusivity and equal participation in public affairs, preventing media manipulation, protecting freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association, as essential conditions for the effective exercise of the right to vote, combating intolerance and extremism and taking measures to effectively eradicate corruption. Our second report, scheduled to be released on 16 May, will look extensively at the implementation of the recommendations from the first report.

However, these endeavours can and should be undertaken in cooperation with regional organizations, including the OSCE and the Council of Europe. The HRMMU maintains close contacts with the Council of Europe and OSCE presence in Ukraine both in Kyiv and in the regions.

Forward-looking, OHCHR and the OSCE could consider the possibility of working more closely in assisting the Government of Ukraine with the implementation and follow-up to recommendation enhancing input and follow-up to recommendations. This would require the support from the whole UN system, under the coordination and leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator, in cooperation with other regional organizations such as the OSCE and the CoE and interested bilateral donors.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I will be travelling back to Ukraine this Wednesday to coincide with the publication of the second public report of the UN HRMMU. On this occasion, I look forward to meeting with the OSCE colleagues and to discussing with them the important ongoing cooperation. On my return, I am also look forward to debriefing the OSCE Ambassadors in Vienna.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to flag the proposal of formalising the good cooperation between the OSCE and OHCHR. Our cooperation could be formalised ahead of the High Commissioners mission to Vienna on 3 July 2014 to attend the OSCE Permanent Council. A similar formalisation was done through the Joint Declaration on reinforcement of cooperation between OHCHR and the CoE Secretariat, signed by the HC and CoE SG Jagland in September 2013. Such formalisations can bring additional clarity on roles and provide a roadmap for cooperation.

I look forward to your fruitful discussions during these two days.

Thank you.

## KEYNOTE SPEECH

### **Ambassador Zoltán Taubner, Director of External Relations, Council of Europe**

I would like to thank the organisers for the prominent place reserved for the Council of Europe (CoE): it is justified by the volume and quality of our co-operation. After all, there are not too many of us who have a letter from the OSCE CiO stating: *“The OSCE discussions on the subject confirmed that the OSCE participating States highly value the established framework for co-operation and the current substantive interaction between our organisations. The framework for both formal and informal co-operation (...) provides a solid basis to generate synergies and complementarities (...) helps to avoid unnecessary duplication, to support goal oriented approaches, and to make best use of the two organisations’ comparative advantages (...).”* Who could wish for more? I could almost conclude my intervention here.

I will come back to our co-operation in a moment, but before that, please permit me a short comment on the title.

Although the title is “Improving OSCE effectiveness ...”, I think we can consider it a general question: How can we improve the effectiveness of our respective organisations? But the first question is rather this: What does effectiveness mean in the special context of international organisations active in the fields of human rights, democracy and rule of law?

I think effectiveness means compliance of our MSs to their commitments as it is also put in the OSCE Istanbul document. Our mission is to promote this compliance. So how do we promote compliance? We are definitely not promoting compliance by acting on our own, without co-ordinating our actions and without co-operating. Since our Member States are mostly the same, only co-ordination and co-operation can bring coherence. Coherence reinforces credibility and, ultimately, compliance. Therefore co-ordination and co-operation are inevitable ingredients in the recipe for effectiveness.

Mr Chairman,

I do not have to introduce the CoE in detail. We are engaged in the fields of human rights, democracy and the rule of law through a full cycle of co-operation: standard-setting, monitoring and assistance. Very importantly, most of these activities are based on legally-binding norms and not on political commitments: conventions and convention monitoring systems; treaty bodies in UN terminology. Our activities have relevance to what you call security and economic dimensions. We contribute to the so-called ‘deep security’.

Now the next logical question is: What do we do, the CoE and OSCE in particular, in order to co-ordinate activities and co-operate? We do a lot. We have a rather sophisticated set of institutionalised mechanisms dating back to the 1990s and updated constantly. They cover political and technical exchanges on all levels between the headquarters and also between field presences. A ‘Co-ordination Group’ follows and, much more importantly, plans our co-operation in advance in specific fields in the human dimension. We established two



offices in Warsaw and Vienna respectively, facilitating the flow of information, the co-ordination and the co-operation with the OSCE in general and the ODIHR in particular. We witness a flexible application of the co-operation/co-ordination tools: these days, for obvious reasons, informal channels prevail over formalised ones. They are simply more flexible, swift and reactive. However, even if it is more fashionable to praise informal co-ordination and co-operation for the above reasons, I think formalised tools remain necessary since they lead to predictability and accountability.

In more practical terms, when, for internal reporting purposes, we drew up an inventory of our co-operation activities with the OSCE in 2013, we ended up with a 20+ page document. Mentioning only one example by each thematic field or by each OSCE institution would go beyond the limits of my presentation. Let me nevertheless refer to the following activities as best practices:

- Co-operation between the Venice Commission and ODIHR in matters relating to electoral legislation and constitutional issues;
- The standing invitation extended to relevant OSCE institutions in some 20 CoE working bodies;
- Co-operation between our Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and the HCNM;
- The frequent interactions with the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media;
- The numerous examples of good practices concerning co-operation between our field presences;
- Ongoing co-operation relating to Roma issues, trafficking, tolerance and non-discrimination, to mention just a few.

My CoE colleagues will address these issues in the WGs.

Mr Chairman,

We have a robust but still sufficiently flexible set of co-ordination tools at our disposal.

Our co-operation is not only flexible but also accountable. We co-operate at HQ level and in the field in a large variety of issues covered by our respective capacities and mandates. We are able to optimise this co-operation; and if there are overlaps, in the overwhelming majority of cases, they do not result in unnecessary duplications but rather in mutually reinforcing actions.

Does all this mean that the title of this Seminar, calling for improvements is not correct?  
Surely not.

We all know that co-operation does not happen on its own. It is either done by us, or it does not exist.

Indeed, what more can we do?

First, we have to look beyond the horizon of our respective organisations. Easy to say, but, believe me, more difficult to do in an environment where international organisations consider one another not only as partners, but also as competitors for resources. Let me refer to a recent good example: the joint OSCE CiO – CoE Presidency (CH – AT) event on trafficking. I hope this example will be followed by forthcoming presidencies.

The co-operation should cover the full cycle of activities and be as forward-looking as possible:

- Standard-setting – we have already started to promote each other's standards, both with the OSCE and the UN. We also rely on each other's standards in our respective procedures.
- Monitoring – no question, there is a certain monitoring fatigue. We could compare calendars, better co-ordinate visits, organise joint visits or at least co-ordinate the preparation of visits in order to alleviate this burden for our MSs/PSs. Even better, we could make use of each other's monitoring data. We have similar practices already in place with EU and UN. In this context I also refer to the recently published report of the CoE SG on the State of Democracy, Human Rights and Rule of Law in Europe, which indicates the future directions of our activities.
- Assistance – more exchange of information in the programming phase. Yes, this is important already in the programming phase (!), despite the sometimes competing interests in access to resources. It happens with EU. More specifically, our Coordination Group could map out common or separate actions in priority fields – where the CoE and OSCE want to be in 2016 concerning the protection of minorities or trafficking? What should we do together and/or separately?

I can give you specific examples of each of these proposals from our everyday practice with our partners, including the OSCE. Where all of them practised in a systematic way is perhaps in the context of our relations with the EU. A colleague of mine will also speak about this later on and will come with specific proposals.

Finally, Mr Chairman, let me mention a crucial point: the role of our MSs/PSs. They are key players in all of the above issues. They are beneficiaries and funders of our activities at the same time. In late 2012, the Chairman of our Committee of Ministers sent a letter to the OSCE CiO outlining a number of proposals, extensively discussed in Strasbourg for months, aiming at improving the co-operation between our two organisations. Let me mention a few ideas contained in the letter:

- enhance political and technical dialogue between our institutions;
- more political co-ordination of activities by MSs/PSs, including a full use of the Co-ordination Group;
- extend co-ordination to the planning process, as early as possible;
- extend co-operation in the field.

While the answer I quoted at the beginning of my intervention is positive in its general tone, a number of proposals were not followed-up. Nothing unusual, we could say.

However, 47 states are senders and addressees of the letter at the same time and they agreed with only half of their own proposals. And with this we are back to the ‘coherence’ issue.

All in all, we still have a lot to do. I understand that the Helsinki +40 process is an opportunity to re-examine the OSCE’s role and position in the European structures and its relations with other international organisations. We are looking forward to be associated to this exercise.

## **KEYNOTE SPEECH**

### **Ambassador Adam Kobieracki, Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre**

Dear Ambassadors,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Dear Janez,

It is a great honour for me to return to Warsaw to address you during the opening of this Human Dimension Seminar. Allow me to thank you again for the invitation to speak today as it demonstrates both the quality of the co-operation between the Secretariat and ODIHR as well as the importance that the CPC attaches to issues in the Human Dimension. Indeed, the topic of ‘improving OSCE effectiveness by enhancing our co-operation with regional and international organizations’ is an important and timely one, both when it comes to implementing human dimension commitments and also in the First Dimension as a part of strengthening OSCE capacities along the conflict cycle.

As you know, the OSCE bases its interaction with other organizations on the Platform for Co-operative Security – the operational document of the Charter for European Security adopted at the Istanbul Summit in 1999. The Platform document sets out the principles and modalities for the OSCE’s collaboration with partner organizations. It also gives the OSCE a role as a “flexible co-ordinating framework to foster co-operation” among international, regional and sub-regional organizations. The underlying principles of the Platform are inclusiveness, equality, transparency, comprehensiveness and complementarity.

Although contacts between the CSCE/OSCE and other organizations had already been established in the early stages of the Helsinki Process, it was only after the adoption of the Platform that the OSCE’s interaction with other organizations was significantly expanded and strengthened. Such co-operation usually occurs at three levels: 1) strategically, 2) among headquarters (including between experts in different issue-areas), and 3) in the field.

At the strategic level, the Chairmanships, the Secretary General, and the OSCE executive structures have implemented the provisions of the Platform for Co-operative Security by convening events and meetings with other international, regional and sub-regional organizations to co-ordinate policies, determine areas of co-operation, and foster information exchange. This has proven successful when driven by demand and prompted by specific situations, for example to advance the international anti-terrorism agenda after 9/11.

In general, however, the Platform remains underutilized. Despite the strong case for increased co-ordination – in particular in times of financial constraints – the interplay between international organizations at the strategic level could be improved. This is particularly true in crisis situations when international organizations need a fast and flexible co-ordination mechanism in order to be able to speed up responses to threats. Without wanting to downplay the complex political dynamics behind multilateral co-operation, and potentially competitive institutional claims, I believe that we need a more pragmatic approach to co-operation. Co-operation cannot be prescribed. It has to emerge from a genuine culture of interaction, which is based on shared values, common interests, and a certain ‘role generosity’.

At the level of headquarters, the OSCE has set up bilateral consultation frameworks with the UN, NATO, the EU, and the Council of Europe. The consultation takes place in the form of Secretariat-to-Secretariat meetings to exchange information and lessons learned, and to co-ordinate on thematic and regional issues of mutual interest.

The interaction with other international, regional and sub-regional organizations and institutions is more ad hoc in nature.

Both types of interaction have their merits: relations between the Council of Europe and the OSCE, for example, are among the most formalized and institutionalized. The co-operation between the two organizations is grounded in their shared values of democracy, human rights and the rule of law. It is also based on formal agreements taken by their respective participating or member States. As a result, the two Organizations have developed very close co-operation, in particular in the fight against terrorism; combating trafficking in human beings; the protection of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities; and the promotion of tolerance and non-discrimination.

At the other end of the spectrum, the OSCE has set up informal working relations with a number of organizations, such as the CIS, the CSTO, GUAM, the RCC, and SEECP, just to name a few. This has allowed the Organization to be flexible, adapt its relations to evolving political situations and seek contact with regional organizations outside the OSCE area to exchange best practices and lessons learned. For example, against the background of the recent developments in the Southern Mediterranean, the OSCE made particular efforts to reach out to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the League of Arab States.

In addition to the institutional-level co-operation, specialized units and departments of the OSCE Secretariat, the Institutions and field operations, have contacts and co-operation with their counterparts in partner organizations to enhance security across the three dimensions.

Let me emphasize that in many cases this form of interaction – expert-to-expert co-operation – is the most fruitful form of exchanging ideas, based on person-to-person contacts, trust and mutual understanding, demonstrated willingness to engage in common efforts, and responsiveness of partners. Such collaboration is also by definition low-profile, low-cost, and flourishes without much senior management engagement. In that sense it should not be over-managed, and be left to work in an informal, pragmatic environment.

This approach has borne fruit within the CPC with regard to strengthening capacities along the conflict cycle, as mandated by Ministerial Council (MC) Decision No. 3/11, which also recognizes the need to implement human dimension commitments as part of a comprehensive approach. In doing so, the CPC has prioritized working level co-operation with our international and regional partners in strengthening our early warning, mediation support, and crisis response capacities.

For example, the CPC continues outreach with the European External Action Service, NATO and the CSTO with regard to early warning – both in the Secretariat and also at the field level through the Network of Early Warning Focal Points. On mediation, we continue collaborating with the UN Mediation Support Unit, the Group of Friends of Mediation and the League of Arab States through staff and information exchanges. On reconciliation, we are developing a joint OSCE-UN reconciliation training with the Folke Bernadotte Academy in Sweden which provides the possibility to enhance synergies through joint capacity building.

In addition, and as part of our efforts to identify good practices regarding international co-operation and co-ordination at the field level, in 2013, the CPC has published a Good Practices Guide on Co-operation and Co-ordination between International Actors in support of the Host Country. This Guide highlights four good practices, which can be applied in a variety of situations:

- 1) Local ownership is a necessary condition of international co-ordination and co-operation;
- 2) An effective division of labour is based on comparative advantages, which in turn requires an honest and comprehensive assessment by all relevant actors present in a given area;
- 3) Investments, both in terms of financial and human resources, are needed to ensure that co-ordination and co-operation structures are sustainable; and
- 4) Efficient and adequate tools are required and thought needs to be given as to the best tools to use. Meetings, for example, are one such tool for fostering the exchange of information.

To draw on a current example of crisis response co-operation in the field – which also highlights the importance of the topic of this Human Dimension Seminar – the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine is tasked both to support the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, and to co-ordinate with and support the work of OSCE institutions and other international actors.

And, as I touched on before, when a crisis situation is unfolding and response is a matter of urgency, it can be difficult to allocate the time and resources required to co-ordinate activities between international actors. However, this is the time when co-ordination and co-operation may be most important as inter-organizational competition or a lack of coherence in international responses may undermine stabilization efforts.

For this reason, regular information exchanges are taking place between the SMM and international partners in Kiev, such as UNDP, UNDPA, the ICRC, the Council of Europe and the EU Delegation. In addition, to enhance complementarity of efforts, the European Commission is in the process of making a grant of five million Euros to the SMM under its Instrument Contributing to Stability and Peace.

The SMM and UNHCR are also in the process of concluding an operational agreement with regard to co-operation, information exchange and joint capacity building related to displacement issues. This builds on the excellent inter-institutional co-operation between the OSCE and UNHCR which resulted this year in the development of the 'Protection Checklist on Addressing Displacement and Protection of Displaced Populations and Affected Communities along the Conflict Cycle'.

In our ongoing work to strengthen capabilities across the conflict cycle, we will continue to strive for fruitful and pragmatic co-operation with our international and regional partners. This includes support for the full implementation of human dimension commitments so as to ensure a comprehensive, cross-dimensional response to address the multi-faceted causes of conflicts.

You have an ambitious task over the next few days to identify ways to improve co-ordination and co-operation between the OSCE and its partners. I look very much forward to the outcome of the coming discussions and hope they will provide much food-for-thought. I do not believe anyone will contradict me when I say that we are all in this together which means that our joint efforts to implement the commitments agreed by our 57 participating States are fundamental to fostering peace and security in the OSCE area.

Thank you for your attention.

## **CLOSING REMARKS**

**Ms. Beatriz Balbin, First Deputy Director, OSCE/ODIHR**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me first thank the rapporteurs for capturing our discussions over the last three days in a very comprehensive and accurate manner. I would also like to thank the Delegations, which shared with us some final remarks, and likewise would like to offer a few closing reflections. Allow me to also express my satisfaction with the quality and intensity of the discussion, as well as the valuable and engaging contributions made by speakers, moderators and participants throughout this Seminar.

Over the last three days, we discussed a number of key issues in a common effort to find synergies and reinforce our actions in the human dimension. These include the way increased co-operation between the OSCE and regional and international organizations can lead to a better implementation of human dimension commitments, existing best practices

in collaboration among partner organizations and means to replicate these, but also the challenges faced so far. Finally, the role played by civil society as well as participating States to obtain the maximum benefit out of good practices related to co-operation was highlighted.

The recommendations made will be compiled and made available in the summary report of this Seminar to guide our efforts towards improved and strengthened co-operation for the benefit of all OSCE participating States and civil society in the OSCE region.

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

As enshrined in our commitments, the OSCE participating States have pledged to enhance co-operation and co-ordination between the OSCE and regional and international organizations. Additionally, the mandates of OSCE executive structures often specifically include tasks to establish co-operation with partner organizations to avoid overlap and duplication. We must capitalize further on this normative framework.

Throughout this Seminar, we have been reminded of the wealth of informal and formal mechanisms established between the OSCE and partner organizations with the goal to complement and support each other in promoting human dimension commitments and protecting human rights and democratic principles.

In line with these efforts, it is crucial to ensure that we do not take existing mechanisms for granted or as set in stone, as this risks excluding key programmatic areas which could serve to close identified gaps in the human dimension. Co-operation should be strengthened further, complementarity ensured, comparative advantages of partner organizations evaluated, information more systematically shared, new co-ordination approaches explored and resources effectively used. This is even more true at a time of economic downturn, where our societies face many structural uncertainties - and with these – new challenges in the human dimension. However, at the same time, effective co-operation doesn't preclude a certain degree of overlap and duplication. Without it, partner organizations would have difficulties to understand each other, not to mention to work together.

In our efforts to contribute to strengthening co-operation with our partners, ODIHR stands ready to co-operate further with regional and international organizations working in the human dimension, and build on the recommendations made during this event. Firstly, we believe that additional steps can be taken to enhance the exchange of information, data and statistics among partner organizations. The OSCE's presence on the ground – 2000 out of 2800 staff work in Field Operations – and its access to first-hand information and networks of local partners in the human dimension can provide added value to partner organizations in specific areas of co-operation. Likewise, we need to more systematically share, reference and build on mutual jurisprudence and standards in order to reinforce our actions. ODIHR will take the necessary measures to better share its expertise and tools with partner organizations.

Secondly, our co-operation needs to be more action-oriented. A number of formal mechanisms have been enshrined in documents such as memoranda of understanding or other formal arrangements; however, their implementation is what really matters. More should be done to strengthen co-operation in an innovative and dynamic manner, while building on comparative advantages of partner organizations. In this line, good practices, such as the ODIHR/Council of Europe joint laws reviews in the human dimension or the co-operation with the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation group could be further strengthened and replicated in other areas.

Finally, it remains the primary responsibility of participating States to implement human dimension commitments, and as organizations of which they are members, we are obligated to support them in doing so effectively. A lack of political will shouldn't be equated with a lack of co-operation or effectiveness. As we have seen, co-operation has a cost both in terms of time and money. Therefore, new mechanisms should be supported by additional resources, while the cost of co-operation should be backed up by appropriate funding.

We believe that this Seminar provides all of us - regional or international organizations, NGOs or participating States - with a set of useful recommendations on which we should build to strengthen our co-operation. In this undertaking, the Helsinki +40 process provides us with a constructive framework to further reflect on these issues and find the most appropriate solutions to increase the effectiveness of OSCE mechanisms for promoting implementation of commitments by all participating States.

I would like to conclude my remarks by thanking all the participants, moderators, panelists and keynote speakers for contributing to this Seminar in a constructive and engaging manner. I would also like to extend our thanks to colleagues from the OSCE institutions and Field Operations, who supported the organization of this Seminar. Allow me to also express my gratitude to the Swiss delegation for their co-operation and support.

I hereby declare this Human Dimension Seminar closed and wish all participants a safe return journey.

Thank you very much.



## ANNEX III: INFORMATION ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

### **12 May, 10.00-13.00, OPENING PLENARY SESSION**

#### **Opening Remarks Speakers:**

**Ambassador Janez Lenarčič**, Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODIHR)

The OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights is led by Ambassador Janez Lenarčič of Slovenia. He took over as Director in July 2008, bringing with him many years of experience in international affairs. He was the Slovenian Ambassador to the OSCE from 2003 to 2006. In 2005, when Slovenia held the OSCE's Chairmanship, he chaired the Permanent Council in Vienna, the Organization's regular political decision-making body. After his Vienna assignment, he was appointed State Secretary for European Affairs in 2006, heading the working group for the preparation of the Slovenian Presidency of the EU (January to June 2008) and, subsequently, assuming responsibility for co-operation between the Presidency and the European Parliament. He also served as Diplomatic Adviser in the office of the Slovenian Prime Minister and in the Permanent Mission of Slovenia to the United Nations in New York.

**Ambassador Thomas Greminger**, Chairperson of the OSCE Permanent Council, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the OSCE

Ambassador Greminger is Switzerland's Permanent Representative to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the United Nations and international organizations in Vienna. He took up his activity as Permanent Representative in the second half of 2010. In 2011 and 2012, he presided and revitalized the Human Dimension Committee of the OSCE. Since the beginning of January 2013 he represents Switzerland in the Troika of the OSCE and chaired the Mediterranean Partners Contact Group in 2013. He has held many senior posts in development and co-operation policy as well as peace, human rights and migration policy in a long and illustrious diplomatic career at the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs that has taken him to Bern, Tel Aviv, Geneva and Maputo. During Switzerland's chairmanship of the OSCE in 2014 he chairs the OSCE Permanent Council.

**Ms. Krystyna Żurek**, Director of the United Nations and Human Rights Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Poland

She began her professional career at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the Legal Department. In the years 1991 - 1995 she served at the Permanent Representation of Poland to UNESCO in Paris. Between 1996 – 1999 she worked at the Department of International Organizations, dealing with human rights. In 1999 she was posted to the Permanent Mission of Poland to the UN Office in Geneva. In 2003 she came back to the Department of the UN System and in 2006 was posted again to Geneva.

**Keynote speakers:**

**Ambassador Ivan Šimonović**, Assistant Secretary General for Human Rights, OHCHR

Ivan Šimonović assumed his functions as Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights on 17 July 2010, to head the New York Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). Before joining the United Nations, he held the position of Minister of Justice since 2008, having previously served as Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York, where he served as Senior Vice-President and President of the Economic and Social Council from 2001 to 2003. A Croatian national, Mr. Šimonović worked as a professor at the Faculty of Law at the University of Zagreb, where he served as Head of the Legal Theory Department, Vice-Dean and Vice-Rector for international co-operation. He has extensive experience and publications in the fields of international relations, law, human rights, and development of national institutions. In an expert capacity, he served as a member of the Council of Europe's Commission for Democracy through Law (i.e. the Venice Commission) and ECRI, as well as the Agent of the Republic of Croatia before the United Nations International Court of Justice (ICJ). Among other NGO activities, he served as the President of the United Nations Association for Croatia. Mr. Šimonović obtained a graduate degree in law, a masters degree in public administration and politics and a Ph.D from the University of Zagreb and was a visiting scholar at the Universities of Graz and Yale.

**Ambassador Zoltán Taubner**, Director of External Relations, Council of Europe

Ambassador Taubner is currently Director of External Relations of the Council of Europe. Prior to this appointment in 2008, he served as Head of Multilateral Diplomacy and Human Rights Department in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Hungary (2007), Permanent Representative of Hungary to the Council of Europe (2002-2007) and Director of the Foreign Minister's Cabinet Office (2000-2002). He also served as Deputy Permanent Representative to the Council of Europe from 1996 to 2000. Prior to this, he worked in the Hungarian Ministry of Justice, and subsequently in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Ambassador Taubner has extensive experience in the field of human rights and international affairs, topics on which he has written several publications and given various lectures.

**Ambassador Adam Kobieracki**, Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre, OSCE

Ambassador Adam Kobieracki assumed the position of Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre on 1 June 2011. He has served in the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 1982, most recently as the Director for Security Policy. From 2003 to 2007 he was NATO Assistant Secretary General for Operations in Brussels. Ambassador Kobieracki headed the Polish delegation to the OSCE in Vienna from 1997 to 2000 and chaired the Permanent Council in 1998. He was involved in negotiations of the OSCE Vienna Document 1994 and the adaptation of the Conventional Armed Forces in Europe Treaty in 1999.

**12 May, 15:00 – 18:00, WORKING GROUP I: OSCE Human Dimension Commitments in the Context of OSCE Co-operation with Relevant Regional and International Organizations**

**Panelists:**

**Ms. Ruth Freedom Pojman**, Acting Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, OSCE

Ruth Pojman works at the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) as the Acting Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in Vienna. Prior to this she served as Senior Anti-trafficking Advisor for the Europe and Eurasia Bureau at USAID in Washington DC where she supported anti-trafficking policies and programs. She also worked in Central Asia, for the International Organization for Migration (IOM) on programs assisting in the development of migration policy, border control, NGO-government co-operation and anti-trafficking; on raising awareness of refugee, political asylum and tolerance issues for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), in the Kyrgyz Republic.

**Mr. Gianni Magazzeni**, Chief of the Americas, Europe and Central Asia Branch, OHCHR

Gianni Magazzeni is Chief of the Americas, Europe and Central Asia Branch in the Field Operations and Technical Co-operation Division of Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. Mr. Magazzeni is responsible for OHCHR's engagement with countries within these regions, which include 20 field presences. He is the former Chief of the National Institutions and Regional Mechanisms Section in OHCHR during which time he enhanced co-operation and dialogue between regional human rights mechanisms and the international human rights system. He was Chief of the Human Rights Office of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq. As special assistant to the Heads of the UN human rights programme from 1987 to 1998, including the first UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, he has participated in many missions, including to Rwanda during the 1994 genocide. Gianni holds an MA in International Relations from Yale University, an MA in Political Science from the University of Pisa (Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna) and was a Fellow at the University of Bern.

**Mr. Walter Kälin**, Member of the UN Human Rights Committee, United Nations

Walter Kälin, a Swiss national, is a distinguished legal scholar, human rights expert and professor of constitutional and international law at the Faculty of Law of the University of Bern. He has been concerned with issues of International Displaced Persons for over a decade. He was the Representative of the United Nations' Secretary-General on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons from 2004 until 2010. Currently, he is professor of constitutional and international law at the Faculty of Law of the University of Bern (Switzerland), Envoy of the Chairmanship of the Nansen Initiative and member of the UN Human Rights Committee.

**Moderator: Mr. Thomas Vennen**, Head of Democratization Department, OSCE/ODIHR

Thomas Vennen was appointed Head of Democratization of the OSCE/Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights in 2010, where he is responsible for the Office's rule of law, legislative support, democratic governance, gender and migration portfolios. Mr. Vennen started his career in the early 1990s as an international lawyer advising investors and governments on foreign investment conditions and harmonization of national legal and institutional frameworks with International and European Standards. He has gained distinct experience in legal, judicial and governance standards and reforms and worked in various capacities for a number of international organizations and agencies such as the EU, EBRD, OECD, ADB and GIZ in Europe, Central Asia, Latin America and Africa. Mr. Vennen holds a law degree from Cologne University, a diploma in international human rights law from Geneva University and has qualified for a judicial career at the Berlin Cassation Court.

**13 May, 10:00 – 13:00, WORKING GROUP II: Providing Assistance and Expertise**

**Panelists:**

**Ambassador György Szabó**, Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan, OSCE

Ambassador György Szabó from Hungary is the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan since February 2012. Prior to this, he was Deputy Head of the Logistics and Organization Department of the Hungarian European Union Presidency in 2011, and Chief of Protocol for the Hungarian President from 2005 to 2010. In previous years, he was, among other diplomatic posts, Ambassador to Nigeria and Benin. Ambassador Szabó is a graduate of the Moscow State Institute of International Relations.

**Ms. Simona Granata-Menghini**, Deputy Secretary of the Venice Commission, Council of Europe

Simona Grannata graduated in 1992 from the Milan State University, Law Faculty, but has obtained further diplomas in comparative law (1992, 1993, 1994) from the Faculté de Droit Comparé of Strasbourg. From 1992 to 1994 she practiced as a lawyer at a law-firm specialised in international law in Milan, and was admitted to the Bar in 1995. From 1994 to 1997 she worked as a case-lawyer at the European Commission on Human Rights. Subsequently, from 1997 to 1999, she was Deputy Human Rights Ombudsperson in Bosnia and Herzegovina. From 1999 to 2000 she was a case-lawyer at the Registry of the European Court of Human Rights. From 2001 to 2010, she was the Head of the Constitutional Co-operation Division at the Venice Commission. Since 2010 she has been the Deputy Secretary of the Venice Commission. She is the author of several articles on human rights law and on the Venice Commission; from 2000 to 2010, she published a yearly review of case-law of the European Court of Human Rights in the Legal Review "Italian Yearbook of International Law". She contributed to two volumes on the European Convention on Human Rights in Italian.

**Mr. Yuri Dzhibladze**, President of the Centre for the Development of Democracy and Human Rights

Yuri Dzhibladze is President of the Centre for the Development of Democracy and Human Rights, a Moscow-based public policy and advocacy NGO which he founded in 1998. The Center conducts public policy analysis, monitoring, public education, and advocacy campaigns on a wide range of human rights and democracy issues, including freedom of association and assembly, security of human rights defenders, and links between corruption and human rights abuse. Yuri is a member of the Expert Council of the Ombudsman of Russia (since 2005) and a former member of the Council on Civil Society and Human Rights with the President of Russia (from 2009-2012). In addition to Russia, Yuri works on human rights in other countries, including Belarus, Ukraine, and Turkmenistan. He is actively involved in co-operation with international organizations, including the OSCE, the UN, the Council of Europe, and the EU institutions. In particular, Yuri is a co-founder and board member of the Civic Solidarity Platform, an OSCE-wide NGO coalition. In this capacity he has been a co-organizer of OSCE Parallel Civil Society Conferences and a principal author of many NGO initiatives and documents in the OSCE.

**Moderator: Ms. Beata Martin-Rozumilowicz**, Head of Election Department, OSCE/ODIHR

Beata Martin-Rozumilowicz is currently the Head of the OSCE/ODIHR Election Department in Warsaw. In the past, she has worked for the OSCE and the ODIHR in various capacities, including as Human Dimension Officer at the OSCE's Advisory and Monitoring Group in Minsk (2000 – 2001), Political / Media Officer at the OSCE Centre in Almaty (2003 to 2005) and as Election Adviser at the OSCE Centre in Bishkek in 2005. From 2005 to 2009, Beata worked on dozens of ODIHR election observation missions as Deputy Head or Political Analyst. She served as Deputy Head of the OSCE/ODIHR Election Department from 2009 to 2011. Beata holds a D.Phil. (Ph.D.) and M.Phil. (Masters Degree) in Politics from the University of Oxford. She has published various articles on political party development and a book on comparative media law reform.

**13 May, 15:00 – 18:00, WORKING GROUP III: Collecting, Processing, Exchanging and Disseminating Data, Statistics and Other Information**

**Panelists:**

**Ambassador Miroslava Beham**, Senior Adviser on Gender Issues, OSCE

Ambassador Miroslava Beham took up her present function as the OSCE's Senior Adviser on Gender Issues on 15 December 2011. Ms. Beham began her diplomatic career when she joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Serbia and Montenegro in March 2005. She was appointed Deputy Head of the Serbia and Montenegro Mission to the OSCE and other International Organizations in Vienna in July 2005, and was Chargé d'Affaires of the Mission after Montenegro left the State Union with Serbia in May 2006. Subsequently Ms. Beham was appointed Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Serbia to the OSCE

and other International Organizations in Vienna and stayed in the post until December 2011.

**Ms. Joanna Goodey**, Head of Freedoms and Justice Department, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights

Joanna Goodey's is currently Head of Freedoms and Justice Department at the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights. Her areas of expertise include: victims of crime; hate crime; trafficking in human beings; quantitative and qualitative research methodologies, including surveys. From the mid-1990s she held lectureships in criminology and criminal justice, first at the Law Faculty of the University of Sheffield and subsequently at the University of Leeds. She was a research fellow for two years at the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, and has been a consultant to the UN International Narcotics Control Board. She was also a regular study fellow at the Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Criminal Law in Freiburg.

**Ms. Virginie Coulloudon**, Group Director External Relations, Transparency International

Ms. Virginie Coulloudon joined Transparency International in August 2012 as Communications Director, before becoming Group Director for External Relations in 2013. Prior to this, she was spokesperson, responsible for press and public information at the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and Head of Communications, Europe, at Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL). She is a former investigative journalist, permanent correspondent in Moscow, and research director at the Harvard Davis Center for Russian Studies.

**Moderator: Ms. Floriane Hohenberg**, Head of Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Department, OSCE/ODIHR

Floriane Hohenberg has been working for OSCE/ODIHR since 2005. She has been the Head of the Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Department since 2009. From 2000 until 2004 she was the Head of the Berlin Office of the Commission for the Compensation of Victims of Spoliation Resulting from the Anti-Semitic Legislation in Force during the Occupation in France. She co-authored a study commissioned by the French government on the extent of the confiscation of Jewish assets in France during World War II published in 1999.

**14 May, 10:00 – 13:00, WORKING GROUP IV: Best Practices for Co-operation Between OSCE and Other Relevant Regional and International Organizations**

**Panelists:**

**Ms. Ilze Brands Kehris**, Director of the Office of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, OSCE

Ilze Brands Kehris is Director of the Office of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, located in The Hague. Prior to this, she was the Director of the Latvian Centre

for Human Rights. She was a member of the Management Board of the European Union Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC) from 2004 to 2007 and its Vice-Chairperson, and from 2007 member of the Management Board of the EU Fundamental Rights Agency, and its Chairperson from 2009 until July 2012. She was also a member of the Council of Europe Advisory Committee of the Council of Europe Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities from 2006 to 2010, where she held the position of First Vice-President.

**Mr. Juan Barata Mir**, Principal Adviser to the Representative on Freedom of the Media, OSCE

Juan Barata Mir is the Principal Adviser to the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media and Research Fellow at the Central European University. Before that he was a Professor of Communication Law and Vice Dean of International Relations at Blanquerna Communication School (Universitat Ramon Llull, Barcelona). He was also a Professor at the University of Barcelona (2001-2005), the Open University of Catalonia (since 1997) and the Universitat Pompeu Fabra (2010-2011), as well as visiting scholar at the University of Bologna (Italy) (2003) and the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law (New York) (2003-2004). From 2005 to 2011 he was Chief of Cabinet and Secretary General at the Catalonia Audiovisual Council.

**Ms. Beatriz Balbin**, First Deputy Director, OSCE/ODIHR

Beatriz Balbin joined the United Nations in 1997 and served in different capacities with the UN over 16 years in Africa, South East Asia, Latin America and the Balkans. She has worked for the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights as well as for the UN Department for Peacekeeping Operations and the UN Department of Political Affairs. Her last assignment was as Head of the Human Rights Component of the UN Mission in Sierra Leone where she also doubled as the Country Representative for the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. Previously she served in different electoral observation and human rights assignments including as a member of the Commissions of Inquiry mandated by the UN Secretary General and other UN bodies. She joined the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights in September 2013 as First Deputy Director.

**Moderator: Mr. Omer Fisher**, Deputy Head of Human Rights Department, OSCE/ODIHR

Omer Fisher joined OSCE/ODIHR in 2010 as Human Rights Advisor, working mainly on freedom of peaceful assembly. He is currently Deputy Head of the OSCE/ODIHR Human Rights Department. Between 2003 and 2010 he worked at the International Secretariat of Amnesty International in London as Researcher on the Balkans and as Senior Research Policy Advisor. Omer Fisher holds a PhD in Politics from the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, UK, and a degree in Economics from Bocconi University, Milan, Italy.

**14 May, 10:00 – 13:00, CLOSING PLENARY SESSION**

**Closing remarks:**

**Ms. Beatriz Balbin**, First Deputy Director, OSCE/ODIHR

Beatriz Balbin joined the United Nations in 1997 and served in different capacities with the UN over 16 years in Africa, South East Asia, Latin America and the Balkans. She has worked for the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights as well as for the UN Department for Peacekeeping Operations and the UN Department of Political Affairs. Her last assignment was as Head of the Human Rights Component of the UN Mission in Sierra Leone where she also doubled as the Country Representative for the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. Previously she served in different electoral observation and human rights assignments including as a member of the Commissions of Inquiry mandated by the UN Secretary General and other UN bodies. She joined the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights in September 2013 as First Deputy Director.