



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Permanent Council**

PC.DEC/1090
26 July 2013

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963rd Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 963, Agenda item 1

**DECISION No. 1090
AGENDA FOR THE 2013 HUMAN DIMENSION
IMPLEMENTATION MEETING**

The Permanent Council,

Recalling Decision No. 476 (PC.DEC/476) of 23 May 2002 on the modalities for OSCE meetings on human dimension issues,

Further recalling the provisions of the Helsinki Document 1992, Chapter I and Chapter VI, paragraph 9,

Recalling also its Decision No. 1076 (PC.DEC/1076) of 2 April 2013 on the dates for the 2013 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM) and Decision No. 1077 (PC.DEC/1077) of 2 April 2013 on the topics for the second part of the 2013 HDIM,

Decides to adopt the agenda for the 2013 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting as set out in the annex.

AGENDA FOR THE 2013 HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING

Warsaw, 23 September to 4 October 2013

Monday, 23 September 2013

- 10 a.m.–1 p.m. Opening plenary session
- 1–3 p.m. Break
- 3–6 p.m. Working session 1: Tolerance and non-discrimination I:
- Address by the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities;
 - National minorities;
 - Preventing aggressive nationalism, racism and chauvinism.

Tuesday, 24 September 2013

- 10 a.m.–1 p.m. Working session 2: Tolerance and non-discrimination II – Review of the implementation of commitments on promotion of mutual respect and understanding:
- Prevention and responses to hate crimes in the OSCE area;
 - Combating racism, xenophobia and discrimination, also focusing on intolerance and discrimination against Christians and members of other religions;
 - Combating anti-Semitism;
 - Combating intolerance and discrimination against Muslims.
- 1–3 p.m. Break
- 3–6 p.m. Working session 3: Tolerance and non-discrimination II (continued):
- Equality of opportunity for women and men, including: Implementation of the OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality;
 - Prevention of violence against women and children.

Wednesday, 25 September 2013

- 10 a.m.–1 p.m. Working session 4: Fundamental freedoms I, including:
- Freedom of expression, free media and information, including best practices for protection of journalists;
 - Address by the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media.
- 1–3 p.m. Break
- 3–6 p.m. Working session 5: Fundamental freedoms II, including:
- Freedom of movement;
 - National human rights institutions and the role of civil society in the protection of human rights;
 - Human rights education.

Thursday, 26 September 2013

- 10 a.m.–1 p.m. Working Session 6 (specifically selected topic): Freedom of religion or belief
- 1–3 p.m. Break
- 3–6 p.m. Working session 7 (specifically selected topic): Freedom of religion or belief (continued)

Friday, 27 September 2013

- 10 a.m.–1 p.m. Working session 8 (specifically selected topic): Freedom of assembly and association
- 1–3 p.m. Break
- 3–6 p.m. Working session 9 (specifically selected topic): Freedom of assembly and association (continued)

Monday, 30 September 2013

- 10 a.m.–1 p.m. Working session 10: Humanitarian issues and other commitments I:
- Combating trafficking in human beings – Implementation of the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings.

- 1–3 p.m. Break
- 3–6 p.m. Working session 11: Democratic institutions, including:
- Democracy at the national, regional and local levels;
 - Citizenship and political rights.

Tuesday, 1 October 2013

- 10 a.m.–1 p.m. Working session 12 (specifically selected topic): Democratic elections and election observation – sharing best practices
- 1–3 p.m. Break
- 3–6 p.m. Working session 13 (specifically selected topic): Democratic elections and election observation – sharing best practices (continued)

Wednesday, 2 October 2013

- 10 a.m.–1 p.m. Working session 14: Rule of law I, including:
- Democratic lawmaking;
 - Independence of the judiciary;
 - Right to a fair trial.
- 1–3 p.m. Break
- 3–6 p.m. Working session 15: Rule of law II, including:
- Exchange of views on the question of abolition of capital punishment;
 - Prevention of torture;
 - Protection of human rights and fighting terrorism.

Thursday, 3 October 2013

- 10 a.m.–1 p.m. Working session 16: Humanitarian issues and other commitments II, including:
- Roma and Sinti issues, including: Implementation of the OSCE Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti;
 - Migrant workers, the integration of legal migrants;
 - Refugees and displaced persons;
 - Treatment of citizens of other participating States.
- 1–3 p.m. Break

3–6 p.m. Working session 17: Discussion of human dimension activities (with special emphasis on project work), including:

- Presentation of activities of the ODIHR and other OSCE institutions and field operations to implement priorities and tasks contained in relevant OSCE decisions and other documents.

Friday, 4 October 2013

10 a.m.–1 p.m. Closing reinforced plenary session (reinforced by the participation of human rights directors, OSCE ambassadors and heads of OSCE institutions):

- Any other business;
- Closing of the meeting.

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Attachment

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**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of the United States of America:

“Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I wish to express the appreciation of the United States for the Chair’s patient efforts to facilitate a compromise enabling participating States to reach consensus on the agenda for the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM) which will take place in Warsaw from 23 September to 4 October 2013.

As the Chairmanship has stated, this year is exceptional in that we celebrate the 20th anniversary of the High Commissioner for National Minorities (HCNM) as an institution. Moreover, we also have a new High Commissioner, Ms. Astrid Thors. And so, in a spirit of compromise, we agree as an exception to the standard order of discussion, to begin the first working session of the 2013 HDIM with a presentation by the newly appointed HCNM. We do so, however, despite deep reservations about the movement of discussions of fundamental freedoms in the OSCE region to later in the HDIM’s first week.

As we have underscored on numerous occasions, the United States believes that the fundamental freedoms enshrined in international instruments are the basis of all our human dimension commitments and the foundation of all of our work in the human dimension. Exercise of the fundamental freedoms of expression, peaceful assembly and association, religion, and movement are closely intertwined. Where the exercise on line or off line of any fundamental freedom is impeded or denied, it is likely that the exercise of other fundamental freedoms also is obstructed. Without respect for fundamental freedoms, the human rights of members of minority groups may remain unprotected, the rule of law is compromised, independent media are stifled, accountability of government is hampered and democracy cannot thrive.

It is for this compelling reason that we have advocated starting each HDIM with the presentation by the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media on issues related to freedom of expression and followed closely by sessions devoted to the other fundamental freedoms. Precedent in doing so has been clearly established over the past five years, and this precedent should be respected in future HDIMs.

Our hope is that, with the contentious debate over the 2013 HDIM agenda behind us, we can work constructively on a standing agenda with fundamental freedoms at the forefront

that would guide future HDIMs and allow us to focus less attention on procedure and more on substance.

I request that this interpretative statement be attached to the decision and to the journal of the day.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.”