

Human Dimension Implementation Meeting

Warsaw, October 4, Closing remarks

Statement of the Delegation of Armenia

As delivered by

Mr. Vaheh Gevorgyan, Head of the OSCE and Conventional Arms Control Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia

Mr. Chairperson,

I would like to start by expressing my deep gratitude and appreciation to the hosts of the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, namely the Government of Poland and ODHIR. Furthermore, I would like to thank the Ukrainian Chairmanship for its efforts to bring together all participating states to reach an agenda that we exhausted throughout lengthy yet very useful deliberations.

My delegation particularly values discussions on national minorities, tolerance and non-discrimination, freedom of religion, freedom of expression and protection of journalists and freedom of movement. We are glad to note that these discussions will also be continued in the framework of the Kiev Ministerial Conference.

In our view, these themes are closely linked with security being intrinsic part of the notion of comprehensive security. By paying particular attention to these fundamental freedoms we are sending a strong message of embedding the protection of human rights in overall European security.

While acknowledging the role of international and regional cooperation in promoting human rights, we should remember that this link is reflective. The emergence of a strong “human rights” culture will bring more cooperation in sustaining and achieving peace and reconciliation along dividing lines, a common goal we have set up in Astana and that we are currently pursuing through Helsinki +40 process.

Thus genuine attempts towards ensuring greater respect for human rights and democratization eventually will be translated into the political will of resolving conflicts. The other option is the deterioration of human rights that will adversely affect the regional security and make any peace seeking efforts elusive.

Conflicts should not be used as an excuse for maintaining poor record of human rights. Conflicts can and should be resolved on the basis of human rights. Systematic restrictions and collective punishment imposed on the population living in a conflict zone are not only a severe violation of human rights and humanitarian norms but are in contradiction with the principles of equality, fairness and humanity which are instrumental in any conflict resolution.

It is the second year that we have been assessing Human dimension events with an aim to raise their attractiveness and utility. This HDIM will give us important food for thought on the current trends including in such trademark of HDIM as NGO participation. Along side with other participating states we value unrestricted participation of civil society and we were pleased to engage in dialogue with an openness to hear different views and offer our own. It will be a real loss for all of us to further observe a tendency of replication and proliferation of the well-known positions of the participating states by non-governmental organizations. While cautioning against this development, we will be further engaged in the efforts of the current and future Chairmanships to review Human Dimension events aiming to secure genuine and equal dialogue between participating states and civil society.

Thank you.