



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

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348th Plenary Meeting

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**DECISION No. 428
ENHANCING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE
HUMAN DIMENSION MEETINGS**

The Permanent Council,

Recalling the provisions of the Helsinki Document 1992, Chapter I and Chapter VI, paragraph (9),

Further recalling its Decision No. 241 (PC.DEC/241) of 9 July 1998 on the Human Dimension Meetings,

Recalling also its Decision No. 413 (PC.DEC/413) on the venue and dates for the 2001 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM),

In order to enhance the effectiveness of the HDIMs and of the Supplementary Human Dimension Meetings (SHDMs),

Decides to adopt the measures set out in Annex 1 and adopt Annex 2 as the agenda for the 2001 HDIM.

The modalities for the HDIM will be reflected in the Human Dimension segment of the Review Conferences.

I. Human Dimension Implementation Meetings

Strengthening dialogue

In order to promote a real dialogue and a thorough exchange of views among delegations, international organizations and NGOs, the following measures are suggested:

- The OSCE institutions dealing with the human dimension - the High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM), the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and the Representative on Freedom of the Media (RFM) - will prepare in advance food-for-thought papers on the topics relevant to their activities.
- The OSCE field missions are encouraged to submit food-for-thought or discussion papers based on their practical experience. An enhanced involvement of the field missions in the discussions is also encouraged.
- International organizations and NGOs are also encouraged to circulate written statements in advance.
- A similar approach by delegations towards a substantive preparation for the HDIM would be welcomed.
- We would also welcome input from the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.
- As a means to facilitate the dialogue, the delegations that intend to raise an issue related to a specific country may notify that country in advance.
- All participants are encouraged to offer information concerning best practices of implementation of human dimension commitments.
- In order to facilitate high-level representation from participating States, regular meetings in Vienna should be suspended during the HDIM. Permanent Council meetings will continue to convene, but their agendas should be kept to a minimum.
- The ODIHR will create a website devoted to the HDIM in order to post information about the meeting and interventions circulated by participants, to facilitate exchanges and to provide an opportunity for queries by the public.
- Broadcasting HDIM proceedings simultaneously over the internet will be explored as a means of stimulating more interest in the meeting and making it more accessible to interested parties unable to attend. The possibility of broadcasting the Human Dimension segment of the Review Conferences will also be explored.

Agenda and Procedures

In order to foster dialogue and focus discussion in the Human Dimension Implementation Review Meeting, the agenda for the meeting has been restructured and rationalized. For the 2001 meeting, on an experimental basis, the agenda has been structured around the “core discussion themes” of Democratic Institutions, Rule of Law, Tolerance and Non-Discrimination, Fundamental Freedoms, Human Rights (continued) and Humanitarian Issues and The Human Dimension in the Work of the OSCE (Annex 2). The 2001 agenda also includes the concept of a “current issue discussion topic.” This formula will be evaluated following the meeting to assess how much it has contributed to enhancing the effectiveness of the meeting. All participants, including NGOs, will be invited to participate in this evaluation process.

In case of a positive evaluation of the concept of a “current issue discussion topic”, a separate session of the agenda each year should be devoted to a rotating topic. The topic will vary from year to year based on its relevance for the activities of the OSCE in that specific year. As a rule, the topic should be chosen as part of the Permanent Council decision on the agenda.

After the approval of the agenda by the Permanent Council, an annotated agenda - including side events - will be prepared by the Chairmanship, in consultation with the ODIHR, HCNM and RFM.

The agenda of the meeting should be distributed widely well in advance.

Participating States, international organizations and NGOs are encouraged to make recommendations regarding OSCE institutions in the course of discussing issues on the agenda.

Participants are encouraged to circulate recommendations in writing to produce a more accurate record of the meeting and to facilitate follow-up. All written recommendations will be compiled by the ODIHR and distributed along with the rapporteur’s report.

In order to foster debate and ensure equal time for all speakers and for rights of reply, participants are encouraged to limit themselves, where possible, to one formal intervention per Working Session, no longer than seven minutes. After the formal session has concluded and time permitting, the moderator can, in an informal session and in order to promote dialogue, give participants the opportunity to make additional statements.

Participation of the NGO community

Strong participation and involvement of the NGO community will continue to be ensured and encouraged.

The provisions of the Helsinki Document 1992, Chapter IV and of Decision No. 241 of the Permanent Council, in relation to the participation of the NGOs, will be maintained.

Given expansive contacts between the NGO community and participating States, the sessions devoted to an exchange between them are no longer necessary.

Follow-up

A detailed report on the meeting will be presented to the Permanent Council by the Director of the ODIHR.

Follow-up discussions should be organized in the Permanent Council. Participating States should actively consider ways to address the issues raised at the HDIM.

The ODIHR will also compile and distribute the rapporteur's report and the written recommendations of participants in the meeting at most 14 days after the last day of the HDIM. The OSCE institutions and field presences will analyse the recommendations relevant to their activities and will present their findings to participating States within four weeks of the distribution of the ODIHR compilation. A special meeting of the Permanent Council will be convened within two months of the distribution of the ODIHR compilation to discuss which recommendations could be implemented. The Permanent Council should be held in time to feed into preparations for the Ministerial Council.

Timing

To avoid competition with similar meetings of other international fora and attract higher-level participation, rescheduling the HDIM should be considered. Moving it from the usual time slot (October/November) to earlier in the year would allow time for recommendations to be discussed and reflected as appropriate in the Ministerial Council or Summit Meeting.

II. Supplementary Human Dimension Meetings

In accordance with PC.DEC/241, the SHDMs will "discuss key substantive concerns raised at the previous HDIM or Review Conference and to ensure follow-up for them as well as for the OSCE Human Dimension seminars."

As a rule, the meetings will last one and a half working days. There will be three consecutive Working Sessions.

NGOs will be invited to submit in writing their recommendations and suggestions with regard to the structure and concept of the meeting.

As a step towards the preparation of the meetings, the OSCE institutions could provide, well in advance, food-for-thought papers on the topics to be discussed. In accordance with their mandates and depending on the topic, the OSCE field presences should contribute more actively to the preparation process.

Delegations are encouraged to circulate in advance written statements in order to stimulate lively debate in the Working Sessions.

A prominent NGO representative could address the meeting in the opening session.

Follow-up discussions in the Permanent Council to consider ways to address the issues raised at the SHDMs will be organized.

SCHEDULE OF THE 2001 HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING

Warsaw, 17 to 27 September 2001

Monday, 17 September

- 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Opening Session
- 1-3 p.m. Break
- 3-6 p.m. **Democratic Institutions**, including
- Electoral processes
 - Democracy at the national, regional and local levels
 - Citizenship and political rights
 - Civic education

Tuesday, 18 September

- 10 a.m.-1 p.m. **Rule of Law**, including
- Legislative transparency
 - Independence of the judiciary
 - The right to a fair trial
 - Exchange of views on the question of the abolition of capital punishment
- 1-3 p.m. Break
- 3-6 p.m. - Prevention of torture

Wednesday, 19 September

- 10 a.m.-1 p.m. **Current issue discussion topic**
- The role of the Ombudsperson in protecting human rights
- 1-3 p.m. Break

- 3-6 p.m. **Tolerance and non-discrimination**, including
- Prevention of aggressive nationalism, racism, chauvinism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and ethnic-cleansing
 - Education and culture
 - Including discussion of the 18 and 19 June 2001 Supplementary Meeting

Thursday, 20 September

- 10 a.m.-1 p.m. - Equal opportunities for men and women
- 1-3 p.m. Break
- 3-6 p.m. - Roma and Sinti

Friday, 21 September

- 10 a.m.-1 p.m. - National minorities
- 1-3 p.m. Break
- 3-6 p.m. **The Human Dimension in the Work of the OSCE**, including
- The functioning of OSCE institutions
 - The functioning of OSCE field missions
 - Human Dimension mechanisms
 - Training and capacity building

Monday, 24 September

- 10 a.m.- 1 p.m. **Fundamental freedoms**, including
- Freedom of expression, free media and information
 - Including discussion of the 12 and 13 March 2001 Supplementary Meeting
- 1-3 p.m. Break
- 3-6 p.m. - Freedom of association and the right of peaceful assembly
- Civil society

Tuesday, 25 September

- 10 a.m.-1 p.m. - Freedom of thought, conscience, religion, or belief
- 1-3 p.m. Break

3-6 p.m. - Freedom of movement

Human rights (continued) and humanitarian issues, including

- Migration, refugees, and displaced persons
- Migrant workers

Wednesday, 26 September

10 a.m.-1 p.m. - Treatment of citizens of other participating States
- International humanitarian law

1-3 p.m. Break

3-6 p.m. - Trafficking in human beings, including review of Vienna
Ministerial Decision Implementation

Thursday, 27 September

10 a.m.-1 p.m. - Rights of the Child/Children and armed conflict

Any other business

1-3 p.m. Break

3-6 p.m. Closing Session