PC.DEL/1005/12 8 November 2012

Original: ENGLISH



United States Mission to the OSCE

Statement on ODIHR's Ability to Fulfill its Programmatic Activities in 2012

As delivered by Ambassador Ian Kelly to the Permanent Council, Vienna November 8, 2012

The United States is concerned that ODIHR will not be able to fulfill its proposed activities for 2012 – including in election observation – due to resource limitations this year. We regret that participating States have not been able to approve the creation of a contingency fund for such situations. Transferring existing funds from within the organization to support ODIHR's mandate is not a long-term solution to this problem. The next effect is that ODIHR will not be able to fully carry out its mandate, nor meet the request for assistance from a participating State. This diminishes the organizations' effectiveness and stature.

We call on all participating States to work together to reach consensus on providing additional funds to ODIHR in order for it to accomplish its work.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.