

**ANNOTATED AGENDA****OSCE High-Level Conference on Tolerance and Non-Discrimination  
(Including Human Rights Youth Education on Tolerance and Non-Discrimination)  
Tirana, 21-22 May 2013**

Since the 2003 Vienna Conferences on Anti-Semitism and on Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, OSCE participating States have re-affirmed their commitments to combat intolerance and discrimination and to promote mutual respect and understanding. The Ministerial Council Decisions adopted since then have reiterated that tolerance and discrimination are necessary to promote human rights and democratic values and that the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law are at the core of OSCE's comprehensive concept of security.

Enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act of 1975, the 1990 Charter of Paris for a New Europe, the 1990 Copenhagen Document on the Human Dimension of the CSCE and the 1999 Charter for European Security, the commitments of OSCE participating States in the field of tolerance and non-discrimination are reflected in the OSCE Ministerial Council Decisions adopted in Porto (MC(10).DEC/6), Maastricht (MC.DEC/4/03), Sofia (MC.DEC/12/04), Ljubljana (MC.DEC/10/05), Brussels (MC.DEC/13/06), Madrid (MC.DEC/10/07), Helsinki (MC.DEC/6/08), and Athens (MC.DEC/8/09 and MC.DEC/9/09) and Permanent Council Decisions Nos. 607, 621 and 633.

Acknowledging the need to address the root causes of intolerance and discrimination which may give rise to wider conflict and violence and the need to fully respect human rights of every human being, without distinction and fundamental freedoms such as the freedom of expression and the freedom of peaceful assembly, these decisions call upon participating States to take a comprehensive approach to develop educational programmes to foster a greater understanding of and respect for different cultures, ethnicities, religions or beliefs (MC.DEC/13/06) and to raise public awareness of the existence and unacceptability of intolerance and discrimination (MC.DEC/10/05). These decisions call on participating States to address intolerance and discrimination, including hate crime, and reiterate that educational efforts should target younger generations (MC.DEC/5/03) and contribute to the promotion of democracy, human rights and fundamental freedoms (MC.DEC/10/07).

In accordance with Permanent Council Decision No. 1081, adopted on 25 April 2013 (PC.DEC/1081), the OSCE will hold a **High-Level Conference on Tolerance and Non-Discrimination (including Human Rights Youth Education on Tolerance and Non-Discrimination)** in order to sustain high-level political attention to the effective implementation of OSCE's commitments on tolerance and non-discrimination. The conference will build on the outcomes of previous events, including: the 2003 Vienna Conferences on Anti-Semitism and on Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination; the April 2004 Berlin Conference on Anti-Semitism; the June 2004 Paris Meeting on the Relationship between Racist, Xenophobic and Anti-Semitic Propaganda on the Internet and Hate Crimes; the September 2004 Brussels Conference on Tolerance and the Fight Against Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination; the 2005 Cordoba Conference on Anti-Semitism and on Other Forms of Intolerance; the 2007 Bucharest High-Level Conference on Combating Discrimination and Promoting Mutual Respect and Understanding; and the 2010 Astana High-Level Conference on Tolerance and Non-Discrimination. This event will also follow up on the 2011 Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on "Prevention of Racism, Xenophobia and Hate Crimes through Education and Awareness Raising Initiatives" and the

## 2012 Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on “Combating Racism, Intolerance and Discrimination in Society through Sport”.

The 2013 conference will review and assess implementation of the commitments related to tolerance and non-discrimination. The conference will examine steps taken to follow up on the 2010 conference and assess the progress made since then. It will provide an opportunity for participants: to present examples of good practices by participating States and civil society; to discuss how these initiatives can be replicated; and to consider how OSCE institutions and other intergovernmental organizations have supported efforts to promote mutual respect and understanding, including through human rights education on tolerance and non-discrimination.

### **Objectives of the Conference:**

1. Review steps taken to follow up the 2010 conference and assess the progress made since then;
2. Review and assess progress and challenges faced by participating States in implementing their commitments in the area of tolerance and non-discrimination. This review will take into account the interdependence of commitments on tolerance and non-discrimination and fundamental rights and freedoms, including freedom of movement, freedom of religion or belief, freedom of expression, freedom of assembly and freedom of association.
3. Share examples of good initiatives and lessons learned to combat intolerance and discrimination including in the area of legislation and law enforcement and to promote mutual respect and understanding through education and dialogue among communities;
4. Exchange examples of good practices with regard to international co-operation in this area, including co-operation involving OSCE structures and other intergovernmental organizations;
5. Identify recommendations for the OSCE participating States on combating intolerance and promoting mutual respect and understanding, including through human rights youth education.

### **Organization of the Conference:**

The agenda of the Conference includes a ceremonial opening, an opening plenary session, discussions in plenary sessions, and a closing plenary session.

The Conference will examine a comprehensive approach to combating intolerance and non-discrimination and will analyze the way forward by focusing on preventing and responding to intolerance and discrimination, including hate crimes, and on promoting mutual respect and understanding.

## Agenda and Timetable

**Tuesday, 21 May 2013**

**9:00 – 9:20**            **Opening ceremony:** Welcoming remarks and formal opening of the Conference

**9:20 – 10:30**        **Opening plenary session:** Combating intolerance and discrimination in the OSCE area. Implementation of the relevant OSCE commitments

### **Part 1. Comprehensive approach to combating intolerance and discrimination**

**10:30 – 12.30**        **Plenary session 1: Combating intolerance and discrimination against any person, including racism, xenophobia and aggressive nationalism, in accordance with the existing OSCE commitments**

OSCE participating States have repeatedly condemned hate crimes, racism, discrimination and other acts of intolerance. They have stressed the equality of all before the law and the need to guarantee legal protection to all persons against any discrimination on any ground (Copenhagen Document 1990). The OSCE Ministerial Council has recognized “the specificity of different forms of intolerance”(MC.DEC/10/07) and “the uniqueness...of the historical background of each form”.(MC.DEC/13/06) Ministerial and Permanent Council Decisions have acknowledged that the primary responsibility to respond to address these acts lies with participating States. The Madrid Ministerial Council Decision (MC.DEC/10/07) encouraged participating States to adopt a comprehensive approach in order to effectively combat all forms of discrimination: to establish national institutions or specialized bodies to combat intolerance and discrimination; to develop and implement national strategies and action plans in this field; and to develop educational programmes in order to raise awareness among youth of the value of mutual respect and understanding.

The first session will provide an opportunity to discuss the commitments in combating intolerance and discrimination against any person, including racism, xenophobia and aggressive nationalism. The global economic crisis and the increase in unemployment rates have intensified social anxieties and created the context for racist and xenophobic discourse towards certain individuals and groups on the basis of their status, *inter alia*, as refugees, migrants, asylum-seekers, persons belonging to national minorities and stateless persons. This session will allow participants to explore the current situation and to examine further steps needed to combat these issues. The session will take stock of discussions held during the Supplementary Human Dimension Meetings on “Prevention of Racism, Xenophobia and Hate Crimes through Education and Awareness Raising Initiatives” (2011) and “Combating Racism, Intolerance and Discrimination in Society through Sport” (2012). The session will explore strategies to address hate on the Internet, while respecting the right to freedom of expression.

Topics and questions for consideration may include, *inter alia*:

— What are the manifestations of intolerance and discrimination against any person, including racism, xenophobia and aggressive nationalism in the OSCE region?

— How are participating States following up on the implementation of OSCE commitments established in Ministerial Council Decisions between 2003 and 2009, Ministerial Council Decision 9/09 on Hate Crime, OSCE Permanent Council Decisions 607 and 621 on Tolerance and the Fight against Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, the other related

commitments established in the Vienna Concluding Document and the Copenhagen Document, as well as the OSCE Action Plan for Roma and Sinti (2003)?

— What challenges do participating States face in fulfilling their existing OSCE commitments in the field of intolerance and discrimination against any person, including racism, xenophobia and aggressive nationalism, and what responses have they developed to overcome these challenges effectively, in particular:

— What good practices have been developed in addressing manifestations of intolerance and discrimination against any person, including racism, xenophobia, aggressive nationalism as well as neo-nazism, in the area of legislation, law enforcement, education, victim support, awareness raising and dialogue?

– How can governments build on, strengthen and support the work of civil society, national human rights institutions and other actors to address intolerance and discrimination against any person, including racism, xenophobia and aggressive nationalism?

— Is there a need to adopt further OSCE commitments to combat intolerance and discrimination against any person, including racism, xenophobia and aggressive nationalism?

— How can the effectiveness of the actions of the Personal Representative of the CiO on Combating Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, also focusing on Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians and Members of Other Religions be increased?

— How do OSCE executive structures, including ODIHR, the Representative on Freedom of the Media, the High Commissioner on National Minorities, and OSCE field operations, as well as the Personal Representatives of the CiO on Tolerance, provide support to OSCE participating States in implementing their commitments in the field of intolerance and discrimination against any person, including racism, xenophobia and aggressive nationalism?

— How can co-operation with the United Nations Committee on Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Organization for Migration, the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance, the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights and EU missions be made more effective?

**12:30 – 14:00            Lunch**

**14:00 – 15:30            Plenary session 2: Combating intolerance and discrimination against Christians and members of other religions**

Ministerial Council Decisions have recognized the need to counter discrimination and intolerance against Christians and members of other religions. These decisions include commitments to action in such fields as legislation, law enforcement, education, data collection, monitoring of hate crimes, media, constructive public discourse and the promotion of inter-cultural and inter-faith dialogue. OSCE participating States have committed themselves to protect the freedom of religion or belief in the 1989 Vienna Document and the 1990 Copenhagen Document, which safeguard the right to individual and collective worship, teaching, practice and observance, and set out the right of religious communities to autonomy, legal personality and public manifestation of religion or belief.

Although they are underreported, hate crimes targeting Christians and members of other religions have been noted throughout the OSCE region. These acts range from verbal harassment and threats to physical assaults and the desecration to cemeteries and places of worship. The absence of data impedes the efforts of participating States to address the issue effectively. Christians and members of other religions also face challenges to freely practice

their religion or belief. Christian communities and members of other religions point to a growing intolerance, expressed in the form of intolerant speech, stereotyping and discrimination. This includes difficulties to obtain burial grounds, constraints on the right to establish places of worship, limitations on proselytizing, and impediments to providing and receiving religious education. Christians and members of other religious communities face other legal and practical challenges, such as difficulties to obtain legal personality status and to register religious activities. Importing and disseminating religious materials as well as exercising the right to worship, practice, teach and observe religion or belief freely and without discrimination remain problematic in some parts of the OSCE region.

This session will focus on finding effective policies to deal with intolerance, discrimination and violations of the freedom of religion or belief of Christians and members of other religions. It will review current developments and take stock of discussions during the March 2009 Vienna Meeting on Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians Focusing on Exclusion, Marginalization and Denial of Rights and the September 2011 OSCE Rome High-Level Meeting on Preventing and Responding to Hate Incidents and Crimes against Christians.

Topics and questions for consideration may include, *inter alia*:

— What are the manifestations of intolerance and discrimination against Christians and members of other religions across the OSCE region?

— How are participating States following up on the implementation of OSCE Ministerial Council Decision 9/09 on Hate Crime, OSCE Permanent Council Decision 607 and 621 on Tolerance and the Fight against Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, as well as the other related commitments established in Ministerial Council Decisions between 2002 and 2009?

— How are participating States fulfilling their commitments to ensure and promote freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief?

— What challenges do participating States face in fulfilling their commitments in the field of combating intolerance and discrimination against Christians and members of other religions and what responses have they developed to overcome these challenges effectively, in particular:

— What good practices have been developed in addressing manifestations of intolerance and discrimination against Christians and members of other religions in the area of legislation, law enforcement, education, victim support, awareness raising and dialogue?

– How can governments build on, strengthen and support the work of civil society, national human rights institutions and other actors to address intolerance and discrimination against Christians and members of other religions?

— Is there a need to adopt further OSCE commitments in this area?

— How can dialogue among civil society groups, including members of religious and belief communities, and with government officials ensure that rights and freedoms of Christians and members of other religions, in particular the freedom of religion or belief, are respected and promoted and that there is an adequate government response to discrimination and other forms of intolerance against Christians and members of other religions?

– How can the effectiveness of the actions of the Personal Representative of the CiO on Combating Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, also focusing on Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians and Members of Other Religions be increased?

– How do OSCE executive structures, including ODIHR and its Advisory Panel of Experts on Freedom of Religion or Belief, the Representative on Freedom of the Media, the High Commissioner on National Minorities, and OSCE field operations, as well as the Personal Representatives of the CiO on Tolerance, provide support to OSCE participating States in

implementing their commitments in the field intolerance against Christians and members other religions?

– How can co-operation with the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief, the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe and other intergovernmental organizations be made more effective?

### **15:30 – 17:00            Plenary session 3: Combating anti-Semitism**

At the 2004 Berlin Conference on Anti-Semitism, OSCE participating States acknowledged that anti-Semitism has assumed new forms that pose a threat to democracy and security. OSCE participating States have agreed to combat, respond to and prevent anti-Semitism. This includes collection of reliable data on anti-Semitic crime (Permanent Council Decision No. 607). Governments also committed to promote Holocaust remembrance and education and acknowledged a need to develop educational tools to address and prevent anti-Semitism (MC.DEC/10/05).

Manifestations of anti-Semitism continue to pose a threat to Jews, their property and institutions. Anti-Semitic attacks are particularly reported during Jewish holidays. Aggravated by manifestations of anti-Semitism in public discourse, these attacks cause feelings of insecurity and exclusion among communities. Expressions that repeat anti-Semitic stereotypes or conspiracy theories to explain the economic crisis and international conflicts further exacerbate the situation. Participants of the 2011 Prague High-Level Meeting on Confronting Anti-Semitism in Public Discourse expressed concern about statements and publications that seek to offend by trivializing or denying the Holocaust.

This session will identify challenges related to anti-Semitism and focus on identifying effective policies. It will analyze government initiatives to collect data on anti-Semitic crime and confidence-building measures developed between law enforcement and Jewish communities to combat hate crime. It will look at the role of parliamentarians and government officials to address anti-Semitic discourse while respecting freedom of expression and the role of political leaders and authorities to combat Holocaust denial by promoting Holocaust remembrance.

Topics and questions for consideration may include, *inter alia*:

- What are the manifestations of anti-Semitism across the OSCE region?
- How are participating States following up on the implementation of OSCE Ministerial Council Decision 9/09 on Hate Crime, OSCE Permanent Council Decisions 607 and 621 on Tolerance and the Fight against Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, as well as the other related commitments established in Ministerial Council Decisions between 2003 and 2009?
- What challenges do participating States face in fulfilling their commitments in the field of combating anti-Semitism and what responses have they developed to overcome these challenges effectively, in particular:
  - What good practices have been developed in addressing manifestations of anti-Semitism, including Holocaust denial, in the area of legislation, law enforcement, education, victim support, awareness raising and dialogue?
  - How can governments build on, strengthen and support the work of civil society, national human rights institutions and other actors in the area of combating anti-Semitism?
  - Is there a need to adopt further commitments in this area?
  - How do OSCE executive structures, including ODIHR, the Representative on Freedom of the Media, the OSCE field operations and the Personal Representative of the CiO on Combating Anti-Semitism provide support to OSCE participating States in implementing their commitments to combat anti-Semitism?

— How can the effectiveness of the actions of the Personal Representative of the CiO on Combating Anti-Semitism be increased?

— How can co-operation with the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance, the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights and EU missions be made more effective?

**17:30 – 19:00            Plenary session 4: Combating intolerance and discrimination against Muslims**

OSCE participating States have agreed to combat discrimination and violence against Muslims and to collect reliable information on hate crimes targeting Muslims. They have called for increased awareness-raising and educational measures to prevent intolerance and discrimination against Muslims, along with other communities (MC.DEC/13/06).

Despite the efforts of participating States to address this issue, manifestations of intolerance and discrimination, which are sometimes violent in nature, continue to threaten Muslim communities. Disproportional impact of security measures on the fundamental freedoms of Muslims, and intolerant discourse contribute to the lack of trust and alienation of Muslim communities. Such intolerance and stigmatization, combined with biased reporting in the media, also leads to calls for restrictions on certain manifestations of Muslims' faith. Under-reporting of hate crimes targeting Muslims undermines the efforts of participating States to devise effective responses and curb acts of violence against members of their Muslim communities.

This session will focus on the implementation of OSCE commitments and finding effective solutions to combat intolerance and discrimination against Muslims. It will address challenges related to combating stereotypes and efforts to promote mutual understanding and respect. The session will provide an opportunity to discuss how responsible political leadership and media reporting can contribute to a non-discriminatory and unbiased portrayal of Muslims and an increased understanding of and respect for diversity. It will consider policies for the integration of migrants and respect for minorities in terms of cultural and religious diversity, and matters pertaining to freedom of religion or belief. Educational and awareness-raising initiatives, aimed in particular towards youth, will also be discussed in light of their effectiveness in promoting tolerant and non-discriminatory attitudes towards Muslims.

Topics and questions for consideration may include, *inter alia*:

— What are the manifestations of intolerance and discrimination against Muslims across the OSCE region?

— How are participating States following up on the implementation of OSCE Ministerial Council Decision 9/09 on Hate Crime, OSCE Permanent Council Decision 621 on Tolerance and the Fight against Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, as well as the other related commitments established in Ministerial Council Decisions between 2003 and 2009?

— How are participating States fulfilling their commitments to ensure and promote freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief?

- What challenges do participating States face in fulfilling their commitments in the field of combating intolerance and discrimination against Muslims and what responses have they developed to overcome these challenges effectively, in particular:
- What good practices have been developed in addressing manifestations of discrimination of and intolerance against Muslims in the area of legislation, law enforcement, victim support, awareness raising and dialogue?
- How can the important role of education in countering intolerance and discrimination against Muslims be further developed? How can the joint ODIHR/UNESCO/Council of Europe publication "Guidelines for Educators on Countering Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims: Addressing Islamophobia through Education" be more effectively utilized to this end?
- How can governments build on, strengthen and support the work of civil society, national human rights institutions and other actors in the area of combating discrimination of and intolerance against Muslims?
- Which further commitments can be adopted in this area?
- How do OSCE executive structures, including ODIHR, the Representative on Freedom of the Media, the OSCE field operations and the Personal Representative of the CiO on Combating Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims, provide support to OSCE participating States in implementing their commitments to combat intolerance against Muslims? How can the level of this support be increased?
- How can the effectiveness of the actions of the Personal Representative of the CiO on Combating Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims be increased?
- How can co-operation with the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance, and the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights be made more effective?

**Wednesday, 22 May 2013**

**Part 2. The way forward: Preventing and responding to intolerance and discrimination, including hate crimes. Promoting mutual respect and understanding**

**10:00 – 11:30**

**Plenary session 5: The role of human rights youth education in promoting mutual understanding and respect for diversity in accordance with the existing OSCE commitments**

In the 1990 Copenhagen Document, OSCE participating States noted the critical role of education to promote tolerance. The 1991 Moscow Document recognized that it is essential that citizens, and especially young people, are educated about human rights and fundamental freedoms. Subsequent decisions have emphasized the need to address prejudice through education in the context of the principles of non-discrimination, equality and respect for human dignity that stand at the heart of human rights.

Education, including human rights youth education, plays an essential role in countering racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism, aggressive nationalism and other forms of intolerance, including against Muslims, Christians and members of other religions. In the 1989 Vienna Concluding Document, participating States committed to “encourage in schools and other educational institutions consideration of the promotion and protection of human rights and



fundamental freedoms (13.7) and to “ensure human rights and fundamental freedoms to everyone within their territory and subject to their jurisdiction, without distinction of any kind such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status“ (13.8);. Remembrance of the Holocaust is a fundamental element of this education. Contemporary pluralistic societies require development of comprehensive educational measures that promote mutual respect and understanding. Efforts to promote dialogue among diverse individuals and campaigns to raise awareness about the positive contributions made possible by cultural and religious diversity can help to maintain social cohesion and stability. Educational programmes promoting human rights youth education through formal curricula, textbooks and complementary materials, extra-curricular activities, school policies and teacher training programmes play a crucial role to promote respect for diversity.

This session is designed to take stock of programmes to create an appreciation for cultural and religious diversity. It will explore measures States have taken to promote mutual respect and understanding and examine initiatives to train teachers to address intolerance and challenge stereotypes. This session will analyze extracurricular activities, effective educational methodologies and teaching materials that address intolerance and discrimination. The session will also provide an opportunity to explore how media and the Internet can promote human rights.

Topics may include, *inter alia*:

— How are participating States following up on implementation of OSCE Permanent Council Decisions 607 and 621 on Tolerance and the Fight against Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, as well as the other related commitments established in Ministerial Council Decisions between 2003 and 2007?— What challenges do participating States face in fulfilling their commitments pertaining to human rights education and tolerance and non-discrimination education and what responses have they developed to overcome these challenges effectively, in particular:

— What good practices have been developed in devising and implementing comprehensive educational strategies to promote human rights, mutual understanding and respect for diversity? In particular, to which extent have OSCE participating States implemented programmes aimed at combating racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism, aggressive nationalism and other forms of intolerance, including against Roma and Sinti as well as against Muslims, Christians and members of other religions to ensure human rights and fundamental freedoms to everyone? What are the educational programmes aimed at remembrance of, and education about, the Holocaust?

— How can governments build on, strengthen and support the work of civil society in developing and implementing educational measures aimed at promoting human rights, mutual understanding and respect for diversity in formal and non-formal education?

— How can teaching about human rights contribute to improved mutual respect and understanding, and how can teaching about tolerance and non-discrimination contribute to the promotion of human rights and democratic values among the young generation?

— How can education be used to teach about religion or belief in line with international human rights standards, in particular, those concerning freedom of religion or belief and non-discrimination?

— How do OSCE executive structures, including ODIHR, the Representative on Freedom of the Media, the High Commissioner on National Minorities, and OSCE field operations, as well as the Personal Representatives of the CiO on Tolerance, provide support to OSCE participating States in implementing their commitments in the field of education with a view

to promoting mutual understanding, inter-cultural and inter-faith dialogue and respect for diversity?

— How can co-operation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, the Council of Europe Commissioner on Human Rights, the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights, the EU program Youth in Action and EU missions be made more effective?

**11:30 – 13:00          Plenary session 6: The role of political leadership, legislation, law enforcement, data collection, and civil society in combating and preventing intolerance and discrimination, including hate crimes**

OSCE participating States have pledged to take action against intolerance, discrimination and hate crime since the 1990 Copenhagen Document. They have repeatedly stressed their primary responsibility to address such acts and recognized the valuable role of civil society in preventing and responding to this phenomenon. Acknowledging that manifestations of intolerance can be exacerbated by the use of racist, xenophobic and discriminatory public discourse, the participating States agreed that political representatives and media should take a leadership role to counter misperceptions and prejudices (MC. DEC/10/05, MC.DEC/13/06).

Ministerial Council decisions provide a comprehensive framework for participating States to enact or amend hate crime legislation, collect data, investigate and prosecute hate crime and work with civil society (MC.DEC/09/09). Participating States have recognized that collecting and maintaining reliable statistics are essential for effective policy formation and appropriate resource allocation (MC.DEC/13/06).

Since 2006, annual reports on hate crimes in the OSCE region have presented a spectrum of violence affecting individuals, their property and threatening the communal cohesion. The most recent report *Hate Crimes in the OSCE Region: Incidents and Responses: Annual Report 2011* highlights, once again, the lack of adequate and reliable data on hate crimes. Under-reporting by victims and under-recording by law enforcement and other agencies continue to hamper participating States' ability to understand the prevalence and impact of hate crimes.

This session will examine measures designed to effectively prevent and respond to intolerance and discrimination, including hate crime. It will examine how confidence-building measures between law enforcement authorities and civil society can increase reporting and recording of hate crime and enhance support for victims. The discussion can also focus on the role of civil society coalitions to gain a better understanding of the prevalence of hate crime. The challenge posed by violent organized hate groups, in particular neo-Nazi movements, can also be discussed as well as the need for international co-operation. The session will finally examine the positive role that political representatives or public officials can play in defusing tensions within societies by speaking out against intolerance and discrimination and by recognizing the positive contribution that all individuals can make to a pluralistic society.

Topics may include, *inter alia*:

— How participating States are following up on implementation of OSCE Ministerial Decisions 9/09 on Hate Crime, OSCE Permanent Council Decisions 607 and 621 on Tolerance and the Fight against Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, as well as the other related commitments established by Ministerial Council Decisions between 2003 and 2007.

— What challenges participating States face in fulfilling their commitments pertaining to combating and preventing intolerance and discrimination, including hate crimes and what responses they have developed to overcome these challenges effectively, in particular:

— What good practices have been developed in the area of legislation, law enforcement, data collection, co-operation with civil society to combat and prevent intolerance and discrimination, including hate crimes? What are examples of leadership in this area? How can political leaders, legislators and law enforcement bodies ensure that measures to ensure security and counter terrorism are undertaken in full respect for OSCE commitments and other international standards regarding non-discrimination, human rights and the rule of law?

— How can governments build on, strengthen and support the work of civil society, national human rights institutions and other actors in preventing and responding to intolerance and discrimination, including hate crimes, in particular to improve reporting of manifestations of intolerance and support to victims?

— Which measures can be undertaken to further support OSCE participating States in effectively implementing their commitments to adopt and implement legislation combating intolerance, discrimination and in particular hate crimes, to set up reliable hate crime data collection systems in co-operation with civil society, and to build the capacity of law enforcement to effectively investigate and prosecute hate crimes?

— How can participating States address the challenge of the relationship between hate on the Internet and hate-motivated incidents without unduly interfering with freedom of expression (MC.DEC 9/09)? How can states promote ways of using the media, in particular the Internet, which are conducive to a climate of tolerance and to set up hate crime reporting facilities via the Internet?

— How can OSCE executive structures, including ODIHR, the Representative on Freedom of the Media, and OSCE field operations, as well as the Personal Representatives of the CiO on tolerance, provide support to OSCE participating States in implementing their commitments to combat intolerance and discrimination, including hate crimes?

— How can co-operation with the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Organization for Migration, the Venice Commission, the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance, the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights and EU missions be made more effective?

### **13:00 – 14:30 Lunch**

### **14:30 – 16:00 Closing plenary session**

In this session, the moderators will summarize discussions and recommendations made in the sessions on how the OSCE participating States and OSCE structures can further strengthen their efforts to combat discrimination and promote mutual respect and understanding. There will also be an opportunity for responses from the floor.

In order to more accurately reflect the results of the conference, participants are encouraged to submit, in writing, to the Chairperson-in-Office any recommendations they wish to make. It would be helpful if participants could specify for whom the recommendations are intended (for example, individual OSCE participating States, the OSCE as a whole, OSCE institutions, OSCE field operations, or other OSCE structures)

### **Closing ceremony:**

Formal closing of the conference