

Second day of the Thirteenth Meeting
MC(13) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 8

DECISION No. 10/05
TOLERANCE AND NON-DISCRIMINATION:
PROMOTING MUTUAL RESPECT AND UNDERSTANDING

The Ministerial Council,

Recognizing that respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law is at the core of the OSCE comprehensive concept of security,

Recalling its commitments in the field of tolerance and non-discrimination enshrined in the 1975 Helsinki Final Act, the 1990 Charter of Paris for a New Europe, the 1999 Charter for European Security, Decision No. 4/03 on tolerance and non-discrimination, adopted at the 11th Ministerial Council Meeting (Maastricht, 2003), and Decision No. 12/04 on tolerance and non-discrimination, adopted at the 12th Ministerial Council Meeting (Sofia, 2004),

Recalling the OSCE's focus on promoting tolerance and non-discrimination, embodied in 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, and the June 2005 Cordoba Conference on Anti-Semitism and on Other Forms of Intolerance and recalling the outcomes of those conferences,

Reaffirming its determination to implement the existing OSCE commitments in the fields of tolerance and non-discrimination and freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief, and recalling other relevant international obligations,

Emphasizing the need for consistently and unequivocally speaking out against acts and manifestations of hate, particularly in political discourse, and working in favour of tolerance, mutual respect and understanding,

Recalling the importance of promoting and facilitating intercultural and inter-faith dialogue and partnerships aimed at tolerance, mutual respect and understanding, at both the national and the international levels,

Noting with appreciation the announcement of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the establishment of the "Alliance of Civilizations", as well as the

establishment of the Alliance of Civilizations High-Level Group of Eminent Persons and expressing interest in the outcome of this initiative,

Recalling Permanent Council Decisions Nos. 607, 621 and 633 and the declarations made by the OSCE Chairman-in-Office in 2004 — “Berlin Declaration”, “Brussels Declaration” and “Paris Conclusions”,

Appreciating the work of the three Personal Representatives of the Chairman-in-Office as part of the overall effort of the OSCE in combating discrimination and promoting tolerance, mutual respect and understanding and in awareness-raising,

1. Appreciates the declaration made by the OSCE Chairman-in-Office at the OSCE Conference on Anti-Semitism and on Other Forms of Intolerance held in Cordoba on 8 and 9 June 2005 — “Cordoba Declaration”;
2. Welcomes the creation of the ODIHR Programme on Tolerance and Non-Discrimination;
3. Rejects the identification of terrorism and violent extremism with any religion or belief, culture, ethnic group, nationality or race;
4. Decides that the OSCE should continue to raise awareness and develop measures to counter prejudice, intolerance and discrimination, while respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief, for all without distinction as to *inter alia* race, colour, sex, language, religion or belief, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status;
5. Decides that the participating States while implementing their commitments to promote tolerance and non-discrimination will focus their activities in such fields as, *inter alia*, legislation, law enforcement, education, media, data collection, migration and integration, religious freedom, inter-cultural and inter-faith dialogue, and commit to:
 - 5.1 Consider increasing their efforts to ensure that national legislation, policies and practices provide to all persons equal and effective protection of the law and prohibit acts of intolerance and discrimination, in accordance with relevant OSCE commitments and their relevant international obligations;
 - 5.2 Strengthen efforts to provide public officials, and in particular law enforcement officers, with appropriate training on responding to and preventing hate crimes, and in this regard, to consider setting up programmes that provide such training, and to consider drawing on ODIHR expertise in this field and to share best practices;
 - 5.3 Encourage public and private educational programmes that promote tolerance and non-discrimination, and raise public awareness of the existence and the unacceptability of intolerance and discrimination, and in this regard, to consider drawing on ODIHR expertise and assistance in order to develop methods and curricula for tolerance education in general, including:
 - Fighting racial prejudice and hatred, xenophobia and discrimination;

- Education on and remembrance of the Holocaust, as well as other genocides, recognized as such in accordance with the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, and crimes against humanity;
 - Education on anti-Semitism in order to ensure a systematic approach to education, including curricula related to contemporary forms of anti-Semitism in participating States;
 - Fighting prejudice, intolerance and discrimination against Christians, Muslims and members of other religions;
- 5.4 Consider developing, in close co-operation with civil society, concrete measures which do not endanger freedom of information and expression, in order to counter xenophobic stereotypes, intolerance and discrimination in the media and to encourage programmes to educate children and youth about prejudice or bias they may encounter in the media or on the Internet;
- 5.5 Strengthen efforts to collect and maintain reliable information and statistics on hate crimes and legislation within their territories, to report such information periodically to the ODIHR, and to make this information available to the public and to consider drawing on ODIHR assistance in this field, and in this regard, to consider nominating national points of contact on hate crimes to the ODIHR;
- 5.6 Continue, with the support of relevant OSCE structures, institutions and field operations if necessary, to address the issue of migration and integration with respect for cultural and religious diversity as part of the overall efforts by the OSCE to promote tolerance, mutual respect and understanding and to combat discrimination, as well as to promote respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;
- 5.7 Follow up on the work done so far by the OSCE to promote tolerance and non-discrimination, including through expert-level implementation-focused thematic meetings in 2006, and to consider the possibility of an OSCE conference in 2007;
6. Tasks the ODIHR to:
- 6.1 Assist participating States upon their request in developing appropriate methodologies and capacities for collecting and maintaining reliable information and statistics about hate crimes and violent manifestations of intolerance and discrimination, with a view to helping them to collect comparable data and statistics;
- 6.2 Continue its co-operation with other OSCE structures and institutions, as well as with the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (UNCERD), the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR), the European Commission

against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC), the Task Force for International Co-operation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research, and with other relevant institutions and civil society, including non-governmental organizations;

- 6.3 Through its Advisory Panel of Experts on Freedom of Religion or Belief, to continue providing support to the participating States, upon their request, in their efforts to promote freedom of religion or belief, and to share the Panel's conclusions and opinions with OSCE participating States, both bilaterally and at relevant OSCE conferences and events;

7. Decides to make an appropriate contribution to the "Alliance of Civilizations" initiative through the promotion of inter-cultural and inter-religious dialogue and the advancement of mutual understanding and respect as well as human rights throughout the OSCE area and in this regard tasks:

- 7.1 The OSCE Chairman-in-Office to inform the Secretary-General of the United Nations of this decision and of the interest of the OSCE to support the "Alliance of Civilizations" initiative;
- 7.2 The Secretary General, drawing on the expertise of the OSCE structures and institutions, in particular the ODIHR, to provide in co-operation with participating States an OSCE contribution to the "Alliance of Civilizations" initiative and to bring it to the attention of the Alliance of Civilizations High-Level Group by the end of June 2006.

MC.DEC/10/05
6 December 2006
Attachment

Original: ENGLISH

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER PARAGRAPH 79
(CHAPTER 6) OF THE FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
HELSINKI CONSULTATIONS**

By the Delegation of Azerbaijan:

“With regard to the decision just adopted by the Thirteenth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council on Tolerance and Non-Discrimination: Promoting Mutual Respect and Understanding, I would like to make an interpretative statement in accordance with paragraph 79, Chapter 6, of the Final Recommendations of the Helsinki Consultations.

By the adoption of this Decision, the Ministerial Council sends a strong political message on the role of the OSCE in promoting tolerance and non-discrimination, both to the OSCE community and to the wider international audience. It is particularly important in view of recent manifestations of discrimination and prejudice against Muslim communities that we have been witnessing in participating States. We must not remain indifferent to these violent incidents, as they have devastating effects not only on the societies where Muslims live, but also on the credibility of this Organization, which preaches respect for human rights in the vast area from Vancouver to Vladivostok.

There are nine OSCE participating States and seven OSCE Partners for Co-operation which are also members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC). Azerbaijan, in its capacity as incoming Chair of the OIC Conference of Foreign Ministers, aware of the great privilege and responsibility that that entails, attempted to restore the balance in the OSCE approach to the issues of tolerance and non-discrimination in the present Decision. It is regrettable that Azerbaijan’s proposed amendment to the text, which was aimed at educating and increasing awareness regarding Islam and its true values, was not acceptable.

Acting in a spirit of compromise, the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan has agreed to join the consensus on the Decision on Tolerance and Non-Discrimination: Promoting Mutual Respect and Understanding. However, we wish to express our firm determination to ensure that the OSCE approach to the issues of religious and cultural diversity, which are among the key prerequisites for promoting respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms, recognizes the reality and the seriousness of Azerbaijan’s concerns.

We believe that the best remedy to prejudice, discrimination and intolerance against Muslims is to develop and implement sound strategies and educational approaches, supported by adequate resources. In this regard, we count on the support of the incoming Chairman-in-Office and hope for co-operation with the participating States, the ODIHR and the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office on Combating Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims.

I request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.”