



## PERMANENT DELEGATION OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE

### STATEMENT BY NORWAY

As delivered by Ambassador Robert Kvile

to the 2013 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, Warsaw 4 October, 2013. Closing  
Session

Thank you, Mr Chairman,

The numerous working sessions during the past two weeks have provided valuable insights into the challenges faced by all our countries. Testimonies from the NGOs are among the most important contributions. Through their experience and observations they provide concrete assessments of how we live up to our commitments. Many have shown great personal courage in coming here to share their views with us. My delegation would like to express our gratitude to them for their participation. Our gratitude also goes to all those delegations and NGOs that have organised very useful side events.

Mr Chairman,

HDIM provides an important forum for dialogue between civil society and governments. In fact, for some NGOs it is easier to speak to their own government representatives here in Warsaw than in their home countries. However, a meaningful dialogue needs two parties. My delegation is disappointed by some participating states' lack of willingness to respond when their implementation of commitments is questioned. No state is perfect and we should all take criticism seriously. If we disagree with it, we must explain why.

Mr Chairman,

All the topics on our agenda relate to our commitments and are therefore important to discuss. Still, it is obvious that some agenda items have attracted more attention than others. We have experienced working sessions where speakers who have travelled from far away are allotted 90 seconds of speaking time. Other sessions have been completed ahead of time. This gives us a very clear message. Some issues need to be given more time.

Mr Chairman,

Any discussion of reform of HDIM must aim at improving HDIM as an arena for dialogue between governments and civil society. We must be willing to spend enough time on the issues that give most cause for concern.

Mr Chairman,

Many delegations have referred to guidelines and advice from ODIHR and have told us how this guidance has helped their authorities in their reforms. Several delegations have also expressed their gratitude to the High Commissioner on National Minorities and the Representative on Freedom of the Media as well as to OSCE field missions. We note that the institutions and field missions are considered valuable, relevant and concrete in their work. We must bear this in mind when we discuss the budget in Vienna. Kind words of thanks are not enough. We must provide the resources our institutions and missions need to keep up their efforts.

Mr Chairman,

HDIM has provided useful input for our preparations for the Kiev Ministerial Meeting. I want to emphasize the discussions on freedom of the media, where many delegations echoed Dunja Mijatović when she highlighted the importance of freedom online as well as offline.

Mr Chairman,

I would like to thank the incoming Swiss chairmanship for presenting their priorities for the human dimension here at HDIM. We note with satisfaction their intention of involving civil society more closely in our work. We look forward to working with them and other participating states in implementing these priorities.

Finally, I would like to thank Poland as host government, the chairmanship and ODIHR for excellent preparation and organisation of the meeting.

Thank you, Mr Chairman