



*the MAX VAN DER STOEL award*  
2022

*Programme*



Ministry of Foreign Affairs



# *Contents*

Invitation .....	4
Programme .....	5
Max van der Stoel .....	7
Max van der Stoel Award .....	8
Max van der Stoel Award Winners since 2003 .....	9
Foreword (High Commissioner on National Minorities) .....	14
Foreword (Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands) .....	17
Official justification of the Jury .....	18
Members of the Jury .....	20
Rules of Procedure for the Max van der Stoel Award .....	23





# The Max van der Stoel Award 2022

In 2001, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands established an award honouring the first High Commissioner on National Minorities of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE HCNM), the late Mr. Max van der Stoel.

The prize is sponsored by the Dutch Government and awarded biennially to a person or institution in recognition of their extraordinary and outstanding achievements aimed at improving the position of national minorities in the OSCE area.

This year the prize will be awarded to

**The Social Justice Center from Georgia**

**24 November 2022**

Academy Hall of the Peace Palace



Ministry of Foreign Affairs



## *Programme*

**15:30**

**Registration**

**16:00**

**The Max van der Stoel Award 2022 Ceremony**

*Music to open the ceremony*

Welcome Speech by His Excellency Kairat Abdrakhmanov  
OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities and  
Chair of the Max van der Stoel Award 2022 Jury

Statement on behalf of the Jury  
by His Excellency Kairat Abdrakhmanov  
OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities and  
Chair of the Max van der Stoel Award 2022 Jury

Presentation Speech by His Excellency Wopke Hoekstra  
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands

Short Film about the Laureate

Congratulatory Remarks by His Excellency David Solomonia,  
Ambassador of Georgia to the Netherlands

Acceptance Speech on behalf of the Laureate  
Tamta Mikeladze, Director of Equality Policy Programme,  
and Kamran Mammadli, Researcher,  
The Social Justice Center

*Music to close the ceremony*

**17:30 - 19:00**

**Reception**



*Max van der Stoep, first OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, 1992–2001*

## *Max van der Stoel*

Max van der Stoel was appointed as the first High Commissioner on National Minorities of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE HCNM) in 1992. He served an unprecedented eight and a half years in this post. Born in 1924, Van der Stoel is a senior statesman who had a long and distinguished career. As well as being twice Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands (1973–1977 and 1981–1982), he held seats in both the upper and lower houses of the Dutch Parliament. He was also a member of the European Parliament (1971–1973) and the North Atlantic Assembly (1968–1973, 1978–1981) as well as the Council of Europe Consultative Assembly and the Western European Union Assembly between 1967 and 1972. Between 1983 and 1986 he served as Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations and in 1991, he was awarded the honorary title of Minister of State by Her Majesty Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands for his exceptional accomplishments. The following year he was appointed by the UN Commission on Human Rights as Special Rapporteur on Iraq.

Van der Stoel became familiar with the work of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE, later OSCE) in his roles as Foreign Minister during the Helsinki consultations from 1973 to 1975, as Chairman of the Netherlands Helsinki Committee for several years and as head of the Netherlands delegation during the CSCE conferences on the human dimension in Paris, Copenhagen and Moscow. After several renewals of his mandate as OSCE HCNM, he was succeeded, in July 2001, by the Swedish diplomat, Mr. Rolf Ekéus.

In 1999 Van der Stoel was awarded the Order of the Golden Lion of Nassau; the first citizen of the Netherlands to receive the award since 1919. Several honorary doctorates have also been awarded to him, including the Cleveringa Chair at Leiden University. The Max van der Stoel Human Rights Award at the University of Tilburg is named in his honour.

## *Max van der Stoel Award*

Established in 2001 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, the Max van der Stoel Award honours Max van der Stoel, the first OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities. Since 2003, the biennial<sup>1</sup> prize of €50,000 has been presented to 10 recipients for their extraordinary and outstanding achievements in improving the position of national minorities in the OSCE participating States. To mark this milestone, we remember the winners here.



### *Award Winners*

- 2022 Social Justice Center, Georgia
- 2020 Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre, Ireland
- 2018 High-school students from the municipality of Jajce, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- 2016 The Association for Historical Dialogue and Research (AHDR), Cyprus
- 2014 Spravedlivost, Jalal-Abad, Kyrgyzstan
- 2011 Nansen Dialogue Centre Skopje
- 2009 Integration and Development Center for Information and Research, Crimea, Ukraine
- 2007 European Roma Rights Centre, Budapest, Hungary
- 2005 “Memorial” International Historical Enlightenment, Human Rights and Humanitarian Society
- 2003 Latvian Centre for Human Rights and Ethnic Studies, Riga, Latvia.

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<sup>1</sup> The 2013 Award was postponed to 2014 to avoid overlapping with the change in HCNM. The 2020 Award ceremony was postponed to 2021 because of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on all in-person events in 2020.



# *Max van der Stoel Award*

## *Winners since 2003*

### *2003 - The Latvian Centre for Human Rights and Ethnic Studies*

The **Latvian Centre for Human Rights and Ethnic Studies** won the first Max van der Stoel Award in 2003. It provides research and commentary on citizenship, minority-language broadcasting, minority participation in public life and the application of international minority-related standards in Latvia. Learn more at: <https://cilvektiesibas.org.lv/en>



*L-R: OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities Rolf Ekéus, Max van der Stoel and Ilze Brands-Kehris, Director of the Latvian Centre for Human Rights and Ethnic Studies, during the ceremony for the first Max van der Stoel Award, in the Ridderzaal, The Hague, 1 October 2003.*

### *2005 - “Memorial” International Historical Enlightenment, Human Rights and Humanitarian Society*

**“Memorial” International Historical Enlightenment, Human Rights and Humanitarian Society** from the Russian Federation won the second Max van der Stoel Award in 2005. Memorial collected and disseminated information about ethnic discrimination in large parts of the OSCE area. Memorial was liquidated in February 2022. Learn more at: <https://www.memo.ru/en-us/>



*L-R: OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities Rolf Ekéus; Elena Zhemkova, founding member of “Memorial” International Historical Enlightenment, Human Rights and Humanitarian Society; Max van der Stoel; Oleg Orlov, founding member of “Memorial”; and Bernard Bot, Foreign Minister of the Netherlands, during the presentation of the second Max van der Stoel Award, in Het Spaansche Hof, The Hague, 12 October 2005.*

## 2007 - The European Roma Rights Centre

The **European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC)** from Hungary won the third Max van der Stoel Award in 2007. The ERRC has lobbied on behalf of Roma at international forums, defended Roma rights in landmark legal cases, called for an end to segregation of Roma in schools, sought justice for Roma victims of hate crime and coercive sterilization, campaigned for adequate housing and advocated for Romani women's rights. Learn more at: [www.errc.org](http://www.errc.org).



*L-R: OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities Knut Vollebæk; Dzavit Berisha, European Roma Rights Centre; Maxime Verhagen, Foreign Minister of the Netherlands; Vera Egenberger, Executive Director, European Roma Rights Centre; Max van der Stoel; and Rolf Ekéus, at the third Max van der Stoel Award, in Het Spaansche Hof, The Hague, 16 October 2007.*

## 2009 - Integration and Development Centre for Information and Research

The **Integration and Development Centre for Information and Research** from Ukraine won the fourth Max van der Stoel Award in 2009. This non-governmental organization trains government officials and members of the police service in diversity management, monitors the press for hate speech, assists formerly deported peoples and engages in conflict prevention at the local level. Together with the Renaissance Foundation, it introduced a discretionary course entitled “Culture of Good Neighbourhood” in Crimean schools. Learn more at: <https://idcir.com.ua> [Головна - Інформаційно-дослідний центр «Інтеграція та розвиток»]



*L-R: Frans Timmermans, Foreign Minister of the Netherlands; Margarita Aradzhyan, Director, Integration and Development Centre for Information and Research; Max van der Stoel; Oleg Smirnov, Director, Integration and Development Centre for Information and Research; and OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities Knut Vollebæk during the ceremony for the fourth Max van der Stoel Award, in Het Spaansche Hof, The Hague, 14 October 2009. (Photo: © OSCE/Arnaud Roelofs)*

## 2011 - The Nansen Dialogue Centre Skopje (NDC Skopje)

The Nansen Dialogue Centre Skopje (NDC Skopje) won the fifth Max van der Stoel Award in 2011. NDC Skopje is part of the Nansen Dialogue Network, which supports intercultural and interethnic dialogue with the aim of preventing conflict, fostering reconciliation and building peace. In particular, NDC Skopje has taken up the challenging task of bringing together students, parents and teachers in an area affected by the 2001 conflict and characterized by ethnic divisions. Learn more at: <https://ndc.mk>.



*L-R: Veton Zekoli, project manager at the Nansen Dialogue Centre Skopje; OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities Knut Vollebæk; and Sasho Stojkovski, Director of the Nansen Dialogue Centre Skopje, at the fifth Max van der Stoel Award, in Het Spaansche Hof, The Hague, 24 October 2009. (Photo: © OSCE/Arnaud Roelofs)*

## 2014 - Spravedlivost

Spravedlivost, a non-governmental organization based in Jalal-Abad, Kyrgyzstan, won the sixth Max van der Stoel Award in 2014. Spravedlivost works to protect some of the most vulnerable groups, including national minorities. During the 2010 events in southern Kyrgyzstan and their aftermath, it supported the victims and provided free legal assistance to ethnic Kyrgyz and ethnic Uzbeks accused of involvement in inter-ethnic violence. Learn more at: <https://spravedlivostkg.org> [“Справедливость” - Джалал-Абадская областная правозащитная организация ].



*L-R: Foreign Minister of the Netherlands Frans Timmermans; Valentina Gritsenko, Director of human rights, Spravedlivost, Her Royal Highness Princess Beatrix of the Netherlands; Utkir Dzhabbarov, Senior Lawyer, Spravedlivost, and OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities Astrid Thors at the sixth Max van der Stoel Award, in Het Spaansche Hof, The Hague, 2 October 2014. (Photo: © OSCE/Arnaud Roelofs)*

## *2016 - The Association for Historical Dialogue and Research*

The **Association for Historical Dialogue and Research (AHDR)**, a Cyprus-based non-governmental organization, won the seventh Max van der Stoel Award in 2016. AHDR works to advance historical understanding in Cyprus among the public and educators, regardless of ethnic, religious, cultural or social background. It is a bi-communal organization both in terms of its focus and its staff. AHDR demonstrates sustained commitment to building a multilingual and multi-faith society that celebrates diversity and promotes mutual respect and understanding. Learn more at: <https://www.ahdr.info>.



*Foreign Minister of the Netherlands Bert Koenders (centre) presents the seventh Max van der Stoel Award to Kyriakos Pachoulides and Alev Tuğberk, Co-Presidents of the Association for Historical Dialogue and Research, at the Peace Palace, The Hague, 24 October 2016. (Photo: © OSCE/Arnaud Roelofs)*

## *2018 - The High School Students from the Municipality of Jajce in Bosnia and Herzegovina*

The **high school students from the municipality of Jajce in Bosnia and Herzegovina** were awarded the eighth Max van der Stoel Award in 2018 in recognition of their outstanding courage and inspirational activism, which led to the prevention of further segregation in schools in Jajce as well as throughout the country. The students successfully resisted the local authorities' decision to establish a new ethnically segregated school in the municipality in 2016. Learn more at: <https://youtu.be/Sn7eIwOvTqs>.



*L-R: The high school students from the municipality of Jajce in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Tarik Šehić, Ajla Vrebac, Azra Keljalić and Nikolas Rimac, receive the eighth Max van der Stoel Award, at the Peace Palace, The Hague, 9 November 2018. (Photo: © OSCE/Arnaud Roelofs)*

## 2020 - Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre

The **Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre** from Ireland won the ninth Max van der Stoel Award in 2020 for its efforts to strengthen the integration of Ireland's society by advocating for and protecting the rights of the Traveller and Roma communities. Pavee Point advocates for participation, social justice and equality at the regional, national and international levels. It supports the integration of Ireland's diverse society through education and healthcare initiatives, and works to combat violence against women and support participation in programmes that bridge economic and societal inequalities. Pavee Point successfully lobbied the Republic of Ireland to extend official legal recognition for the Traveller community as a minority ethnic group in March 2017.



*Anastasia Crickley and Martin Collins, Chairperson and Co-Director respectively of Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre, receive the ninth Max van der Stoel Award from the Foreign Minister of the Netherlands Ben Knapen, at the Peace Palace, The Hague, 19 November 2021. (Photo: © OSCE/Arnaud Roelofs)*

## 2022 - Social Justice Center

The **Social Justice Center (SJC)** from Georgia won the 10th Max van der Stoel Award in 2022 for its work to support and empower vulnerable groups, including national minorities, in Georgia. SJC gives a voice to minority ethnic and religious groups, and supports their interests, with an emphasis on youth and women. It advances equality, solidarity, participation and democracy at the political, economic and social levels through targeted programmes and by supporting community organizations and campaigns to promote the interests of national minorities.



*The Social Justice Center: supporting community action for change. (Photo: © Social Justice Center)*



# *Foreword*

## *by Kairat Abdrakhmanov*

*High Commissioner on National Minorities*

*Chairperson of the Max van der Stoel Award Jury*

This year the esteemed international Jury of the Max van der Stoel Award was unanimous in its decision to present the 2022 award to the Social Justice Center, which has been dedicated to serving national minority communities in Georgia, a country known for its ethnically and religiously diverse society.

The Social Justice Center, from the time of its inception in 2012, has been dedicated to tackling inequalities within their society through their grassroots level activism. Today, the Social Justice Center, or 'SJC', is at the forefront of efforts to increase economic, social and political opportunities for the people of Georgia, including national minorities. They address inequality by actively engaging in advocacy and consultations with the authorities and providing their recommendations on policies that affect local communities. The SJC is committed to equality, solidarity, participation and democracy at the political, economic and social levels through a variety of programmes, including: the Social Policy Programme, the Equality Policy Programme and the Justice and Democracy Programme. Their work has resulted in the emergence of community organizations and campaigns to promote the interests of national minorities and has given rise to youth activism and youth movements. The SJC has been focusing on increasing opportunities for all communities, regardless of their background, to enhance their economic, social and political participation.

Civil society organizations reflect the conscience of our society and their ability to work freely and engage with governments openly is an indication of a free, democratic and just society. Therefore, the presence of an active civil society in Georgia is a sign of a strong government that is not only striving to encourage and empower its people for action, but is also genuinely attuned to serve the needs of its people by working for them and with them.

Importantly, the SJC has been equally committed to gender equality and women have always been an integral part of the organization's executive and operational structure. Considering that, more often than not, minority women

are marginalized and excluded from participating in public life, it is encouraging to see how the SJC works closely with women from minority groups and helps them to find their voice. Through this, the SJC has demonstrated its commitment to gender equality.

The SJC has always been proactive in Georgia in places that are densely populated by ethnic minorities. It has been instrumental in not only shining a light on the challenges of local communities, but also helping them to find viable solutions. The organization actively advocates for, and seeks to resolve issues of concern for ethnic and religious minorities by acting as a mediator between the communities and the authorities. These consultations have resulted in an enhanced collaboration agenda between the Government and representatives of ethnic and religious minorities. Their work has given rise to youth movements and youth-based activism, which is an impressive achievement that cannot be overstated.

The SJC also advocates for increasing the representation of ethnic minorities in political life and encourages people from ethnic minorities to engage in public life. In this way, by increasing social, economic and educational opportunities for national minority communities, the SJC has managed to place their issues at the heart of the political discourse in Georgia.

Last year, in 2021, the Government of Georgia adopted a ten-year (2021-2030) State Strategy for Civic Equality and Integration. The SJC contributed to this strategy and provided their critical feedback and recommendations. This offered an opportunity for the Government and the public sector to engage in an open and constructive dialogue with civil society and local communities, which is paramount to the sound functioning of a democratic, just and accountable State and society.

Therefore, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Social Justice Center for their well-deserved recognition and reward. May their remarkable journey continue to serve as an inspiration and motivation for all civil society organizations working to increase opportunities for all, including national minorities. I hope that the ongoing dialogue between the Government of Georgia and civil society in the country will continue to inform and shape policies that will benefit national minority communities and Georgia's society at large.



*Max van der Stoep, first OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, 1992-2001  
(Photo: Andy Burr ridge)*



# *Foreword*

## *by Wopke Hoekstra*

*Minister of Foreign Affairs  
of the Kingdom of the Netherlands*

Human rights apply everywhere, at all times, to everyone. But too often there is a gap between the abstract ideal and the practical realisation. Everyone has rights, but no one can enjoy them unless they are upheld and enforced within a political community. Hannah Arendt famously called this gap between the ideal and reality the ‘right to have rights’.

Civil society is an essential bridge between abstract ideals and political realities. We need NGOs to advocate for social change and minority rights, to advance public debate, and to spur governments to action. The existence of a free and lively civil society is therefore often a clear sign of a healthy democracy.

The Max van der Stoel Award is named after one of my predecessors, who first put human rights front and centre in Dutch foreign policy. With this award we remember his efforts for civil society organisations behind the Iron Curtain, his unfailing commitment to human dignity, and his trailblazing efforts as the first OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities. Every two years the Max van der Stoel Award is presented to organisations, groups or individuals who have made an extraordinary contribution to improving the position of national minorities.

This year the jury selected the Georgian organisation Social Justice Center as its well-deserved winner. Since 2012 the Social Justice Center has dedicated itself to tackling social inequalities, including the position of national minorities. The organisation strives for better economic, social and political opportunities for everyone in Georgia, regardless of background.

NGOs like the Social Justice Center play a vital role in helping to make human rights a reality for all. The Netherlands strongly advocates for human rights around the world. We have upheld this commitment since the days of Max van der Stoel, and we will continue to do so. We are proud to support organisations that share our belief in human rights and which work tirelessly to make them a reality. I would like to congratulate the Social Justice Center on winning this award, and hope that it will assist them in continuing their excellent work.

# *Official justification of the International Jury of the Max van der Stoel Award*

## *The grounds on which the 2022 Award was made to the Social Justice Center (SJC) from Georgia*

The Jury of the Max van der Stoel Award has decided to honour the Social Justice Center from Georgia with the 2022 Max van der Stoel Award in recognition of its work to support and empower vulnerable groups, including national minorities, in Georgia.

Since its foundation in 2012, the Social Justice Center (formerly Human Rights Education and Monitoring Centre) has worked towards long-term political and socio-economic transformation in Georgia, thereby putting the principles of human rights, equality and solidarity into practice. The Social Justice Center gives a voice to minority ethnic and religious groups, and supports their interests, with an emphasis on youth and women.

This non-governmental organization advances equality, solidarity, participation and democracy at the political, economic and social levels through programmes such as the Social Policy Programme, the Equality Policy Programme and the Justice and Democracy Programme. This has resulted in community organizations and campaigns to promote the interests of national minorities.

The Social Justice Center stands for human, including minority, rights. It strives to secure fundamental rights and freedoms for all, including national minorities, by advancing their legal status and protection. It campaigns for anti-discrimination policies, women's rights and access to justice. It aims to give space to minority voices and empowers ethnic minority groups and activists, such as those working through the Salam platform. It conducts research-based advocacy campaigns on minority issues and provides legal support to people from ethnic and religious minorities.

The Social Justice Center stands for participation. It works to influence the political agenda by co-operating closely with policymakers and minority communities. By doing so, it aims to trigger social and political advances in society through the democratic process in Georgia.

The Social Justice Center stands for the socio-economic inclusion of the most vulnerable people in society. The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed how persistent societal inequalities have left many vulnerable communities in an even more,

precarious situation. The Social Justice Center has been advocating to reduce the negative impacts of the pandemic on the social, economic and cultural rights of minority communities in Georgia.

Acknowledging its activism and courage as it tirelessly advocates for equality for all social groups in Georgia, the Jury took the unanimous decision to reward the Social Justice Center with the 2022 Max van der Stoep Award.



## Max van der Stoel Award 2022 Jury



### **Kairat Abdrakhmanov**

Ambassador Kairat Abdrakhmanov of Kazakhstan was appointed OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities on 4 December 2020. He joined the Kazakhstan Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1993 and held a number of key positions, including Foreign Minister and Deputy Foreign Minister. From 2013 to 2016, he was Kazakhstan's Permanent Representative to the UN and led Kazakhstan's bid to become the first Central Asian State elected as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council. He represented his country as Foreign Minister on the UN Security Council between 2017 and 2018. From 2007 to 2013, he was Kazakhstan's Permanent Representative to the OSCE and Chaired the OSCE Permanent Council in 2010. The Kazakhstan chair was instrumental in organizing the first OSCE Summit in 11 years in December 2010, during which *The Astana Commemorative Declaration: Towards a Security Community* was adopted. He was also Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Sweden, Denmark, Austria, and Israel.

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### **Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark**

Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark is Jur. Dr., Associate Professor of International Law, Director of the Åland Islands Peace Institute, and a member of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission for Tornedalen in Sweden.

Dr. Spiliopoulou Åkermark focuses on pluralism, minorities, territorial autonomy and the use of force and has served as a member and president of the Advisory Committee on *The Framework Convention on National Minorities* of the Council of Europe and on the advisory board of many institutions. Her works include: *Justifications of Minority Protection in International Law* (1997); *Towards Openly Multilingual Policies and Practices Assessing Minority Language Maintenance Across Europe* (co-authored, 2016); and *Demilitarisation and International Law in Context* (co-authored 2018).

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Photo: © Theresa Axén  
/ The Åland Islands  
Peace Institute



### **Irene Käosaar**

Irene Käosaar is Director of Narva Estonian High School, a spokesperson on integration and education for the Ministry of Education and Research, and Estonia's representative to the EU Directors General for Education.

Before joining Narva Estonian High School, Irene Käosaar was Director of the Estonian Integration Foundation where she managed and co-ordinated activities stemming from the Government's Estonian Integration Plan 2021-2035. Between 2007-2017, Irene Käosaar held two consecutive positions at the Ministry of Education and Research: Head of the General Education Department (2009-2017) and Head of the Minorities Department (2007-2009). As Head of the Estonian Language Immersion Centre, Non-Estonians Integration Foundation (2004-2007), Irene Käosaar also successfully implemented the early- and late-stage language immersion programme in schools and kindergartens: today, language immersion is an inseparable part of Estonia's education system. In 2014, Irene Käosaar received the Gold Cross of the Estonian Academy of Security Sciences for her contribution to national security.

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### **Petra Roter**

Dr. (Cantab.) Petra Roter is Professor of International Relations at the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia, and senior researcher at the Centre of International Relations at the Faculty of Social Sciences

Petra Roter is a national director of the European Master programme in Human Rights and Democratisation (Venice); an academic co-ordinator of the MA in International Relations (Ljubljana); and a member of the Scientific Board of the EURAC Institute for Minority Rights. She was the President of the Advisory Committee of *The Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities* and has been elected as an independent expert to serve on the Advisory Committee for the second term.

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### **Giorgi Sordia**

Dr. Giorgi Sordia is a Professor at the University of Georgia (UG) and Executive Director at the Centre for the Studies of Ethnicity and Multiculturalism (CSEM).

Dr. Sordia researches nationalism, ethnicity, minority governance and inter-ethnic relations and has extensive experience in designing and implementing action-oriented projects targeting the development of civil integration and minority governance in Georgia. For several years, he has also been a Programme Manager at the European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI). Dr. Sordia has vast practical experience in the field of diversity management and a solid academic background, with research fellowships at the Davis Center of Harvard University; the University of California, Berkeley; the University of Fribourg; Switzerland and Ankara University. He is well published in Georgian and international journals.

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### **Lamberto Zannier**

Ambassador Lamberto Zannier is a High-Level Expert at the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and has held this post since September 2020.

Lamberto Zannier served as the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities from July 2017 until July 2020. Previously, he was OSCE Secretary General for two consecutive three-year terms, from 1 July 2011 until 30 June 2017. Other senior positions include UN Special Representative for Kosovo and Head of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) from 2008 to 2011, Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre of the OSCE (2002-2006), Chairperson of the negotiations on the adaptation of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (1998-1999) and Head of Disarmament, Arms Control and Cooperative Security at NATO (1991-1997). Zannier joined the Italian Foreign Ministry as a career diplomat in 1978 and served in Rome, Abu Dhabi, Vienna and The Hague. He has authored several publications on conflict prevention and crisis management and holds a Law degree and an honorary degree in International and Diplomatic Sciences from the University of Trieste, Italy.

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# *Rules of Procedure*

## *Max van der Stoel Award*

### **1. GENERAL**

- 1.1 The Max van der Stoel Award will be presented in recognition of extraordinary and outstanding achievements aimed at improving the position of national minorities in the OSCE area. It will be awarded to international organizations, non-governmental organizations, research institutes, government bodies or individuals with a record of excellence in this field.
- 1.2 The Award shall be presented every two years.
- 1.3 The Award shall consist of a cash sum of €50,000 and a certificate.
- 1.4 Award winners must indicate in advance how they wish to receive the cash award.
- 1.5 Award winners may spend the cash award as they deem appropriate. No restrictions may be imposed in this respect.

### **2. MANAGEMENT**

The management of the Award will be executed by the office of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities (OSCE HCNM) in The Hague.

### **3. THE JURY**

- 3.1 The HCNM will be responsible for the constitution of the Jury.
- 3.2 Members of the Jury shall be appointed for a maximum period of three terms leading to the presentation of the Award. When selecting candidates for the Jury, preference shall be given to persons with an international reputation for their work on behalf of national minorities and European security policy in relation to national minorities.
- 3.3 If a member of the Jury has a hierarchical or comparable relationship with a prospective Award winner (e.g. is on the board or the supervisory council of a legal entity or is a relative or partner of a natural person), the Jury member in question shall not take part in compiling the list of five nominees for the Award. If, at the deadline for nomination, a relationship of this kind exists between more than two members of the Jury and prospective Award winners, the Jury shall be dissolved for one year. A new Jury shall be appointed for a period of eight months, consisting of the uncontested members of the previous Juries and the reserve members next in line on the reserve list, subject to the rules set out above concerning hierarchical or comparable relationships.
- 3.4 The Jury shall formulate, in writing, the grounds on which the Award is given.

#### **4. NOMINATIONS**

- 4.1 Nominations for Award winners shall be submitted to the Jury by:
- a) the OSCE Missions and Institutions;
  - b) the OSCE Participating States through their Permanent Representations with the OSCE in Vienna; and
  - c) the OSCE HCNM in The Hague.
- 4.2 The Award may not be shared.

#### **5. AWARD CEREMONY**

- 5.1 The Award shall be presented by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the HCNM. The Minister shall incorporate in his speech the grounds for the Award, as formulated by the Jury.
- 5.2 Two representatives of the winning organization, or, if the winner is a natural person, the winner and one other person, shall be entitled to travelling expenses to The Hague and hotel accommodation for three nights, and shall receive the equivalent of the UN daily subsistence allowance (DSA). An extra allowance shall be granted if hotel bed and breakfast rates exceed 50 per cent of the UN DSA rate.
- 5.3 In consultation with the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the HCNM shall produce the certificate and a book for all guests present on those occasions.

#### **6. ACCOUNTABILITY**

The HCNM shall submit biennial reports to the Security and Defence Policy Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for approval by the Ministry's Financial and Economic Affairs Department. Both the Ministry's internal and external accountants shall be authorized to inspect and comment on the reports.