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## OSCE Conference on Racism, Xenophobia, and Discrimination

### The Role of Governments and Civil Society in Promoting Tolerance

- Anti-discrimination policies have to consist of concrete measurements in order to send binding signals to the society. Declarations without serious commitment diminish the political importance of the issue
- Tackling human rights violations requires a special infrastructure: well trained staff, easy access and at the same time a widely recognized institutional status in order to be accepted as a monitoring body and negotiator
- Acts of discrimination, intolerance and xenophobia occur on the local level where they have to be dealt with. Without a legal framework and a legal mechanism measures remain patchwork however.
- To invest in long term integration programmes – such as education, community mediation, inter-faith dialogue, job creation - is far more effective than investing in short term actions against racism
- Action programmes can be successful, if they are focused on sensitive areas where discriminatory practices are likely to happen such as housing, work place, policing
- Governmental bodies and NGOs can only gain from working together as allies instead of perceiving each other as rivals