

# 17<sup>th</sup> HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING

Warsaw, 4 October 2013



## Closing remarks by Ambassador Janez Lenarčič

Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

Check against delivery!

Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

After very interesting and intensive two weeks of exchange of views, I have the honour to welcome you for the last time in this forum as the ODIHR Director.

As it was already mentioned this year we mark 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first gathering here in Warsaw to focus on the implementation of these commitments by OSCE participating States.

Also this year, as we did in the past, we had during the meeting witnessed extensive review and heard a number of recommendations. We will not go into reporting on separate working sessions as we will provide the delegations with these reports in hard copy (distributed in pigeon holes). They are also posted on our webpage and they will be additionally sent to the delegations electronically after the closing session.

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If you allow me I would hence provide you with some features of 17<sup>th</sup> Human Dimension Implementation Meeting. To provide you with some statistical information: this meeting gathered 1129 representatives from governments, NGOs and civil society activists from 57 participating States. I am particularly glad that this is still the unique forum where representatives from governmental and non-governmental sector seat at the same table and speak on equal terms. To highlight this let me draw

you attention to the fact that more than half, 609 participants were representatives from NGOs.

During this year's HDIM the most popular session was working session 2 on Tolerance and Non-Discrimination I, which included topics like hate crimes, racism, xenophobia, discrimination against Christians and members of other religions, anti-Semitism, and intolerance against Muslims with 94 interventions, including 12 replies (in three hours), and only 90 seconds available for each statement. As you may remember, the same session was also the most popular last year with the same time limit. The other popular sessions were: on freedom of religion or belief, freedom of the media, national minorities and gender equality.

On the margins of HDIM there was a number of side events and I am again pleased that this year we had (another record set with) 66.

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This year has again proven the relevance of this conference (meeting); through high level attendance, already mentioned record number of side events, active participation of governmental and non-governmental representatives, as well as civil society organizations in discussions in all working sessions.

In my view all this just reaffirmed and confirmed the great interest in human dimension and review of implementation of OSCE commitments in this area. I believe that this should be taken fully into consideration when participating States discuss ways and means to make this meeting

(and other human dimension events) more effective, and more attractive.

The full report about HDIM will be presented to participating States on 7 November at Permanent Council in Vienna. Today I want to stress that there is an ongoing issue as regards HDIM and this is “too little time for interventions” at some working sessions. If I may suggest one way to fix this problem, or improve this for the future, I would propose that participating States consider increasing the time available for these issues by designating special days for such topics in future HDIMs.

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Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me conclude by thanking host country Poland, the Ukrainian OSCE Chairmanship, delegations of participating States and Partner for Co-operation, non-governmental representatives, colleagues from the OSCE institutions and field operations as well as other international organizations for attending this meeting and for their contributions.

I would like to particularly thank our keynote speaker Stavros Lambrinidis for his inspiring address (with 13 principles), all the introducers and moderators, as well as rapporteurs. Finally, my appreciation goes to the interpreters and ODIHR Team for the work they have invested to make this meeting a success.

Thank you for your attention.