



Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting

DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS AND ELECTION OBSERVATION

**12-13 July 2012
Hofburg, Vienna**

General Guidelines

The modalities of the meeting are set out in accordance with the decision of the Permanent Council (PC.DEC/476, 23 May 2002)

1. Aim of the Meeting

This Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting (SHDM) will provide a platform to discuss best practices in follow-up and implementation of the OSCE commitments on democratic elections and explore strategies and key issues in election observation. The SHDM will also address such election-related matters as universal and equal suffrage rights, legal framework, media, campaign financing, and gender.

The meeting will address the topic through the following three sessions:

- Democratic elections in context of OSCE election-related commitments and their implementation;
- Election observation and the electoral cycle: before, during and after election day;
- Follow-up to OSCE/ODIHR mission report recommendations and engagement with participating States.

Recommendations may be addressed to participating States, OSCE at large, OSCE institutions, including the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, OSCE field operations, other inter-governmental or non-governmental organizations, as well as civil society actors in OSCE participating States.

2. Participation

Representatives of OSCE participating States, OSCE Institutions, and OSCE field operations, representatives of international governmental organizations, representatives of non-governmental organizations, and other civil society actors will participate in the Meeting. The Partners for Co-

operation are invited to attend and contribute with respect to their co-operation and links with the OSCE in the field.

3. Guidelines for the Debates

The intention is to develop a free-flowing discussion based on the keynote speeches, introductory remarks, background information and written statements circulated in advance or during the Meeting. To this end, formal interventions in the form of prepared statements are not envisaged in the course of the Meeting and are discouraged. Prepared statements, background documentation, comments or written materials may be submitted in advance for circulation by the Documents Distribution Centre.

4. Organization

On-line registration for all participants is available at <http://meetings.odihr.pl>. Participants wishing to attend are requested to register by **Wednesday, 27 June 2012**. Registered participants will be able to collect their badges as of Thursday, 12 July 2012, from 9.00 in the Hofburg Congress Centre, in the main entrance hall. Registration during the Meeting is available at the same location.

In case of any questions, please contact:

Substantive content issues: Ms. Nicola Schmidt, at Nicola.Schmidt@odihr.pl or +48 22 52 00 672.

Organizational matters: Ms. Saida Manieva at email Saida.Manieva@odihr.pl or at tel.: +48 22 52 00 657.

Registration: Ms. Anna Sierant at email Anna.Sierant@odihr.pl or at tel.: +48 22 52 00 627.

Side events organization: Mr. Ireneusz Stepinski at email Ireneusz.Stepinski@odihr.pl or at tel: +48 22 52 00 658.

5. Other

Side events may be held over the course of two days. Additional information on the content and objectives of any side event, as well as timing and duration will be made available shortly on the Meeting website.