

SCHEDULE OF SIDE EVENT

on the margins of the

HUMAN DIMENSION SEMINAR

Media Freedom Legal Framework

Warsaw, 13 – 15 May 2013

The Helsinki Document of 1992 (Chapter IV) called for increasing the openness of CSCE activities and expanding the role of NGOs. In particular, in paragraph (15) of Chapter IV the participating States decided to facilitate during CSCE meetings informal discussion meetings between representatives of participating States and of NGOs, and to provide encouragement to NGOs organizing seminars on CSCE-related issues. In line with this decision, NGOs, governments, and other participants are encouraged to organize side meetings on relevant issues of their choice.

Tuesday, 14 May

Women's Power Lunch: *Reflecting or Distorting Reality? – The Impact of the Media on Women's Political Participation*

Convenor: ODIHR Democratic Governance and Gender Unit

Time: 13.15 – 14.45

Venue: Meeting Room 1

Languages: English, Russian

Summary: Equal enjoyment of the right to freedom of expression is crucial for a democratic society and women's meaningful political participation. Yet according to the latest 2010 Global Media Monitoring Project results, "only 24 per cent of the people heard or read about in print, radio and television news are female". In the 'mirror of the world' depicted by the news media, women continue to struggle to have their voices heard in politics and to receive adequate media coverage. Furthermore, women regularly confront gender biases and stereotyping in the media, which negatively affects their political and electoral successes, and their overall full and equal representation in public life.

ODIHR will organize a Women's Power Lunch, entitled *Reflecting or Distorting Reality? – The Impact of the Media on Women's Political Participation*, in order to discuss these issues in greater detail. The event will provide a platform for an informal discussion on the impact of the media in promoting women's political participation, focusing particularly on the issue of women's access to the media and the media treatment of women.

Refreshments will be served