

**IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE HUMAN DIMENSION COMMITMENTS**

**Statement by Ambassador Przemysław Grudziński, Poland
at Session 5**

**“Measures to improve implementation of the human dimension commitments”
of the Copenhagen Anniversary Conference**

**“20 Years of the OSCE Copenhagen Document: Status and Future Perspectives”
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Mr. Chairperson, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all let me add my voice to those congratulating the Chairman in Office and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Denmark for organizing this comprehensive conference on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Copenhagen Document. The importance of this document, which marked the fundamental political changes in Europe and paved the way for further development and consolidation of the OSCE human dimension commitments, simply cannot be overestimated.

20 years after the adoption of the Copenhagen Document we are confronted with the problem how to improve implementation of human dimension commitments. It is true that in recent years the process of regular and thorough review of the implementation of commitments undertaken by the OSCE participating States lost its dynamism, discussions became increasingly more politicized and the sense of common direction, responsibility and accountability started to be less visible.

The major problem – in our opinion – is that while shortcomings in the implementation of commitments are identified in the review process, effective remedial actions may not be taken due to the lack of substantial follow-up. We advocate for improvements in this respect. Necessary changes to the present mode of reviewing human dimension commitments have to be introduced in a way that the existing frameworks and instruments are complemented and strengthened. In particular, the strengthened review should build on and provide a follow-up to the activities in the context of the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM). Furthermore, any possible changes should not lead to the weakening of the role played by civil society in the human dimension events, including the review of the implementation of commitments.

In this context, Poland suggests to more effectively link the rather general HDIM debates with the more in-depth review of specific commitments done at the Supplementary Human Dimension Meetings (SHDMs) in Vienna. A mechanism could be identified to ensure that priority areas for the OSCE human dimension activities are identified at HDIM by both the participating States and OSCE Institutions and then referred to decision-making bodies for their decision on this topic, particularly on the focus for the review process conducted within SHDMs and the Human Dimension Committee. Such a decision could be taken by the Ministerial Council, as this would provide a stronger political backing for the review of commitments.

Poland is also convinced that the “traditional” review could be complemented with a strengthened peer review focusing on specific commitments. So far the existing peer review instruments have not been used effectively. Introducing an effective peer review mechanism would provide the participating States with better assistance in implementing their respective commitments. One of the ways to accomplish this would be to take advantage of the Human Dimension Committee’s function of reviewing the “implementation of the commitments of the participating States” in order to discuss “actions to follow up on recommendations made at the human dimension meetings”.

Poland believes that the discussions within the Human Dimension Committee could build more systematically on the results of the review process undertaken within the HDIM and SHDMs. In particular, the SHDMs findings and recommendations could be reviewed by the Committee to identify ways in which the participating States could jointly improve the level of compliance with specific OSCE commitments. Such collective efforts could be conducted in an unbiased way that would ensure impartial and equal treatment of all participating States. They should go beyond naming and shaming and focus on critical self-reflection by all the participating States with the aim of identifying measures leading to tangible improvement in implementation of commitments. Discussions might be preceded by a questionnaire that would ensure a comprehensive and standardized review of the state of implementation of specific commitments in the whole OSCE area.

I thank you for your attention.