

Human Dimension Implementation Meeting  
Opening Statement

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As delivered by

Mr. Vaheh Gevorgyan, Head of the OSCE and Conventional Arms Control Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia

Mr. Chairperson,

I would like to start by expressing my deep gratitude and appreciation to the hosts of the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, namely the Government of Poland and ODIHR. Furthermore, our thanks go to the Swiss Chairmanship for its tireless efforts to bring together all participating states to finally reach a common agenda that should be thoroughly addressed throughout our deliberations.

My delegation particularly values the opportunity of mutual monitoring on the issues related to tolerance and non-discrimination, freedom of religion, freedom of expression and protection of journalists, freedom of movement, combatting torture and other degrading treatment in the OSCE area. We are glad to note that some outcomes of our discussions will also be addressed in the framework of the Basel Ministerial Council.

In our view, these themes are an intrinsic part of comprehensive security. In paying particular attention to these fundamental freedoms, we are sending a strong message of embedding the protection of human rights into the overall European security.

While acknowledging the role of international and regional cooperation in promoting human rights, we should remember that this link is reflective. The emergence of a strong “human rights” culture will bring more cooperation in sustaining and achieving peace and reconciliation along dividing lines, a common goal we have set up in Astana.

Thus genuine attempts towards ensuring greater respect for human rights and democratization are eventually destined to be translated into the political will of resolving conflicts not only within but beyond our own societies. The culture of peace and compromise should first and foremost be shaped among decision makers themselves back at home in protecting human rights and implementing power sharing then it can be reflected in the conflict situations including within protracted conflict environment.

The alternative is bleak: further deterioration of human rights that adversely affects the regional security and makes any peace seeking efforts elusive, something that we clearly see in our region.

Conflicts should not be used as an excuse for maintaining and even worsening poor human rights record. Conflicts can and should be resolved on the basis of human rights. The existence of the

independent civil society is essential in promoting peace and reconciliation while coercive measures aimed at silencing civil society deepens mistrust and gap between peoples.

Unfortunately, we have witnessed new precedents of persecutions of members of civil society under anachronistic allegations of espionage activities in the OSCE area in the 21st century to which we should have common and clear response.

The OSCE is a cooperative platform where we can address not only OSCE commitments but our other international obligations including those related to jus cogens.

With this in mind we welcome all participants of HDIM and look forward to the meaningful dialogue.

Thank you.