



**SUPPLEMENTARY HUMAN DIMENSION MEETING
ON
FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY, ASSOCIATION AND EXPRESSION:
FOSTERING FULL AND EQUAL PARTICIPATION IN PLURALIST
SOCIETIES**

**29 - 30 March 2007
HOFBURG, VIENNA**

General Guidelines

**The modalities of this 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 seeks to address how the full implementation of the rights to freedom of association, peaceful assembly and expression can be advanced and secured in order to promote the development of an inclusive and diverse society as well as long-term security. It will identify the challenges faced by governments throughout the OSCE region in ensuring that all citizens have an equal opportunity to express their opinions and interests, either collectively or individually. It will focus on the ways to overcome obstacles to the implementation of these rights and seek to explore how in a continually evolving society, participating States can benefit from the full implementation of these rights to engage in a meaningful dialogue with civil society.

The meeting will focus on the following three areas:

- Freedom of association in the OSCE region – challenges and opportunities
- Freedom of peaceful assembly in the OSCE region – challenges and opportunities
- Freedom of expression and the role of the media in a pluralist society

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

2. Languages

Translation will be provided in the six working languages of the OSCE.

3. Participation

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

The Partners for Co-operation and the Mediterranean partners for co-operation are invited to attend and contribute with respect to their co-operation and links with the OSCE in the field.

4. Guidelines for the Debates

The intention is to develop a free-flowing discussion based on the keynote speech, 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 preferably by e-mail (elke.lidarik@osce.org) in advance for circulation by the Documents Distribution Centre

5. Organization

On-line registration for all participants is available at <http://meetings.odhr.pl>. In case of any questions, please contact Ms. Anna Sierant at Anna.Sierant@odhr.pl or at tel.: +48 22 520 06 00 (ext. 4121).

In addition, advance registration will be available on Thursday, 29 March 2007, from 10:00 till 15:00 in the Hofburg Congress Centre, Segmentgalerie. Registration during the Meeting will be available at the same place.

6. Other

Side Events may be held in the course of the 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 website of the Meeting.