



**PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

**STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO THE ADDRESS BY THE UN HIGH
COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, MS. NAVI PILLAY**

As delivered by Counsellor Hilde Austad
to the Permanent Council,
Vienna, 3 July 2014

Mr Chairman,

We warmly welcome the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to the Permanent Council. We value this possibility to hear from you, High Commissioner, before your tenure concludes, and want to take this opportunity to thank you for your outstanding work over the past six years. You have responded with integrity and courage to the most serious and complex challenges. This honest, transparent and professional approach has been greatly appreciated by Norway. We have followed the excellent work of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and will continue to support the efforts of your office.

Under your leadership, the office has greatly expanded its activities and continued its development into an operational and field based organization. It has increased its engagement in the context of crisis and transition. Human rights now also have a heightened role in the broader United Nations.

Mr Chairman,

OSCE's human dimension work is in many ways complementary to the work of the Office of the High Commissioner. Close cooperation is therefore paramount.

Norway appreciates the good cooperation that already exists, and the recent signing of an MoU between the Office and ODIHR. However, we encourage even further and broader cooperation in the future. Other parts of our organization are also working on human rights-related issues, as prevention and resolution of conflicts, media freedom, trafficking, gender equality, tolerance and non-discrimination, transnational threats and the rights of minorities, to mention a few.

Implementation of commitments and follow-up of recommendations are key issues. The UN has done important work in assisting member states with formulating national action plans on human rights, also related to follow up on the UPR process nationally. We believe such an implementation tool is of value also for OSCE participating States, with support from our institutions and field presences, and we encourage greater coordination at the national level.

Cooperation with civil society is another cornerstone for both organizations. We support the Chairmanship's efforts to draw more on the experience and knowledge of civil society.

High Commissioner,

We agree that human rights violations are among the root causes of insecurity. Through coordinated efforts we will more effectively contribute to our common goal of better implementation of human rights.

Thank you, Mr Chairman