



PERMANENT DELEGATION OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE

STATEMENT BY NORWAY

As delivered by Counsellor Hilde Austad
at the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM),
Closing Session,
Warsaw, 3 October 2014

Mr Chairman,

This Human Dimension Implementation Meeting has presented us with valuable contributions from excellent introducers. For my delegation, interventions from many of the representatives of civil society have made a great impression. This dialogue with civil society is important for us as governments. It requires a genuine will to take their concerns seriously. They experience what we sometimes do not see, how our implementation of commitments works in practice.

We appreciate information from participating States on how they have improved their legislation, often with assistance from our institutions. However, we also hear from NGOs what concrete challenges they face, including at the local level. Changing laws is not always enough. All participating States should listen to and respond to these challenges. It is disappointing to hear some participating States whose only response is to point a finger at others. True, others are not perfect either, but that is no excuse for avoiding confronting one's own problems.

Let me add we are not so impressed by representatives of organizations who clearly speak on behalf of their governments. This does not provide the credibility their governments might be hoping for.

This meeting must be an inspiration for us all to take a renewed look at the implementation of commitments we have been reminded of here.

Many participating States, as well as representatives of civil society, have expressed gratitude to our institutions for assistance. They have also put forward

recommendations for further work and strengthened efforts in many areas. Let us bear this clearly in mind when we return to Vienna to discuss the budget for next year.

Our discussions have included important topics as prevention of torture, gender equality and the role of civil society. We are ready to support the Swiss Chairmanship in taking these issues forward towards the Ministerial Council in Basel.

Mr Chairman,

HDIM has offered us a wide variety of interesting and important side events. These events are a great supplement to the meeting, and allow us to discuss issues more in depth and meet people with first-hand experience. My delegation co-organized a meeting on enforced disappearances, with France and the Netherlands. We hope that this and other side events can be building blocks for further work and generate new ideas.

Mr Chairman,

The crisis in Ukraine has obviously been reflected in many of our discussions. This crisis continues to lead to serious violations of human rights and humanitarian law. We support the efforts of the Swiss Chairmanship to use all the tools the OSCE can provide to solve the crisis.

Mr Chairman,

We wish to thank the incoming Serbian Chairmanship for presenting their priorities for the Human Dimension next year. We look forward to working closely with them and other participating States in implementing these priorities. Finally, I would like to thank the host government, the Swiss Chairmanship and ODIHR for all their efforts in organizing this meeting.

Thank you, Mr Chairman