



PERMANENT DELEGATION OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE

STATEMENT BY NORWAY

As delivered by Ambassador Robert Kvile

to the 2014 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, Warsaw 23 September, 2014

Mr Moderator,

Freedom of expression is a condition for the exercise of other human rights. Stable, democratic and prosperous societies are inconceivable without it. It may be limited only in extreme cases.

Mr Moderator,

Free media, and free journalists, are cornerstones in our democracies. Governments must therefore not hinder journalists in keeping us informed. On the contrary, governments must ensure that they can do their job. They must ensure their safety, in peacetime as in conflict. We thank the Representative on Freedom of the Media for her untiring efforts in making us aware of the attacks on journalists in many participating States, not least Ukraine. All parties in a conflict must operate within the framework of international human rights.

Mr Moderator,

It is imperative that we protect human rights online as we do offline. The right to express ones view freely, petition ones leaders, to associate freely with others and worship according to ones beliefs — these are all universal rights, and they should be protected both on and off the Internet. We should fight against repressive policies used to restrict these human rights online.

We are also concerned about mass surveillance practices which have a negative impact on human rights, namely on the right to respect for one's private life. Such practices may restrict the freedom of expression and association online. They should therefore be limited to what is strictly necessary in order to secure the rights of others.

Mr Moderator,

Norway is supporting a side event on the impact of mass surveillance on the work of journalists, lawyers, human rights defenders and others. I encourage you to come to this event, which will take place at lunchtime today.

Thank you, Mr Moderator.