



## PERMANENT DELEGATION OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE

### CLOSING STATEMENT TO THE ANNUAL HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING

As delivered by Ambassador Robert Kvile,  
Warsaw, 2 October 2015

Mr Chairman,

We are concerned by a failing commitment to the OSCE acquis. In the third dimension we are concerned by an increasing pressure on civil society, including human rights defenders, lawyers and the media. We are concerned by a lack of commitment to an open and inclusive democracy, where the role of the dissenting voice is appreciated and supported.

The HDIM is the most important OSCE venue for discussing human rights and democracy issues with the civil society. It gives them an opportunity to tell us what they see as the most pressing concerns. It gives governments an opportunity to engage with civil society – an opportunity we unfortunately have not been able to develop in Vienna.

I would like to add that we are not so impressed by representatives of organizations who at the HDIM speak on behalf of their governments.

In this context one more thing, Mr Chairman: We are convinced that greater openness towards the media would enhance the quality of our discussions.

Mr Chairman,

The many side events are an important part to the HDIM. These events represent a valuable supplement to the sessions in the plenary hall. They allow us to discuss issues more in depth and meet people with first hand experience. We have ourselves been organizers, co-organizers or sponsors to side events on a variety of issues, including on enforced disappearances and on protection of journalistic sources. Yesterday we co-organized with Latvia and Sweden a side event on the role of media in the integration of society.

Mr Chairman,

In Ukraine we have seen serious violations of fundamental commitments. This has led to a breakdown of justice and grave human rights violations, in particular in Donbass and Crimea. The reporting by our autonomous institutions on the situation in Ukraine is extremely important and should be continued.

Mr Chairman,

A strong focus on implementation is important, not least today, when some OSCE pS walk back on their commitments. But we must also continue updating the commitments we already have, and adopting additional commitments in line with new developments.

We support the Serbian Chairmanship's ambition to negotiate new commitments for Belgrade, including on prevention of torture, enhancing safety of journalists, national human rights institutions, on tolerance and non-discrimination and on fundamental freedoms in the digital age.

Mr Chairman,

Our commitments should be seen in relation to the commitments we have as members of the UN, and for 47 of us, the Council of Europe. Cooperation with these and other relevant organizations is therefore of utmost importance, and their presence at HDIM is vital.

Mr Chairman,

We wish to thank the incoming German 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 Serbian Chairmanship and not the least ODIHR for their efforts in organizing this year's HDIM.

Thank you.