



**PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

**NORWEGIAN STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO THE REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ODIHR
AMBASSADOR JANEZ LENARCIC**

As delivered by Ambassador Robert Kvile
to the Permanent Council 14th March 2013

Mr. Chairman,

I have with great interest listened to the report by Director Lenarčič and I am impressed by the multitude of activities that ODIHR has been engaged in over the last year. The high level of productivity goes hand-in-hand with a high level of professionalism.

Norway regards the third dimension as particularly important. And I agree with Deputy Foreign Minister Meshkov of the Russian Federation who earlier today pointed out that it is impossible to build a security community free of dividing lines without the third dimension.

Mr. Chairman,

From time to time we hear voices warning against duplication of activities that can be handled just as well or better by other organizations. And we should not copy what others do. But the OSCE and in particular the ODIHR have a long history of establishing standards that other organizations do their best to live up to. The ODIHR methodology for election observation is one example of such a standard. There are many others.

Mr. Chairman,

ODIHR is more than election observation, handbooks and setting of standards. The perhaps greatest comparative advantage of ODIHR and the OSCE compared to other organizations is the focus on implementation and on assistance to participating States. That is also why ODIHR adds value in fields where other organizations have similar activities.

Mr. Chairman,

In order to live up to our expectations, the different branches of the OSCE family must cooperate. ODIHR and the OSCE PA must find together again. What we saw during the Dublin Ministerial and the experiences since then are alarming. The OSCE PA cannot conduct proper election

observation without the assistance of ODIHR, nor can ODIHR keep up its golden standard without the expertise of the parliamentarians.

Norway strongly supports the priorities of ODIHR as outlined by Director Lenarčič, and we note with great satisfaction the emphasis on safety of Human Rights defenders and the Legacy project.

Mr. Chairman,

I was pleased to hear the EU offering firm support for the budgetary needs of ODIHR in future Unified Budget negotiations. This responds well to the point just made by Director Lenarčič that overall demands for ODIHR activities last year exceeded available resources.

Mr. Chairman,

The international financial crisis seems unfortunately to lead to increased mistrust, intolerance and xenophobia in many OSCE participating States. Investing resources in ODIHR will help us fight back these alarming trends.

Thank you