Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting

Lawmaking for Democratic Resilience

16-17 March 2026
Vienna

PRACTICAL INFORMATION NOTE

I. GENERAL INFORMATION AND ORGANIZATIONAL MODALITIES

1. Aim, dates and venue of the meeting

Three Supplementary Human Dimension Meetings (SHDMs) are organized annually, in the framework of the OSCE Permanent Council, in accordance with the decision of the Permanent Council (PC.DEC/476, 23 May 2002).

These conferences serve to discuss key substantive concerns concerning human rights and democracy raised at previous Human Dimension Implementation Meetings or Review Conferences. The OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and, when required, other OSCE structures and institutions assist the Chairpersonship-in-Office in preparing the SHDMs.

The first SHDM of 2026 will be held on **16 and 17 March** on *Lawmaking for Democratic Resilience.*

It will be hosted at the **Hofburg Congress Centre** (Heldenplatz 1010 Vienna, Austria), in the **Neuersal** conference room, situated on the 2nd floor of the Centre.

2. Participation

Participants in the SHDM include representatives of OSCE participating States, OSCE institutions and other structures, inter-governmental organizations, civil society and other stakeholders having interest in the topic. OSCE Partners for Co-operation can attend and contribute with respect to their co-operation and links with the OSCE in the field. Civil society organizations can find more information below, in the *Information for Civil Society* section.

To attend Human Dimension Meetings, participants are required to register in advance with ODIHR through the following link: https://meetings.odihr.pl.

First-time users of the ODIHR Conference and Event Registration System are asked to create a new user account. Therefore, allocating ample time for the self-registration process is advised.

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Online registration for the conference will open on 12 February 2026 at 10:00 CET at https://meetings.odihr.pl and will close on Friday, 6 March, at 13:00 CET. Please also note that registration beyond the deadline, **Friday 6 March, 13.00 CET** cannot be accepted.

3. Accreditation

Registered participants may collect their badges at the main entrance hall of the Hofburg Congress Centre during the following times:

- on Monday, 16 March, between 11.00 and 17.15 CET, and
- on Tuesday, 17 March, from 8.30 until 16.00 CET.

Please note that while there are no fees associated with participating in the meeting, all travel and accommodation expenses are the responsibility of the participants.

4. Modalities, Schedule and Logistics

Modalities: Modalities: The meeting will proceed according to the modalities outlined in the Permanent Council's decision PC.DEC/476, 23 May 2002.

Schedule: The SHDM will start with the opening session on Monday, 16 March, at 14.00 CET. This session will begin with opening remarks from the representatives of the Swiss 2026 OSCE Chairpersonship and ODIHR. These will be followed by keynote addresses from invited experts. Due to time constraints, no additional statements are planned during the opening session.

Following this, three working sessions, each focusing on a specific topic as detailed in the meeting agenda, will take place. Each working session will begin with remarks from invited experts, intended to introduce the topic of the session. These remarks will be followed by a discussion from the floor. All registered participants will have the opportunity to request the floor during these working sessions.

The closing session will start on Tuesday, 17 March, at 16.30 CET. In this session, the moderators from the three working sessions will serve as rapporteurs, providing summaries of the discussions that took place. Afterward, there will be an opportunity for the delegations of participating States to offer their comments. Please note that during this closing session, only the delegations of the participating States will have the possibility to request the floor. At the end of the session, representatives of ODIHR and the Chairpersonship will deliver closing remarks.

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The meeting will conclude on Tuesday, 17 March at 17.30 CET. A detailed agenda is available separately on the event webpage.

Interpretation: Simultaneous interpretation will be available in the six official OSCE languages: English, French, German, Italian, Russian, and Spanish.

Guidelines for the debate: The objective is to foster a dynamic and engaging discussion built upon keynote speeches, contributions from panelists, background information, and written statements distributed before or during the SHDM. Participants are encouraged to link their interventions to the speakers' presentations and to the discussion at hand.

For detailed information on the topics and panel composition of each session, please refer to the agenda and annotated agenda, which are available on the event's webpage.

The moderators will ensure participants engage in a constructive debate designed to achieve the meeting's objectives, enhance the implementation of OSCE human dimension commitments, and formulate recommendations towards that goal.

Before opening the discussion, the moderator will ask participants to signal their wish to make oral remarks. Participants are then expected to wait for the moderator's invitation before speaking. When given the floor, participants should introduce themselves by providing their first and last names, along with the name of the organization they represent.

Two-to-three-minute interventions should be relevant to the session's topic and include a question to the speaker(s). The moderators may interrupt participants or speakers who exceed the time limit or whose intervention significantly deviates from the topic under discussion. Written statements may be submitted and circulated after the meeting.

Participants are entitled to express their views freely, provided they respect human rights and the principle of non-discrimination. Participants are therefore asked to refrain from presenting or shouting slogans that may a.) provoke or disrupt order and safety, b.) likely to give rise to violence, c.) discriminate against others on the basis of their race, colour, sex, language, religion or belief, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status (Maastricht 2003, Ljubljana 2005), d.) condone terrorism or the use of violence. Moderators are instructed to ensure discussions align with these principles.

Right of reply: At the conclusion of each working session and the closing plenary, delegations of participating States will have the opportunity to exercise their right of reply. Delegations of participating States intending to use this right should communicate their intent to the ODIHR staff situated behind the head table well before the session's end to ensure sufficient time

allocation. Please note that each participating State delegation is entitled to exercise one right of reply per session.

Distribution of documents: All registered participants attending the SHDM can submit documents for distribution by sending them (up to a maximum of 3 pages in length) to the Document Distribution Centre at documents@osce.org.

When submitting documents, participants should specify whether these are intended for distribution or solely to facilitate interpretation.

Please note that there are no document translation services available.

Filming in the plenary hall: Filming with cameras and video cameras is permitted exclusively for accredited journalists and only during the opening and closing sessions. All other audio-visual recordings within the plenary hall are not permitted, unless explicit consent is obtained from the individuals being filmed.

Livestreaming: Livestreams of the event will be available in both English and Russian on the event website.

II. INFORMATION FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

The Helsinki Document of 1992 (Chapter IV) called for increased openness in OSCE activities and for expanding the role of NGOs. In particular, in paragraph (15) of Chapter IV, the participating States agreed to facilitate during OSCE meetings "informal discussion meetings between representatives of participating States and NGOs".

As per Chapter IV, paragraphs (15) and (16), of the Helsinki Document 1992, the provision of making "open to NGOs […] human rights implementation meetings" does not apply to "persons or organizations which resort to the use of violence or publicly condone terrorism or the use of violence."

In line with these provisions, the OSCE welcomes participation by civil society organizations at the SHDM.

III. SIDE EVENTS

Registered participants, including those representing civil society organizations, international organizations, governments and others, may request a side event slot to organize side events that align with the SHDM's primary topic. Side events serve to facilitate more informal discussions and provide an opportunity for participants to explore issues not fully addressed during the working sessions. The views expressed during the side events do not necessarily reflect the views of the OSCE.

Registered participants are welcome to request a side event slot at https://meetings.odihr.pl between 24 February at 13.00 CET and 25 February at 17.00 CET.

For details on the schedule and an overview of side events, please refer to the event's webpage, where this information will be published.

The conference organizers will reach out to participants who have requested side event slots to provide final confirmation regarding the organization of their respective side events.

The role of ODIHR is to co-ordinate the organization of side events and manage necessary venue arrangements. Participants have the option to request room bookings dedicated for side events at no cost. However, organizers are responsible for all other aspects, including catering, presentations and technical facilities, interpretation, financing, and content management.

IV. CONTACT INFORMATION

Meeting co-ordination: Ms. Lauren Baranowska, Human Dimension Meetings Officer, at lauren.baranowska@odihr.pl

For inquiries related to registration, accreditation (badge collection), document distribution, side events & venue, and other enquiries: hdmeetings@odihr.pl