



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
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WARSAW HUMAN DIMENSION CONFERENCE 2026

AGENDA

5 – 15 OCTOBER 2026 | SOFITEL VICTORIA, WARSAW



Monday, 5 October

10.30–13.00 Opening Session

Introductory remarks by:

- Alexandre Fasel, State Secretary, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland
- Radosław Sikorski, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Poland
- Feridun H. Sinirlioğlu, OSCE Secretary General
- Maria Telalian, Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
- Pere Joan Pons Sampietro, President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly
- Christophe Kamp, OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities
- Jan Braathu, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media (*video message*)
- Anu Juvonen, Special Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office on Civil Society

Keynote address by:

Michael Meyer-Resende, Executive Director, Democracy Reporting International

Statements by participating States

Moderated by Raphael Nägeli, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the OSCE, Chair of the Permanent Council

13.00–14.30 Lunch break

14.30–17.00 Plenary Session 1: Humanitarian Issues I, including:

- International Human Rights Law and International Humanitarian Law
- Humanitarian challenges, incl. in the context of armed conflict

Video message by Ignazio Cassis, OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Federal Councillor, Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs

Introductory remarks by:

Kateryna Busol, Head of the Ukraine Programme, International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ)

Moderated by Andrew Gardner, Deputy Head, ODIHR Human Rights Department

17.30–18.30 Side events

19.00–21.00 Opening reception hosted by the Swiss Chairpersonship



Tuesday, 6 October

09.00–10.00 Side events

10.30–13.00 **Plenary Session 2: Rule of Law I, including:**

- Prevention and eradication of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment
- Exchange of views on the question of the abolition of capital punishment
- Protection of human rights when combating terrorism

Introductory remarks by:

Elina Šteinerte, Member of the UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture

Moderated by Johannes Heiler, Senior Human Rights Advisor, ODIHR

13.00–14.00 Lunch break

14.00–15.00 Side events

15.30–16.30 Side events

Wednesday, 7 October

09.00–10.00 Side events

10.30–13.00 **Plenary Session 3: Fundamental Freedoms I, including:**

- Freedom of peaceful assembly and association
- Human rights defenders
- National human rights institutions
- Freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief

Introductory remarks by:

Erinda Ballanca, Human rights lawyer and former Ombudsperson of Albania

Moderated by Susan Kerr, Head, ODIHR Human Rights Department

13.00–14.00 Lunch break

14.00–15.30 **Roundtable with the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights**

A Practical Partnership for Human Security: ODIHR Assistance on Human Rights Compliant Legal and Policy Frameworks

16.00–17.00 Side events



Thursday, 8 October

09.00–10.00 Side events

10.30–13.00 **Plenary Session 4: Tolerance and Non-discrimination I, including:**

- Addressing racism, xenophobia and discrimination, anti-Semitism and intolerance and discrimination against Christians, Muslims and members of other religions

Introductory remarks by:

Ahmed Shaheed, Professor at the University of Essex, former UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief:

Moderated by Pierre Baussand, Head, ODIHR Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Department

13.00–14.00 Lunch break

14.00–15.30 **Roundtable with OSCE Field Missions**

Strengthening Equality Mechanisms and National Human Rights Institutions: OSCE Field Experiences in Supporting Inclusive Societies

16.00–17.00 Side events

Friday, 9 October

09.00–10.00 Side events

10.30–13.00 **Plenary Session 5: Rule of Law II, including:**

- Independence of the judiciary
- Right to a fair trial
- Democratic law-making

Introductory remarks by:

Robert Strang, Executive Director of the CEELI Institute

Moderated by Konstantine Vardzelashvili, Head, ODIHR Democratization Department

13.00–14.00 Lunch break

14.00–15.00 Side events

15.30–16.30 Side events



Monday, 12 October

09.00–10.00 Side events

10.30–13.00 **Plenary Session 6: Democratic Institutions, including:**

- Democracy at the national, regional and local levels
- Democratic elections

Introductory remarks by:

Natalie Sabanadze, Director for Political Affairs and External Relations, Council of Europe

Moderated by Meaghan Fitzgerald, Head, ODIHR Elections Department

13.00–14.00 Lunch break

14.00–16.30 **Plenary Session 7: Humanitarian Issues II, including:**

- Combatting trafficking in human beings
- Refugees and displaced persons

Introductory remarks by:

Gabriella Kärnekull Wolfe, Vice-Chair of the OSCE/ODIHR International Survivors of Trafficking Advisory Council (ISTAC).

Moderated by Kari Johnstone, OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings

17.00–18.00 Side events

Tuesday, 13 October

09.00–10.00 Side events

10.30–13.00 **Plenary Session 8: Fundamental Freedoms II, including:**

- Freedom of expression, freedom of the media
- Safety of journalists

Introductory remarks by:

Szabolcs Panyi, journalist and editor, VSquare.org / Fundacja Reporterów

Moderated by Barbara Trionfi, Principal Advisor to the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media



13.00–14.00 Lunch break

14.00–15.30 **Roundtable with the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media**
Media freedom as a cornerstone of information integrity and public trust

16.00–17.00 Side events

Wednesday, 14 October

09.00–10.00 Side events

10.30–13.00 **Plenary Session 9: Tolerance and Non-discrimination II, including:**

- Rights of persons belonging to national minorities
- Roma and Sinti issues

Introductory remarks by:

Petra Roter, Professor of International Relations, University of Ljubljana

Moderated by Beata Bislim-Olahova, Senior Advisor and Chief, ODIHR Contact Point on Roma and Sinti Issues

13.00–14.00 Lunch break

14.00–15.30 **Roundtable with the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities**
National Minorities and National Equality Mechanisms: Fostering access and trust

16.00–17.00 Side events



Thursday, 15 October

09.00–10.00 Side events

10.30–11.30 Side events

12.00–13.00 Lunch break

13.00–15.30 Plenary Session 10: Gender Equality, including:

- Equal opportunities for women and men
- Preventing and combating violence against women and girls
- Implementation of the OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality

Introductory remarks by:

Sona Ghazaryan, Member of the National Assembly of Armenia

Moderated by Lara Scarpitta, OSCE Senior Adviser on Gender Issues and Head, Gender Issues Programme

15.30–15.45 Closing Session

Closing remarks by:

- Flavio Milan, Deputy Head of Mission, Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the OSCE
- Tea Jaliashvili, First Deputy Director of ODIHR