



## **Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting**

**5-6 May 2025  
(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 Chairmanship-in-Office in preparing the SHDMs.

The second SHDM of 2025 will be held on 5-6 May on Protecting Civic Space - the Role of Human Rights Defenders and Freedom of Peaceful Assembly

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

The SHDM welcomes participants from a diverse range of groups, including representatives of OSCE participating States, OSCE institutions and structures, inter-national organizations, civil society, and other stakeholders interested in the topic. OSCE Partners for Cooperation can also attend and contribute with respect to their co-operation and links with the OSCE in the field.

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



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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. Please also note that registration beyond the deadline, **Wednesday 23 April, 17.00 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, 5 May, between 8:30. and 17.15 CET, and
- on Tuesday, 6 May, from 8.30 until 13:30 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, 5 May, at 9:30 CET. This session will begin with opening remarks from the representatives of the Finnish 2025 OSCE Chairpersonship and the ODIHR. These will be followed by keynote addresses from invited experts, focusing on the meeting's topic. 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, 6 May, at 12.30 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, the representatives of the ODIHR and the Chairpersonship will deliver their closing remarks.



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The meeting will conclude on Tuesday, 6 May at 13.30 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.

For detailed information on the topics and panel composition of each session, please refer to the agenda and annotated agenda, which will be 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.

Interventions should remain relevant to the session's topic and include specific recommendations. Participants are requested to keep their comments concise and focused, speaking within the time limit set by the moderator.

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.



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**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](mailto: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:** Livestream of the event will be available on the event website (in English).

## 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



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working sessions. The views expressed during the side events do not necessarily reflect the views of the OSCE.

Registered participants may request a side event slot at <https://meetings.odihr.pl> between Tuesday, 15 April, 13.00 CET until **Thursday 17 April, 13.00 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 coordinate 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:** Mr. Martin Toplišek, Human Dimension Meetings Officer, at [martin.toplisek@odihr.pl](mailto:martin.toplisek@odihr.pl)

**Programme enquiries:** Johannes Heiler, Acting Deputy Head, Human Rights Department, at [johannes.heiler@odihr.pl](mailto:johannes.heiler@odihr.pl)

**Side events & venue:** Ms. Justyna Pazura, [justyna.pazura@odihr.pl](mailto:justyna.pazura@odihr.pl)

**Registration, accreditation (badge collection), document distribution:** Ms. Paulina Wozniak, at [paulina.wozniak@odihr.pl](mailto:paulina.wozniak@odihr.pl)

**Other enquiries:** [hdmeetings@odihr.pl](mailto:hdmeetings@odihr.pl)