



## Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting

24 – 25 April 2023  
(Vienna)

### PRACTICAL INFORMATION NOTE

#### I. GENERAL INFORMATION AND ORGANIZATIONAL MODALITIES

##### 1. Aim, dates and venue of the meeting

According to the decision of the Permanent Council (PC.DEC/476, 23 May 2002), each year, the Chairpersonship-in-Office organizes three informal Supplementary Human Dimension Meetings (SHDMs), in the framework of the OSCE Permanent Council, in order to discuss key substantive concerns raised at previous Human Dimension 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 Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting (SHDM) of 2023 will be held from **24 to 25 April** on *Torture and Other Grave Breaches of International Humanitarian Law and Gross Violations of International Human Rights Law*.

The meeting will take place in the **Hofburg Congress Centre** (Heldenplatz 1010 Vienna, Austria), **Neuer Saal** conference room, located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Centre.

##### 2. Participation

Representatives of OSCE participating States and OSCE executive structures, representatives of inter-governmental organizations, representatives of civil society and researchers having interest in the topic can participate in the SHDM. The 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.

##### 3. Registration

Participants wishing to attend the meeting are requested to register at <https://meetings.odihr.pl>.

Please allow sufficient time for the self-registration process, in particular if you are a first time user of the ODIHR Conference and Event Registration System, as you will have to start by creating a profile. First time users are encouraged to sign up for the event as soon as possible after creating an account. Please note that the registration system requires individual registration and uploading of your ID photo. **Important note:** Past-deadline registration is not possible.



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### 3. Accreditation

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

- on Monday, 24 April 2023, between 11.45 and 17.45 CET, and
- on Tuesday, 25 April from 8.30 until 17.00 CET.

Participation in the meeting is free of charge, although all travel and accommodation costs should be borne by participants.

### 4. Modalities, Schedule and Logistics

**Modalities:** The modalities of the meeting are set out in accordance with the decision of the Permanent Council (PC.DEC/476, 23 May 2002).

**Schedule:** The opening session of SHDM will start on Monday, 24 April at 14.00. During this session, the representatives of the 2023 OSCE Chairpersonship of North Macedonia and the ODIHR will present their opening remarks, followed by keynote addresses by invited experts in the topic of the meeting. No comments or statements are foreseen from participants during the opening session due to time constraints.

Three working sessions will follow on the following topics:

- Session I: Grave breaches of international humanitarian law and related obligations
- Session II: Documenting cases of torture in situations of armed conflict
- Session III: Responses to gross violations of international human rights law during times of crisis

All participants will have the possibility to request the floor during the working sessions.

At the closing session, starting on Tuesday, 25 April at 16.30, the moderators of the three working sessions will present the reports from the sessions. There will be time for delegations of participating States to voice their comments and, finally, for the representatives of the ODIHR and the OSCE Chairpersonship for their closing remarks. Only the delegations of participating States have the possibility to speak during the closing session.

The meeting will end on Tuesday, 25 April at 17.30.

**Interpretation:** Interpretation will be provided in the six official OSCE languages: English, French, German, Italian, Russian and Spanish.



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**Guidelines for the debate:** The intention is to develop a free-flowing discussion based on the keynote speeches, panelists' inputs, discussions, background information and written statements circulated in advance or during the SHDM. For topics and composition of each panel, please consult the agenda and annotated agenda at [https://www.osce.org/odihr/shdm\\_2\\_2023](https://www.osce.org/odihr/shdm_2_2023).

The moderators will ensure that the participants engage in a constructive debate aimed at achieving the meetings' objectives, improving the implementation of OSCE human dimension commitments and formulating recommendations towards that aim.

Before speaking, participants should wait for the moderator to pass them the floor. When taking the floor, participants must introduce themselves by providing their name, surname and the name of the organization they represent. Participants are asked to keep their comments short and to the point and speak within the speaking time set by the moderator.

Interventions should be relevant to the topic of the session and include specific recommendations.

Participants have a right to express their opinions freely, while respecting human rights and the principle of non-discrimination. Participants shall therefore refrain from presenting or shouting any slogans that might: a.) provoke or disturb 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 that discussions are held in accordance with these principles.

**Right of reply:** At the end of working sessions, as well as at the closing plenary, delegations of the participating States will have the possibility to exercise their right of reply. Participating States should indicate their intention to exercise right of reply to the ODIHR staff seated behind the head table early enough before the end of the session, so sufficient time can be allocated. Each participating state has the right to one right of reply per session.

**Distribution of documents:** Any registered participant present at SHDM may also submit documents for distribution by sending their documents (maximum 3 pages in length) to the Document Distribution Centre at [documents@osce.org](mailto:documents@osce.org).

Participants should indicate in their message when submitted documents are intended for distribution or to facilitate interpretation only.

Documents will be made available to meeting participants at <https://meetings.odihr.pl/resources>.

There are no document translation services available.

**Filming in plenary hall:** Filming with cameras and video cameras will only be permitted to accredited journalists, and only during the opening and closing sessions. No other audio-visual



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recordings should be undertaken inside the plenary, unless it is with the consent of the persons filmed.

**Livestreaming:** live-streams will be available in English and Russian on the event website.

### **Limitations due to Covid-19 pandemic:**

#### **a) Requirements to enter Austria**

Currently, there are no restrictions on entry into Austria in regard to COVID-19.

For the latest update on limitations in Austria, applicable in various settings, please consult <https://www.sozialministerium.at/en/Coronavirus/Information-in-English.html>

#### **b) Measures at event venue**

Persons entering the event venue are encouraged to cover their mouth and nose with a FFP2 mask.

Seating in conference rooms is, to the extent possible, provided with adequate distancing.

There are currently no other limitations.

## **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.



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### III. SIDE EVENTS

Registered participants representing civil society organizations, international organizations, governments and other registered participants are encouraged to organize side events on topics related to the topic of the SHDM. Side events are meant to facilitate less formal discussions and provide an opportunity for the participants to discuss issues that have not been fully covered during the working sessions.

ODIHR's role is to co-ordinate the organization of side events and make the necessary venue arrangements. Participants can book rooms dedicated for side events free of charge. The organizers of side events are responsible for all other aspects (catering, presentations and technical facilities, interpretation, financing etc.) and for its content. The views expressed during the side events do not necessarily reflect the views of the OSCE.

Booking is organized on a first come first served basis at <https://meetings.odihr.pl>.

The Schedule and Overview of Side Events is posted at [https://www.osce.org/odihr/shdm\\_2\\_2023](https://www.osce.org/odihr/shdm_2_2023)

### IV. CONTACT INFORMATION

**Meeting co-ordination:** Mr. Martin Toplisek, at [martin.toplisek@odihr.pl](mailto:martin.toplisek@odihr.pl)

**Programme enquiries:** Mr. Andrew Gardner, at [andrew.gardner@odihr.pl](mailto:andrew.gardner@odihr.pl)

**Side events & venue:** Ms. Aleksandra Lutostanska, at [aleksandra.lutostanska@odihr.pl](mailto:aleksandra.lutostanska@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)