



SUPPLEMENTARY HUMAN DIMENSION MEETING

Democratic Elections and Election Observation

**12-13 July 2012
VIENNA**

FINAL REPORT

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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The second Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting (SHDM) in 2012 was dedicated to democratic elections and election observation. It brought together 218 participants, including 165 delegates from 53 OSCE participating States, 2 representatives from 2 OSCE Partners for Co-operation, 8 participants from 4 OSCE Institutions, 9 representatives of 7 OSCE field operations, 27 representatives of 24 non-governmental organizations, and 7 representatives of 7 international organizations.

The meeting was organized into three sessions:

- Democratic elections in context of OSCE election-related commitments and their implementation (with focus on universal and equal suffrage rights: legislation and application);
- Election observation and the electoral cycle: before, during and after election day (with focus on legal framework, media, campaign finance, gender); and
- Follow-up to OSCE/ODIHR mission report recommendations and engagement with participating States.

II. SYNOPSIS OF THE SESSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This section summarizes the discussions which took place during the opening session and the three thematic sessions and presents recommendations made by participants. The recommendations were directed towards a variety of actors, in particular: OSCE participating States, OSCE institutions and field operations, civil society actors and representatives of international organizations. These recommendations have no official status and are not based on consensus. The inclusion of a recommendation in this report does not suggest that it reflects the views or policies of the OSCE. Nevertheless, these recommendations serve as useful indicators for the OSCE to reflect on how participating States are meeting their election-related commitments and their views on OSCE/ODIHR election-related follow-up.

OPENING SESSION

Opening remarks were delivered by Ambassador Eoin O’Leary, Chairperson of the OSCE Permanent Council, and by Ambassador Janez Lenarčič, Director of OSCE/ODIHR, followed by the keynote speech of Ms. Radmila Šekerinska, former Deputy Prime Minister for European Integration of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.¹

Ambassador O’Leary recalled that, in line with international standards, elections are the foundation of democracy. He underlined the importance and key principles of free and democratic elections. He recalled the mandate of the OSCE/ODIHR in observing

¹ The texts of the opening session remarks and keynote speech can be found in Annexes 2 and 3.

elections and emphasized that elections are one of the top priorities of the Irish Chairmanship. He welcomed close co-operation between the OSCE/ODIHR and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and noted the continuous commitment by ODIHR to professionalism and impartiality in its work. Noting that the OSCE/ODIHR election observation methodology has evolved over the years to respond to emerging needs, Ambassador O'Leary emphasized that the existing methodology is the best available tool and that it should be protected and further developed. In conclusion, Ambassador O'Leary welcomed follow-up by participating States to ODIHR recommendations, emphasizing that the utility of election observation is maximized only if recommendations are addressed.

Ambassador Lenarčič stated that the meeting offered an opportunity to follow-up on the implementation of key commitments. He noted the progress and a number of achievements over the last years, including the fact that ODIHR has now observed electoral processes in almost all OSCE participating States. He added that the partnership with the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly has been working well. He noted that in the past ten years, ODIHR has published some 580 election-related reports and almost 100 legal reviews. He also underlined that ODIHR stands ready to discuss these reports and engage in follow-up with the participating States concerned.

The ODIHR Director recalled that ODIHR had recently released two new handbooks, on voter registration and media monitoring. In addition, he noted that the election observation handbook was translated into Arabic and expressed appreciation for the corresponding extra-budgetary contributions that were received. He further reported that another two handbooks are in preparation (on campaign finance and observation of new voting technologies). He also noted that ODIHR continues to provide training for short-term observers under the Fund for Enhancing the Diversification of Election Observation Missions, while an e-learning course for short-term observers has recently been launched in both English and Russian languages. In closing, Ambassador Lenarčič reiterated the commitment on the part of ODIHR to further refine the observation methodology.

The keynote speaker, Ms. Radmila Šekerinska, stated that democratic change does not happen overnight and that reforms require time, effort, and political will. She challenged the premise that there may be a tradeoff between stability and democracy. She stressed that election observation remains topical and useful, but it is effective only if combined with domestic political will. She added that elections were not viable without the existence of institutions and the rule of law. She recognized the fact that election observation does not cover the period before the arrival of the mission and considered it an intrinsic limitation of election observation, which frequently frustrates the public. Nevertheless, she maintained that having a snapshot of democracy at work, as election observation provides, is of high value. She applauded the efforts of some OSCE participating States to address underrepresentation of women in decision-making positions. She also welcomed the role of the OSCE/ODIHR in revealing shortcomings and advising the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in the legislative review process, including with regard to the introduction of quotas for women. Ms. Šekerinska concluded that when challenging election observation and its limits, one should consider

whether there is an alternative. She expressed an opinion that without a democratic check in the form of election observation the situation in some countries could have been different. She closed by applauding the interest of ODIHR to continue working on developing the methodology to address existing problems and to fill the gaps.

SESSION I: DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS IN CONTEXT OF OSCE ELECTION-RELATED COMMITMENTS AND THEIR IMPLEMENTATION (WITH FOCUS ON UNIVERSAL AND EQUAL SUFFRAGE RIGHTS: LEGISLATION AND APPLICATION)

Moderator:

Mr. Craig Jenness, Director, Electoral Assistance Division, United Nations

Introducers:

Mr. Vladimir Churov, Chairperson of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation

Ms. Corien Jonker, Former Member of the Dutch Parliament

Mr. Graham Shields, Chief Electoral Officer, Electoral Office for Northern Ireland

The first session provided participants with the opportunity to discuss OSCE election-related commitments. Particular emphasis was placed on paragraph 7.3 of the 1990 OSCE Copenhagen Document, which provides for “universal and equal suffrage.” This commitment, like others in the Copenhagen Document, is derived from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). Through these and other instruments this commitment is considered universal.

Ms. Corien Jonker provided a summary of the global political and legal thinking on the right to universal and equal suffrage and the circumstances in which it can be reasonably restricted. She noted that most countries have laws which sufficiently address universal and equal suffrage, while noting certain caveats in some countries (most often concerning criminal conduct or those with mental incapacity). She concluded that where problems exist, they are most often found in implementation.

This summary fit well with the presentations of Mr. Vladimir Churov and Mr. Graham Shields, who focussed their presentations on the substantial practical efforts in their respective countries to implement these commitments. Mr. Churov discussed measures undertaken by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation to protect the accuracy and secrecy of votes, enhance transparency, and ensure accurate counting through electronic voting and tabulation. Mr. Shields summarized Northern Ireland’s efforts since 2002 to improve the accuracy and completeness of its voter register.

Mr. Churov and Mr. Shields underscored that the ultimate intention of these efforts was not only to provide a more efficient and accurate process, but also to build greater public trust and confidence. They both noted that acceptance of electoral outcomes is affected

not only by the technical quality of the process, but also by the overall public trust and confidence in the system and those tasked with administering it.

The subsequent discussion yielded a number of comments in support of the presentations made. Some common themes included an acknowledgment that accurate, inclusive voter registration is key to ensuring universal and equal suffrage. In context of election observation, it was frequently noted that it is therefore important to deploy long-term observers and follow an electoral cycle approach to ensure that voter registration is observed. It was also reaffirmed that special attention should be placed on ensuring universal and equal suffrage for national minorities, the disabled, other marginalized groups, and especially women. On the latter point, the discussion touched upon the efficacy of temporary special measures to enhance women's representation in elected bodies.

Other comments were more critical and focussed on well-known debates within the OSCE, centred particularly on: whether there are electoral obligations that all countries must aspire to meet; and, if such obligations exist, whether all countries are judged equally in their efforts to meet such electoral obligations.

A number of speakers focused their comments on ODIHR election observation activities. All of these speakers, particularly election administrators, welcomed observation (domestic and international) as a means to enhance transparency. In addition, almost all speakers, even those that had suggestions for improvement, expressed appreciation for ODIHR and its widely recognized expertise and efforts over the years. However, at the same time, some speakers suggested that – to use Mr. Churov's words – all organizations should continually seek to improve. These recommendations are noted below. While some of these received support, others strongly disagreed.

There was considerable discussion regarding the application of election standards across different OSCE participating States. The debate was hindered by the absence of common conceptual understandings and interpretations, concerning the nature and meaning of 'standards', 'principles', 'best practices' and 'norms'. It was also noted that there seemed to be some confusion in that 'standards' and 'commitments' apply to States in the conduct of their elections. These terms often appear to be applied to election observation methodology, creating misunderstanding.

However, there were areas of convergence in the discussion. First, several speakers noted that no country runs perfect elections and that all countries should – and normally do – continually review their practices with a goal of conducting improved electoral processes and enhancing public confidence. It was noted that in such reviews, observer recommendations can be very useful.

Second, many speakers noted that there are certain agreed principles that every country, when conducting elections, should adhere to or do their best to achieve, including, for example, universal and equal suffrage. It was recalled that the UN refers to these as human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the OSCE refers to them as commitments.

It was underscored that they must be adhered to not because they are imposed from outside, but because they are commitments made by States through international processes, including the UN, on behalf of and for the benefit of their people.

Third, speakers noted that although there are universal standards, there are many different and equally effective ways to undertake elections. Or – again in Mr. Churov’s words - , there are different kinds of bears, and none “is better” than the other. Several speakers noted that the emphasis should be on debating practical arrangements to meet these universally held commitments, and not the value of the commitments themselves.

In conclusion, the presentations provided a sound basis for the discussion on the theme. However, some of the discussion touched upon broader issues and much of the debate focused on electoral observation activities rather than implementation of commitments by the participating States. The discussions made clear that, just as OSCE and ODIHR have led the way in developing the field of election observation, they also provide fora for dialogue about such activities.

The following specific recommendations were made in Session 1:

Recommendations to OSCE participating States:

- Participating States should implement OSCE commitments, including honest counting of votes;
- Polling station results should be published immediately as an important tool to improve credibility and confidence;
- Participating States that have not yet done so, should remove obstacles to free campaigning and avoid harassment, pressure on candidates, parties and voters;
- Participating States should counter systematic fraud in elections, including restrictions on free media and pressure on human rights activists;
- Participating States should make full use of ODIHR recommendations and implement them, and should have a continuous discussion on ways to ensure the implementation of ODIHR recommendations;
- Participating States should implement ODIHR recommendations guaranteeing the right and accreditation of domestic observers;
- Participating States should preserve the independence of international observation missions of ODIHR;
- Participating States should support the extra-budgetary fund for the diversification of election observation as a crucial instrument to help provide geographic balance in EOMs.

Recommendations to OSCE institutions and field operations:

- OSCE/ODIHR should observe elections in all OSCE participating States;
- All stages of the electoral process need to be observed, since elections could be severely constrained before and after election day;
- It is important to keep a geographical balance of election observation activities as well as in the composition of EOMs;

- Limits should be placed on the size of OSCE/ODIHR election observation missions;
- The Permanent Council should have greater oversight of OSCE/ODIHR election observation activities;
- The composition of OSCE/ODIHR election observation missions should be more regulated and rules should be established regarding diversity of OSCE/ODIHR election observation missions, including the appointment of Heads of Mission;
- The performance of ODIHR in election monitoring should be assessed with identification of ways to improve it;
- The OSCE should review the Copenhagen Document principles and bring them up to international standards.

Recommendations to international organizations:

- International partners need to make full use of ODIHR's electoral recommendations, and recommendations by HCNM, RFoM and other ODIHR departments.

SESSION II: ELECTION OBSERVATION AND THE ELECTORAL CYCLE: BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER ELECTION DAY (WITH FOCUS ON LEGAL FRAMEWORK, MEDIA, CAMPAIGN FINANCE, GENDER)

Moderator:

Ms. Irena Hadžiabdić, Former President and Current Member of the Central Election Commission of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Introducers:

Dame Audrey Glover, Former Director of the OSCE/ODIHR

Mr. Matteo Mecacci, Member of the Italian Parliament, Chair of the Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions, OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

Mr. Miklos Haraszti, Former OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media

The second session provided speakers with the opportunity to discuss election observation and the electoral cycle. Participants heard introductions from three speakers who gave an overview of OSCE/ODIHR methodology and the main points of its focus, such as candidate and voter registration, campaigning, and transparency of the vote count. They continued with the co-operation between parliamentary assemblies and OSCE/ODIHR, and finally discussed the need for the media pluralism in elections.

Dame Audrey Glover gave a comprehensive overview of election observation. She started with the mandate of election observation of ODIHR and the importance of long-term observation within the whole electoral cycle in order to maintain the high standard and integrity of the OSCE/ODIHR election observation methodology. She explained the necessity for a proper legal framework that regulates and provides for access to media,

regulating campaign finance, and the fair possibility to participate in an election. In addition, she highlighted the important elements to be observed prior to election day: candidate and voter registration, the election administration on local and national level, appropriate campaign financing applying to all candidates and parties, and for them to have equal possibility to have access to free and pluralistic media at reasonable prices. Dame Glover emphasized that campaigning should be inclusive and equal access to men and women should be provided throughout the whole process. She mentioned undue voter influence and family voting as well as ballot stuffing as main problems on election day and that new voting technologies provide a challenge for transparency. Dame Glover detailed that the counting of the votes needs to be free from fraud, and should take place in front of observers. The transmission of the results to the district and national level are also important aspects to observe. In the post-election period she highlighted the importance of the presentation of the final report, and that until recently there has been little follow-up to recommendations despite it being an important and rewarding effort.

In the second presentation, Mr. Matteo Mecacci introduced the role of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (PA) in election observation and co-operation with the OSCE/ODIHR in line with the co-operation agreement between OSCE PA and OSCE/ODIHR. He explained that short-term observers provide an important element for election observation and highlighted the importance of parliamentarians in providing a political assessment. Election observation is part of the general understanding to maintain democratic standards. Also, he recalled the 2012 Monaco resolution of the OSCE PA which welcomed the invitation by Belarus for observation of elections but noted the restriction of freedom of movement for citizens in Belarus.

The third introducer, Mr. Miklos Haraszti, spoke about the role of media in elections. He mentioned that without free journalism there is no exercise of democracy and no free elections. His speech covered several topics including the easing of censorship, the need for pluralism in the ownership structure of the media, the selection of advertisements, as well as the choice of coverage of parties and their messages. He identified the independence of media regulators as a prerequisite for independent media coverage during elections. He shared the view based on his experience that media can function better if there are fewer rules for registration and media self-regulated to a greater degree. He explained that media can ameliorate possible problems with regulations when they discuss them ahead of elections.

Following these interesting and complementary presentations, the discussion focused on the way election observation missions are organized. Although there was some criticism directed towards the OSCE/ODIHR methodology, there was a general recognition of the way in which election observation activities operate. Several speakers commended the needs-based decision-making process which includes deploying Needs Assessment Missions, while others discussed the role the Permanent Council could play in the decision-making on deployment of election observation activities. Additional comments were made on how to further diversify the geographic composition of members of an EOM. A number of recommendations were made to ODIHR on how to improve the election observation methodology, including through a systematized comparative review

of past practice. A number of participating States expressed frustration over the discussion of the same issues that have been ongoing for some time.

The following additional specific recommendations were made in Session 2:

Recommendations to OSCE participating States:

- Participating States should implement their commitments outlined in the Copenhagen Document 1990;
- Participating States should preserve the right of the ODIHR needs assessment missions to decide on the size of election observation missions based on the methodology;
- Participating States should ensure that a proper legal framework provides for access to media, regulating campaign finance, and fair possibility to participate in elections;
- Freedom and pluralism of media should be secured, including ownership structure, advertisements, the choice of coverage of parties and their messages;
- Participating States should better respect OSCE commitments in regards to freedom of the media in order to overcome media bias, not providing equal access to media, and the over-representation of incumbents and their usual duties during campaign period as a problem;
- Participating States should ensure the independence of media regulators;
- Participating States could give consideration to the use of new media to better train observers and proxies of parties to follow the conduct of elections.;
- For efficient use of new voting technologies, it is important that participating States provide for transparency of the systems and availability of paper audit trails;
- Participating States should combat problems with voter influence and family voting in regards to vote casting;
- Participating States should ensure that votes counting and the transmission of votes to the district and national level are free from fraud and take place in front of observers;
- Participating States should ensure participation of women in elections and intensify their work in providing equal access and gender balance. The introduction of quotas could be considered as a measure where low participation of women exists;
- Participating States that have not yet done so should improve their follow-up to ODIHR recommendations.

Recommendations to OSCE institutions and field operations:

- ODIHR should not deploy election-related activities when participating States fail to implement recommendations;
- ODIHR should release a report one week after election day instead of participating in press conferences after election day;
- ODIHR could further explore participation of national minorities;

- ODIHR could enhance co-operation with domestic observation efforts;
- ODIHR should continue to work on guidelines for observation of new voting technologies (NVT);
- ODIHR could improve its election observation methodology in the area of long-term observation, especially after election day, and secondment of observers;
- ODIHR could provide a comparative analysis of the observation experience to date based on Copenhagen commitments and identify problems. This should be used to further develop the methodology in order to come up with common solutions and work together with CoE PACE and participating States to resolve them;
- OSCE should explore ways to better regulate election observation including (1) introducing a mechanism by which participating States can challenge the results of the EOM; (2) that participating States decide on the methodology and are consulted on the decision for a mission; (3) that a set of rules should be introduced to avoid bias for the observers.

SESSION III: FOLLOW-UP TO OSCE/ODIHR MISSION REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT WITH PARTICIPATING STATES

Moderator:

Ms. Malgorzata Wasilewska, Head of Division, Democracy & Elections, European External Action Service, European Union (EU)

Introducers:

Dr. Iurie Ciocan, President of the Central Election Commission of Moldova

Mr. Dieter Sarreither, Deputy Federal Returning Officer, Office of the Federal Returning Officer, Germany

Mr. Tuomas Pöysti, Head of National Audit Office, Finland

The third session allowed the participants to review the commitment and practice of follow-up to OSCE/ODIHR recommendations. Ms. Malgorzata Wasilewska highlighted in her opening remarks that election observation is not an end in itself and that follow-up to recommendations from election observation reports is essential. She underscored that the EU attributes great importance to timely follow-up and plans to pilot follow-up missions half-way through the electoral cycle, to assess progress and evaluate if more can be done with regard to the recommendations.

Dr. Iurie Ciocan highlighted that in the last three years, Moldova held five national elections. He pointed out that the Moldovan authorities changed their view on co-operation with domestic and international observers after 2009. He said Moldova realized that the country needs to co-operate with observers between elections. Dr. Ciocan underscored the positive co-operation between the authorities and the OSCE/ODIHR in follow-up to recommendations on voter registration, media regulation, and other aspects

of elections. He stressed, that as a result of follow-up activities, trust in the electoral process had increased substantially.

Mr. Dieter Sarreither pointed out that in 2009, the OSCE/ODIHR sent an election assessment mission (EAM) to Germany for the first time. Authorities were pleased that the ODIHR accepted the invitation, noting that no election is perfect and there is always room for improvement. The EAM report also contained recommendations, which the German government took due note of. Mr. Sarreither noted that the issues raised in the report were taken into account in the drafting of the new law on elections, to be discussed and adopted by the Bundestag in the forthcoming period.

Mr. Tuomas Pöysti welcomed the efforts of the 2011 OSCE/ODIHR EAM in Finland. He underscored that the ODIHR report and recommendations were debated in Finland. He highlighted that international assessment is crucial to identify weaknesses and recommend how they can be addressed. He stressed that the expert visits attracted media attention and allowed for reflection.

The subsequent discussion focused on the role that OSCE/ODIHR missions, final reports, recommendations, and follow-up activities could play in national reform efforts. A common theme emerged on the need for further attention to the follow-up to recommendations and compliance with OSCE commitments.

Several participating States expressed gratitude to the OSCE/ODIHR for the valuable recommendations and highlighted positive examples of co-operation in recent years. In particular, Albania highlighted a positive experience of electoral reform assisted by ODIHR experts. Slovakia, Slovenia, Georgia, Spain, Bulgaria, Kazakhstan, and Russia welcomed recommendations of the OSCE/ODIHR and announced that they will study them closely and take them into account. A number of speakers announced plans to engage closely with the OSCE/ODIHR in the near future.

Several speakers, particularly those representing civil society, highlighted that more needs to be done in terms of follow-up and gave examples of slow and limited reactions to recommendations contained in OSCE/ODIHR reports. They called on participating States and the OSCE/ODIHR to engage more closely with civil society during follow-up activities.

Several participating States underscored that the follow-up process might benefit from greater structure and more regularity. It was proposed to think of the follow-up as a “structured but voluntary process,” with opportunities to report to the Permanent Council or Human Dimension Committee for those that wished to do so. A suggestion was voiced for ODIHR to compile and regularly report on the good practices of follow-up.

The following additional specific recommendations were made in Session 3:

Recommendations to OSCE participating States:

- Participating States could identify and compile lists of measures, timelines and what assistance may be needed;
- Participating States should consult with civil society in the course of follow-up to the OSCE/ODIHR recommendations;
- Participating States could consider engaging in thematic follow-up to the recommendations;
- Participating States could report on the follow-up in the Human Dimension Committee or Permanent Council.

Recommendations to the OSCE institutions and field operations:

- Conduct follow-up activities in a timely manner;
- ODIHR could conduct a timely follow-up visit (suggested time frame: within three months after the publication of the report). OSCE PA could be involved in the parliamentary debate. The visit should focus on identification of priorities;
- ODIHR should make sure to include all stakeholders, including election administration, civil society, parliament, political parties, in the discussion of recommendations. All stakeholders should understand their respective role and challenges in follow-up;
- The ODIHR Director should report on the activities of ODIHR in assisting the participating States in follow-up;
- ODIHR could compile good practices;
- ODIHR could further assist in the training of domestic observers;
- ODIHR could co-operate further with field missions in the follow-up process;
- ODIHR could consider engaging in thematic follow-up activities.

Recommendations to civil society:

- Promote the respect and knowledge of the international documents.

III. ANNEXES

ANNEX 1: Agenda



Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting

DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS AND ELECTION OBSERVATION

12-13 July 2012
Hofburg, Vienna

AGENDA

Day 1 **12 July 2012**

15:00 – 16:00 OPENING SESSION

Opening remarks:

Ambassador Eoin O’Leary, Chairperson of the OSCE Permanent Council, Permanent Representative of Ireland to the OSCE

Ambassador Janez Lenarčič, Director, OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODIHR)

Keynote speech:

Ms. Radmila Šekerinska, Former Deputy Prime Minister for European Integration of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Technical information by **Dr. Beata Martin-Rozumilowicz**, Head of Elections Department of the OSCE/ODIHR

16:00 – 18:00 **SESSION I: Democratic elections in context of OSCE election-related commitments and their implementation (with focus on universal and equal suffrage rights: legislation and application)**

Moderator:

Mr. Craig Jenness, Director, Electoral Assistance Division, United Nations

Introducers:

Mr. Vladimir Churov, Chairperson of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation

Ms. Corien Jonker, Former Member of the Dutch Parliament

Mr. Graham Shields, Chief Electoral Officer, Electoral Office for Northern Ireland

18:00 – 21:00 Sommerfest reception hosted by the German Delegation to the OSCE

Day 2 **13 July 2012**

10:00 – 12:00 **SESSION II: Election observation and the electoral cycle: before, during and after election day (with focus on legal framework, media, campaign finance, gender)**

Moderator:

Ms. Irena Hadžiabdić, Former President and Current Member of the Central Election Commission of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Introducers:

Dame Audrey Glover, Former Director of the OSCE/ODIHR

Mr. Matteo Mecacci, Member of the Italian Parliament, Chair of the Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions, OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

Mr. Miklos Haraszti, Former OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media

12:00 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 16:00 **SESSION III: Follow-up to OSCE/ODIHR mission report recommendations and engagement with participating States**

Moderator:

Ms. Malgorzata Wasilewska, Head of Division, Democracy & Elections, European External Action Service

Introducers:

Dr. Iurie Ciocan, President of the Central Election Commission of Moldova

Mr. Dieter Sarreither, Deputy Federal Returning Officer, Office of the Federal Returning Officer, Germany

Mr. Tuomas Pöysti, Head of National Audit Office, Finland

16:00 – 16:30

Break

16:30 – 17:30

CLOSING SESSION

Reports by the Moderators of the Working Sessions

Comments from the floor

Closing remarks

Ambassador Janez Lenarčič, Director of the OSCE/ODIHR

17:30

Closing of the meeting

ANNEX 2: Opening Remarks

**Opening Remarks by Ambassador O’Leary
Chairperson of the OSCE Permanent Council
at the OSCE Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting
on Democratic Elections and Election Observation
Hofburg, Vienna: 12-13 July 2012**

Good afternoon everyone and welcome to the 2nd Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting of 2012 which focuses on Democratic Elections and Election Observation.

Commitments

The rights of citizens to vote and to be elected at regular, genuine democratic elections are internationally recognised human rights. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant for Civil and Political Rights and other international instruments make clear that everyone has the right and must be provided with the opportunity to participate in the government and public affairs of his or her country. Within the OSCE, we recognise that free and fair elections are the foundation of a true democracy. In the 1990 Copenhagen Document, we the OSCE participating States made clear that “the will of the people, freely and fairly expressed through periodic and genuine elections, is the basis of authority and legitimacy of all governments”.

Genuine periodic elections guarantee the right and opportunity to vote freely and to be elected fairly through universal and equal suffrage by secret ballot, the results of which are accurately counted, announced and respected. Free and fair elections reflect the deeper health of human rights in a society.

In the 22 years since Copenhagen, participating States have laid down detailed commitments of what is required if an election is to be genuinely democratic. These principles can be summed up in seven words: universal, equal, fair, secret, free, transparent, and accountable. OSCE participating States have recognised and agreed to universal democratic norms and principles. These do not change across the OSCE region or over time. The aim is to have genuinely democratic states. Of course no system is so perfect that it cannot be improved, and that is where ODIHR can assist in the implementation of our common commitments.

Observation

In the Astana Commemorative Declaration, the participating States reaffirmed “categorically and irrevocably that the commitments undertaken in the field of the human

dimension are matters of direct and legitimate concern to all participating States and do not belong exclusively to the internal affairs of the State concerned”.

OSCE election observation is conducted both for the benefit of the people of the country holding the elections and for the benefit of the OSCE security community as a whole. The OSCE election observation missions increase the legitimacy and democratic credentials of elections so that the electoral process and outcomes reflect the will of the people and enjoy recognition both inside and outside the country.

We, the participating States, have clearly mandated ODIHR to assist participating States in the implementation of election-related commitments through long-term and short-term observation and to provide follow-up assistance in implementing recommendations. The work of both ODIHR and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in election observation is and will remain one of Ireland’s top priorities in this organisation, and participating States have committed to give the ‘utmost attention to the independence, impartiality and professionalism of ODIHR’s election observation’.

Based on these principles, ODIHR’s comprehensive, consistent and systematic elections observation methodology has evolved over the past twenty years to an ever-more refined approach to observing and assessing elections in different circumstances and responding to the varying needs of participating States. Indeed, the methodology has been held up by other organisations as a model to be replicated, as recognised in the 2005 Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation.

It is clear that no country is immune from criticism but we should not attempt to weaken this criticism by undermining the legitimacy of the observation work carried out by ODIHR. The OSCE’s election methodology is one of best developed tools in the OSCE toolbox and it should be protected and enhanced. The continuous development of the methodology, as mandated in the Brussels Ministerial Council, provides guidance to participating States notably through the publication of ODIHR’s Election Observation Handbook which clearly and transparently outlines the methodology used. We must commend ODIHR and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly for their continuous commitment and practice to field professional and impartial election observers.

Follow-Up

We also need to concentrate on the implementation of our commitments and to engage more readily in follow-up to the recommendations in election observation reports.

OSCE election observation is not an end in itself, but is intended to assist the participating States with the implementation of their commitments in this area. The effectiveness of an election observation activity can only be maximized if the recommendations it provides are given serious consideration and are implemented effectively. An effective follow-up process builds upon the impact and usefulness of election observation activities.

Throughout this Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting we will have an opportunity to discuss these issues in more detail with experts, professional observers, representatives from central election commissions, civil society groups and NGOs, as well as other international organisations. I am very much looking forward to reviewing the implementation of our common commitments, to sharing best practice and to analysing ways for improving follow-up.

Thank you.

Opening Remarks by Ambassador Janez Lenarčič
Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
at the OSCE Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting
on Democratic Elections and Election Observation
Hofburg, Vienna: 12-13 July 2012

Madame Minister,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure and a privilege to address this distinguished gathering today. This Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on Democratic Elections and Election Observation provides the OSCE community with an occasion to follow up on key issues and discuss substantive concerns, including some raised at previous Human Dimension Implementation Meetings, Review Conferences and OSCE Human Dimension Seminars.

ODIHR is mandated to assist participating States in conducting democratic elections through its election observation and to support them in the implementation of their election-related commitments and in following up on recommendations made by ODIHR in this field. While election observation activities are the most visible aspect of OSCE/ODIHR's election mandate, they are just one part of a much broader range of election-related activities aimed at fostering and strengthening democratic elections.

I very much appreciate this opportunity to address you at the beginning of this SHDM and to provide you with an update on OSCE/ODIHR's election-related work. OSCE/ODIHR has achieved steady progress over the past decade since our Human Dimension Seminar on "Election Processes", held in May 2001 in Warsaw, and the OSCE SHDMs on "Electoral Standards and Commitments" in July 2004 and on "Challenges of Election Technology and Procedures" in April 2005, held here in Vienna, as well as further CiO Seminars on related issues.

Since 1996, ODIHR has observed over 250 elections in almost all of the 56 OSCE participating States. This number, itself, points to ODIHR's vast experience and institutional knowledge when it comes to electoral processes and election observation. On many of these occasions ODIHR has joined efforts for election-day observation with OSCE PA and some other parliamentary institutions. I am pleased to note that our partnership with OSCE PA has recently worked well.

In the past ten years, ODIHR has published some 580 election-related reports, available on its elections website. Further, it has published almost 100 reviews of electoral legislation, many of which have been conducted jointly with the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe. Both the reports and the reviews contain a number of recommendations intended to support participating States in improving the conduct of and framework for their electoral processes. ODIHR always stands ready to present its reports and discuss the recommendations contained therein with the authorities and other stakeholders of the participating State concerned.

In addition to election observation and support to following up on and implementing recommendations, ODIHR has also further elaborated its methodology, in line with different OSCE decisions and specifically with Ministerial Council decision 19 from 2006 that tasked ODIHR to "further strengthen the observation methodology." I am very proud that ODIHR is able to present to you two new handbooks during the course of this SHDM. The first, on the "Observation of Voter Registration", will provide observers and those of you interested in the matter with a better understanding of the legislative and administrative aspects of voter registration. It will also provide guidance for election observation activities on how to approach voter registration as part of an overall observation of an election. While ODIHR has included voter registration as part of its overall methodology for observing elections, this handbook aims to provide a more systematic and comprehensive approach to observing this critical element of an election process. It should enhance the work of analysts and observers who take part in OSCE/ODIHR election observation activities.

The second handbook on "Media Monitoring for Election Observation" provides a succinct explanation of ODIHR's media-monitoring methodology, which has been used by OSCE/ODIHR in its election observation activities since the Budapest Summit's tasking in 1994. It includes a set of guidelines for coverage of election campaigns by public and private media, particularly broadcast and print, but also touches upon the internet and other new media.

These two handbooks are intended to complement the Election Observation Handbook, now in its 6th edition, which outlines in detail OSCE/ODIHR's election observation methodology. This handbook has been available in English and Russian for some time, but thanks to generous extra-budgetary contributions it has just recently been translated into Arabic to support requests from OSCE's Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation for such information.

Aside from the existing OSCE/ODIHR Handbook for Monitoring Women's Participation in Elections, the Handbook for Long-Term Observers and the Handbook for Domestic Election Observers, OSCE/ODIHR is working on a Handbook for the Observation of New Voting Technologies and a similar one on Campaign Finance, which should be published in the near future. While our election observation activities are funded exclusively from the unified budget, the preparation of such additional and specific handbooks that promote the development of the methodology relies solely on extra-budgetary funding. I would thus like to thank the participating States concerned for their continued generous support of these activities.

While handbooks are important training and reference materials, in-person or interactive training of observers is key to the continued professionalism and improvement of the knowledge of election observers and thus, election observation missions. We continue to provide training to Short and Long-Term Observers from the 17 countries that are eligible to be funded through the Fund for the Diversification of Election Observation Missions. In addition, OSCE/ODIHR has developed an electronic learning platform for election observers. This is the first e-learning platform available to anyone interested in election observation and I am proud to say that we are releasing this internet training course today and would like to invite you to test this platform yourself during the course of this SHDM and after. OSCE/ODIHR does not only provide this course in English, which is the working language of OSCE/ODIHR election observation missions, but also in Russian to facilitate access and learning. This is also fully in line with MC Decision 19/06, which tasked ODIHR to enhance the linguistic inclusiveness of our observation activities.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would now like to take this opportunity to outline in more detail the upcoming one and a half days of this OSCE SHDM entitled "Democratic Elections and Election Observation". The discussion will particularly focus on the following three areas:

The first session will examine in detail our OSCE commitments for the conduct of democratic elections, and universal and equal suffrage lies at the core of these commitments. The OSCE participating States committed themselves to "guarantee universal and equal suffrage to adult citizens and respect the right of citizens to seek political or public office, individually or as representatives of political parties or organizations, without discrimination". This includes the right to vote as well as the right to stand as a candidate for election. Suffrage rights of women, minorities and people with disabilities are additionally protected by several international conventions. The right to universal and equal suffrage is also closely related to the issue of voter registration and the process of honest counting and reporting of results, all of which will be examined during the course of this first session.

The second SHDM session, starting tomorrow morning, will look into specific elements of the election observation methodology to better respond to the identified needs and challenges and to utilize the election observation cycle as a tool of maintaining dialogue to support OSCE participating States in the implementation of their commitments. As

many of you will know, OSCE/ODIHR endorses the 2005 Declaration of Principles for International Election Observers, which is now supported by some 40 international observer organizations. OSCE/ODIHR will continue developing election observation methodology to respond to new challenges and new technological developments in the field of elections.

The third and closing session tomorrow afternoon will focus on the commitment of OSCE participating States to follow up on recommendations in OSCE/ODIHR Final Reports. Election observation is not an end in itself, but is intended to assist OSCE participating States with the implementation of their election-related commitments. The utility of an election observation activity can only be maximized if the recommendations it provides are given serious consideration and are implemented effectively. An effective follow-up process builds upon the impact and usefulness of election observation activities. It is an integral part of an electoral cycle and ideally starts as soon as the final report including recommendations has been published.

ODIHR's recommendations incorporated in final reports are now also prioritized to highlight the most important, implementable and urgent reforms needed. It is necessary that key recommendations are fully addressed by participating States, by those assisting reform, whether they are our OSCE field operations, the UN or other organizations, as well as by civil society organizations advocating change in electoral legislation and practice.

Election results should reflect the will of voters, freely expressed in periodic and genuine elections. However, election results are only of interest to us in as far as they are counted and reported honestly with the results made public.

In conclusion, I firmly believe that the provision of independent, impartial, and professional election observation leading to quality recommendations, combined with an effective follow up strategy and commensurate political will by participating States, could all successfully contribute to improving the conduct of democratic elections and strengthening democracy in the OSCE region.

We will be following the discussions carefully and are interested in the resulting dialogue. I encourage the moderators of the sessions to ensure that participants can engage in a constructive debate aimed at improving the implementation of OSCE commitments and thereby reinforcing the relevance of our gathering and our discussions today. I wish everyone a very productive and fruitful Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting.

ANNEX 3: Keynote Speech by Ms. Radmila Šekerinska

Mr. Chairperson of the OSCE Permanent Council,
Mr. Director of OSCE ODIHR,
Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

In our line of work, it is so easy to be one-sided. Today, I don't have that luxury, being asked to speak about democratic elections and election observation while wearing all my past and present "hats": as a participant and candidate in six elections in Macedonia, as a former government official responsible for improving the election process, as an opposition leader negotiating consensus on election-related legislation, and as head of OSCE/ODIHR election observation missions in Kyrgyzstan (2009) and Armenia (2012).

Taking into account all these diverse experiences, let me start by something you already know about democratic elections: they don't just come along – neither overnight (or over one election cycle) nor by themselves. Of course, democratic transitions are complex, require time, and are fully dependent on a sustained political will. That transition has to start somewhere and this starting point is (to use an old quote): "the essential democratic institution – the ballot box and all that goes with it".

We are discussing these issues within OSCE – an organization established to safeguard this continent's security by fostering democratic development. In short: security through democracy. Therefore, it is sometimes surprising that even within OSCE, we question the real priority: "is it security or democracy". In my view, this dilemma is a false one.

I am not saying this because I am a naïve idealist (unfortunately, 15 years of Balkan politics have acted as a vaccine against it), but due to my personal experience that undermining democracy weakens security; that bad elections and furthermore "turning a blind eye" from them, have been followed by threats to both security and stability.

So, is election observation still valuable? Having in mind that by 2004, 80 per cent of the elections in non-consolidated democracies were fully observed and that, in spite of more than 300 observation missions, democratic elections are still an issue – it would be easy to become a critic and challenge the rationale for election observation.

I have no doubts: election observation can not enhance the election process without the necessary domestic political will. But, I see the important value of election observation similar to, for example, anticorruption bodies we have in most of OSCE participating states: they don't eradicate corruption, but gradually curb it by making corruption risky and politically expensive. Similarly, observers increase the costs for committing electoral fraud and by doing so, they may improve the quality of electoral governance and contribute to democratization.

Should we be satisfied with the quality of election observation? In my view, the quality of international election observation has improved dramatically in the last decade, but nevertheless numerous challenges remain. But questions remain: How to create and maintain the reputation for impartiality? How to deal with the hesitation of international observation organizations to comment the electoral system even when it perpetuates a severely biased playing field? Is it the observers' role to measure the effect that violations have on the result?

Truly democratic elections are only viable in an environment of decent and strong institutions that protect the rule of law. But, Fareed Zakaria reminds us: "Elections are easy to capture on film. How do you televise rule of law?" This is why the election process attracts more media and public attention in the search of an x-ray of the quality of national democracy. Additionally, this leads to higher and unrealistic expectations from election observation. A high percentage of voters decide whom to vote for prior to the start of the election campaign that we observe. This period significantly defines the level playing field – but it can not be covered by the observation mission itself. Therefore, we have to accept the intrinsic limits to our engagement and it sometimes frustrates OSCE participating States, media and the public: election observers are not election police, let alone democratic police.

Speaking in an OSCE framework, I have to make an additional comment. There is no gender perspective in decision-making if there is no gender perspective in elections and election observation. Therefore, I applaud OSCE efforts to include and insist on challenging this particular democratic deficit in some participating states.

Has election observation improved the election record within the OSCE area? Let me just mention the example of my country. Macedonia still faces certain challenges in meeting all OSCE commitments, but it was due to its partnership with OSCE/ODIHR that we dealt with certain substantial shortcomings (violence, family voting), revised the electoral system and legislation, transformed Parliament and local councils by quadrupling the number of female members and embarked on improving the voter registry. After two decades of elections and election observation, some would see this as success; while others would call it a failure.

As humans, we have a tendency to take things for granted, including democracy, rule of law, democratic elections and international election observation. Before making that mistake, let us consider the alternative: lack of a meaningful and objective election observation might result in leadership without democratic legitimacy, lost democratic commitment, lost confidence in the democratic process, and the possible irresponsible behavior of "sore losers". Therefore, although sometimes frustrated by the limits of election observation, let us not undermine the dangers of its absence.

Having this in mind, I commend this effort to continue the dialogue towards improved election observation and meaningful support for all OSCE participating States.

Thank you for your attention.

ANNEX 4: Biographical Information on Introducers and Moderators

Democratic Elections and Election Observation

12-13 July 2012

HOFBURG, VIENNA

Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting

Biographical Information: Speakers and Moderators

Keynote Speaker:

Ms. Radmila Šekerinska, Former Deputy Prime Minister for European Integration of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Radmila Šekerinska is a politician from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. She holds a B.Sc. from the Faculty of Electrical Engineering of Skopje University, and a Master's degree in International Relations from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, USA. Radmila Šekerinska is serving her fourth mandate as a Member of Parliament and is currently the President of the National Council for European Integration. Between 2002 and 2006, she was Deputy Prime Minister responsible for European integration and foreign aid coordination in three consecutive governments. Radmila Šekerinska was also acting Prime Minister on two occasions in 2004. During her term as Deputy Prime Minister responsible for EU integration, the European Council in December 2005 granted her country the status of candidate country for accession to the European Union. From 2006 to 2008, Radmila Šekerinska was the leader of the Social Democratic Union of Macedonia (SDSM) and the first woman to head one of the country's major parties. For her dedication and achievements in the field of European integration of her own country and the Western Balkans, the World Economic Forum awarded Radmila Šekerinska the title Young Global Leader. She is a member of the Advisory Board of the Schengen White List project and of the Institute for Cultural Diplomacy's Advisory Council and was also a member of the European Strategy Forum. Radmila Šekerinska was the Head of the OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission for the presidential election in the Kyrgyz Republic in 2009 and for the Election Observation Mission for the parliamentary elections to Armenia in 2012.

SESSION I: **Democratic elections in context of OSCE election-related commitments and their implementation (with focus on universal and equal suffrage rights: legislation and application)**

Moderator:

Mr. Craig Jenness, Director, Electoral Assistance Division, United Nations Department of Political Affairs, United Nations Secretariat

Craig Jenness is a barrister and solicitor by profession. Since July 2006 he has been serving as the Director of the Electoral Assistance Division in the DPA, where he advises the Secretary-General and the UN Focal Point for Electoral Assistance Activities on matters relating to requests from Member States for electoral assistance. Previously Craig Jenness served as International Commissioner on the Independent Electoral Commission of Iraq, and as Senior Adviser to the SRSG in the UN Mission in Kosovo. His previous experience includes missions with the UN and the OSCE in Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia and Cambodia. He was Head of the OSCE Mission to Skopje. Craig Jenness also served as Head of the OSCE's Election Support Team to Afghanistan during the parliamentary and provincial elections in 2005, as a member of the UN Expert Panel for the Afghanistan presidential elections in 2004 and as Head of the IOM Out-of-Country Voting Programme in Iran for the 2004 Afghan elections.

Introducers:

Mr. Vladimir Churov, Chairperson of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation

Since 2007, Vladimir Churov has been the Chairman of the Central Electoral Commission (CEC) of the Russian Federation. Mr. Churov's academic background includes a graduate course in Journalism (1973) as well as a physics degree at Leningrad State University (1977), as well as later studies in programming. He has taught at the Saint Petersburg Trade Unions University for the Humanities and at Saint Petersburg State University. In 1991-2003, he served in different positions at the Committee for Foreign Relations of the Saint Petersburg Administration; including as Deputy Chairman and Head of the International Cooperation Department. In 1990, he was elected People's Deputy of the Leningrad Soviet of People's Deputies. In 2003, he was elected as a member of the Fourth State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation for the Liberal Democratic Party. He was elected Deputy Chairman of the State Duma Committee for the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Affairs and Relations with Compatriots, member of the State Duma's delegation in the Nordic Council, and member of the Political Commission of the CIS Inter-Parliamentary Assembly. He has extensive election observation experience with the CIS, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, and the State Duma. He is the author of about 30 scientific papers, several hundred publications on different socio-political subjects. He has received Letters of Commendation from the Chairman of the State Duma and the Mayor and Governor of Saint-Petersburg. He was awarded the Order of Friendship of the Russian Federation, and numerous other awards.

Ms. Corien Jonker, Former Member of the Dutch Parliament

Corien Jonker studied speech therapy and worked as a speech therapist in the management of the Dutch Immigration and Naturalization Service, combined with

engagements in local and regional politics. From 2004 to June 2010 Corien Jonker was an MP of the Dutch Parliament chairing the committee on social affairs. Concurrently she became member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), where she chaired the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population. She has extensive election experience as a member of PACE observer committees and headed the PACE committee to the 2009 Albania elections. Corien Jonker was the Head of Mission of the OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission to Kyrgyzstan in 2010 and 2011, and the OSCE/ODIHR Limited Election Observation Mission to Serbia in 2012.

Mr. Graham Shields, Chief Electoral Officer, Electoral Office for Northern Ireland

Graham Shields served as a chief superintendent in the Police Service of Northern Ireland before he was appointed Assistant Chief Electoral Officer in 2009. Graham Shields was appointed Chief Electoral Officer for Northern Ireland in 2010.

SESSION II: Election observation and the electoral cycle: before, during and after election day (with focus on legal framework, media, campaign finance, gender)

Moderator:

Ms. Irena Hadžiabdić, Former President and current member of the Central Election Commission of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Irena Hadžiabdić graduated from the Belgrade Faculty of Law. From 1997 to 2001 she worked in the Elections Department and the Democratization Department of the OSCE in Travnik and Zenica. In 2001 she was appointed as Executive Director of the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES). She actively participated in creating of the Association of Election Officials of BiH (AEOBiH), who's elementary task is improvement of elections in BiH and professional training of election officials. Until her appointment as a member of the Central Election Commission BiH, she was Executive Director of the Association of Election Officials of BiH (UIZBiH), headquartered in Sarajevo. Irena Hadžiabdić observed elections for OSCE/ODIHR, IRI, and most recently with NDI (Egypt in 2011). In June 2011 she was appointed President of the Association of European Election Officials (ACEEEO). In the period of 21 months (January 2010 – September 2011) she was President of the Central Election Commission of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Introducers:

Dame Audrey Glover, Former Director of the OSCE/ODIHR

Dame Audrey Glover is a human rights lawyer who was formerly a Legal Counsellor at the FCO. During that time she was the UK Agent before the European Commission and

Court of Human Rights. Dame Audrey was seconded by the FCO as Director of ODIHR from 1994 to 1997. She then headed the UK Delegation to the UN Human Rights Commission from 1998 to 2003. More recently, Dame Audrey has headed the OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Missions including those to Slovenia (2011), Georgia and Azerbaijan (2010), Albania (2009), Italy and the US (2008) and Ukraine (2007). She has worked in Baghdad as a human rights adviser to the Coalition Provisional Authority and the Iraqi Ministry of Human Rights in 2004, 2005 and 2006.

Mr. Matteo Mecacci, Member of the Italian Parliament, Chair of the Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions, OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

Matteo Mecacci holds a University Degree in Law and has been elected as a candidate of the Democratic Party (Partito Democratico-PD) to the Italian parliament in 2008. He has been a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee and has been a member of the Italian Delegation to the OSCE PA. He has been a coordinator of many transnational campaigns promoted by the Radical Party at the UN headquarters in New York, where the RP has the NGOs consultative status with ECOSOC category 1. He is further the Vice-President and Representative of the Nonviolent Radical Party, Transnational and Transparty at the UN.

Mr. Miklós Haraszti, Former OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media

Miklós Haraszti studied philosophy and literature at Budapest University. In 1976 he co-founded the Hungarian Democratic Opposition Movement and in 1980 became editor of the samizdat periodical *Beszélő*. In 1989, Haraszti participated in the "roundtable" negotiations on transition to free elections. A member of the Hungarian Parliament from 1990–1994, he then moved on to lecture on democratization and media politics at numerous universities. Miklós Haraszti served two terms as the OSCE Representative on the Freedom of the Media from 2004 to 2010. Currently he is Adjunct Professor at the School of International & Public Affairs of Columbia Law School, New York. He was the Head of the OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission for the parliamentary elections in Kazakhstan in 2012 and for the Limited Election Observation Mission for the mid-term congressional elections in the United States in 2010.

SESSION III: Follow-up to OSCE/ODIHR mission report recommendations and engagement with participating States

Moderator:

Ms. Małgorzata Waśilewska, Head of Division, Democracy & Elections, European External Action Service

Małgorzata Waśilewska is currently Head of Division for Election Observation and Democracy Support at the European External Action Service of the European Union in Brussels. She has managed missions of the EU to DRC, Tunisia, Nicaragua, Peru,

Zambia, Southern Sudan (referendum for independence and elections), Uganda, Niger, Chad, Mozambique, Honduras, Bolivia, Togo, Ethiopia, Burundi, Solomon Islands, Guinea Conakry, Afghanistan, Rwanda, Tanzania, Ivory Coast, Sudan (elections and referendum). Before joining the European Union, Małgorzata Waśilewska worked as a senior specialist on organizational governance and strategic planning for Saferworld and Amnesty International, both at the national and global level. Her main areas of specialization were human rights, conflict sensitive development promotion, post-conflict democracy building and non-proliferation of small arms and light weapons.

Introducers:

Mr. Iurie Ciocan, President of the Central Election Commission of Moldova

Iurie Ciocan is currently the Chairperson of the Central Election Commission of Moldova. He has been administrating the four last parliamentary elections, as well as one constitutional referendum and two local government elections. Iurie Ciocan graduated from the Technical University of Moldova and has been a professor at the Public Administration Academy. He holds a PhD in Political Science.

Mr. Dieter Sarreither, Deputy Federal Returning Officer, Office of the Federal Returning Officer, Germany

Dieter Sarreither studied mathematics and political economy in Heidelberg and Mainz. He began his professional career in the area of operations research and systems analysis in the private sector and joined the Federal Statistical Office in 1982. As IT Director he was responsible for developing policies, standards and software tools for the statistical offices. Since 2003, he was the Director of the Department Information Technology, Mathematical and Statistical Methods of the Federal Statistical Office. In 2011 Dieter Sarreither was appointed Vice President of the Federal Statistical Office and Deputy Federal Returning Officer.

Mr. Tuomas Pöysti, Auditor General, Head of National Audit Office, Finland

Tuomas Pöysti has a doctorate in law and has been elected by parliament to a mandate as Auditor General of Finland from January 2007 to December 2012. Before he was the assigned Government Controller General at the Ministry of Finance; the government's highest adviser on the quality of governance, internal control, reporting and accountability on central government finances and performance. He has been a member of the consultative group of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board of the International Federation of Accountants IFAC and lectured as docent of administrative law at the University of Helsinki, Finland, since 2001.

ANNEX 5: Participants

The final list of participants is available at: <http://www.osce.org/odihr/elections/92184>.