

**Wystąpienie Ministra Spraw Zagranicznych Włodzimierza Cimoszewicza  
podczas spotkania implementacyjnego wymiaru ludzkiego OBWE  
(Warszawa, 6 października 2003 r.)**

**Mr. Chairman,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**I have the pleasure and honor to speak at the opening of Human Dimension Implementation Meeting of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. The Meeting is an essential, I would say, integral part of the OSCE's activities. This is the most important annual conference convened to review and exchange experiences the Organization has gained within the framework of the human dimension.**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,  
The efforts to uphold the Human Dimension values are pivotal for the OSCE's strategy to build a stability and prosperity in the Euroatlantic space.**

**I would like to congratulate the Dutch Chairmanship for organizing several – without a doubt - successful meetings which took place this year. They represented significant effort to strength the OSCE's campaign against anti-Semitism, discrimination, racism and xenophobia, trafficking in human beings and other, unfortunately, still existing negative phenomena.**

**Another hot topic for the OSCE activity this year is elaboration of an action plan against trafficking in human beings. Trafficking is a global problem but is also a potential threat for violation of human rights, security and stability in OSCE region. Therefore we all together, either as a country of origin, transit or destination have to combat this problem.**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**The multifaceted cross-border nature of security challenges in the modern world such as terrorism, trafficking, intolerance requires both and multi-dimensional approach and common response.**

**It requires close co-operation of all international organizations. Among OSCE's key international partners are UN, European Union, NATO, and Council of Europe.**

**As I just returned from New York, where I have participated at the fifty eight session of the UN General Assembly, I would like to draw your attention to the complementarity of OSCE efforts with those of the United Nations. This complementarity could be guaranteed only if the rapid changes taking place in**

**the international environment, would be reflected in the efforts to adapt organizations to the requirements of the new era. Poland is active in this area both in the OSCE and in the UN, where we put forward a comprehensive reform initiative.**

**The strategic objective of this proposal is to elaborate a New Political Act for the United Nations at the Dawn of the 21st Century. Initiative of the Polish Government represents an invitation to a holistic and conceptual reflection upon the nature of changes in the international system and on the most desirable vision of new, more effective international order.**

**Few days ago in New York I reiterated this initiative which is not intend to revise or change the UN Charter but New Political Act should place the UN in a context of the ongoing transformation of the international environment. I am very glad that the Polish initiative will be a useful contribution to the ongoing process of reflection on those crucial issues and will complement the efforts of the Secretary General. The human dimension could be seen as one of the key element of the new agenda for the United Nations.**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**Returning to the OSCE, it is time to mention the preparations for the Ministerial session that will be held in Maastricht in December this year. This Meeting will be important in setting the agenda for the future of the OSCE. All 55 states are working hard on development of the OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the 21st Century. The Bucharest Plan of Action 2001, the OSCE Charter on Preventing and Combating Terrorism adopted in Porto (last year), the Bishkek conference and finally the Annual Security Review Conference held in Vienna in June not only generated the practical ideas for improving security co-operation between OSCE states but also put the fight against terrorism as a top priority on the agenda.**

**But we have to bear in mind that apart from terrorism there are some others topics perhaps less visible but very important for the future stability and security in the OSCE area.**

**Respect for democracy and human rights are important weapons in the fight against terrorism. Human Dimension continues to be a heart of the new approaches, because promotion of the rule of law, freedoms and democracy will deprive terrorism of its life-giving nature.**

**We have to remember that security starts at home. It is there where we should start to combat the abuse of power and improve deficit of democracy. Our future success depends largely on upholding common values, in preventing**

**conflicts, combating organized crime, illicit trafficking of drugs and arms, illegal migrations, rejecting ethnic intolerance.**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**Gross violation of human rights and international humanitarian law, often exacerbated by violent conflicts, remain major causes of forced displacement.**

**Ethnic tensions continue to be a matter of concern in many OSCE States. Development of new non-military confidence building measures or, let us call them tolerance-building measures, as well as their application will be useful in particularly tense and flammable situations. What I mean is this vague area where efforts are undertaken at recovery from bitter conflicts involving different ethnic communities. Or situations we have to deal in our Western community, which cumulate in tensions whipped up by cultural and civilization differences between their own citizens and the growing numbers of immigrants.**

**Allow me to say a few words on the anti-Semitism conference, which took place in June in Vienna. It was a very successful event in terms of participation, quality of discussion and attention of the media. By the way, this topic will be also a part of the Warsaw meeting. This unprecedented conference first of all reminded us that the phenomena of anti-Semitism still exist in the OSCE area. It is a problem of both: developing democracies and so called established, Western society. The deliberations gave us unique opportunity to assess situation and to raise awareness of the necessity to prevent and fight anti-Semitism everywhere.**

**Let me go back for a moment to the statement of my distinguished predecessor Professor Władysław Bartoszewski who said in Vienna – “no tolerance for intolerance is therefore the first and supreme principle on which methods to combat anti-Semitism should be based”.**

**Today I want to add to his appeal - no tolerance for any form of discrimination including racist violence and racial and religious intolerance in the OSCE area.**

**Refugee movements and migrations in a globalising world are key issues for the coming decades. We believe that migrations are a normal phenomenon, which contribute positively to economic and social development, cultural richness and diversity.**

**Refugees and migrants have skills, experience, and strong aspirations for better lives and sometimes good education. Access to the labor market, education, health and other public resources are important factors to develop their own capacities.**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**In the coming days we will focus on a wide range of issues some of this topics will be difficult to discuss, some of countries present here today will be publicly criticized. But we have to remember that we are not here to exchange fertile accusations, but to discuss openly problems and issues. I would bring back once again words of Mr. Bartoszewski who said: “there is no such thing as a sensitive subject, but only people who do not have sufficient courage to discuss difficult problems in public”.**

**We in Poland are not afraid to discuss even more difficult issues in public. The most recent example is a very public debate in my country about a project which could undermine the great achievement of the Polish – German reconciliation after War World II, by blurring the causes and results of the War.**

**No country represented around this table has an absolutely perfect record of implementation of human rights commitments. Sometimes, this is the result of a deliberate decision of the state authorities that they must give priority to what they consider as higher objectives: security, stability or sometimes consolidation of state structures.**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**I would like to congratulate the Chairmanship for preparing this meeting, ODIHR for organizing it and to wish you all exciting and fruitful debates and trust that they will mark another step on the road to a more refined democracy, to greater respect for human rights and rule of law. That will help improve the situation in places that are very much in need of such an improvement.**