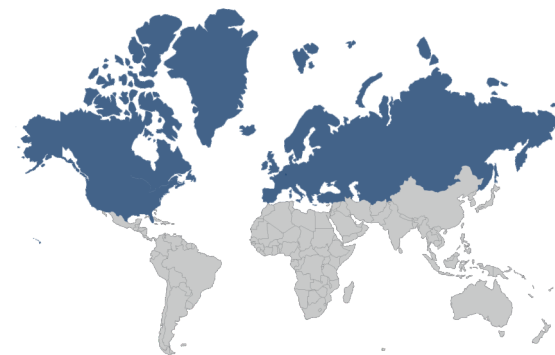




Ministry  
of Foreign Affairs  
Republic of Poland



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# FROM VANCOUVER TO VLADIVOSTOK

## WORKSHOP ON MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY

# STAKEHOLDER

EXPERT CENTERS  
DEALING WITH DEMOCRACY  
AND THE PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS  
AND MONITORING MEDIA FREEDOM

## CONTEXT

The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the Representative on Freedom of the Media and the High Representative for National Minorities are the institutional core of the third dimension of the OSCE.

**The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights** provides support, assistance and expertise to participating states and civil society to promote democracy, the rule of law, human rights and tolerance and non-discrimination. The office conducts election observation missions as well as reviews legislation and advises governments on how to develop and maintain democratic institutions. The office conducts training programs for government and law enforcement officials and non-governmental organizations on respecting, promoting, and monitoring human rights. Its agenda also includes combating terrorism, education, gender equality, migration, the rule of law, and tolerance and non-discrimination.

**The Representative on Freedom of the Media** focuses on two areas: observing media development as part of the early warning function, and helping participating states meet their obligations regarding freedom of expression and free media. This includes measures to ensure the safety of journalists; promote media pluralism and the decriminalization of defamation; combat hate speech while preserving freedom of expression; provide expertise in media regulation and legislation; promote Internet freedom; or support in the transition from analog to digital broadcasting. The Representative also organizes annual regional media conferences bringing together journalists, representatives of civil society and government, as well as academics to discuss current media freedom issues.

**The High Commissioner on National Minorities** becomes involved if, in his/her opinion, there are tensions involving national minorities that may escalate into conflict. Most of his/her work consists of identifying and removing the causes of ethnic tensions and conflicts. The High Commissioner deals with short-term causes of inter-ethnic tensions or conflict, and long-term structural problems. If a participating state fails to meet its political commitments or international standards, the High Commissioner assists by providing analysis and making recommendations.

Despite the efforts of all three institutions in the OSCE area, violations continue to occur in all the areas indicated above, leading to a reduction in the level of security.

## GOAL

Development - for each of the institutions - of two proposals for mechanisms to increase their effectiveness in the areas of their interest.