

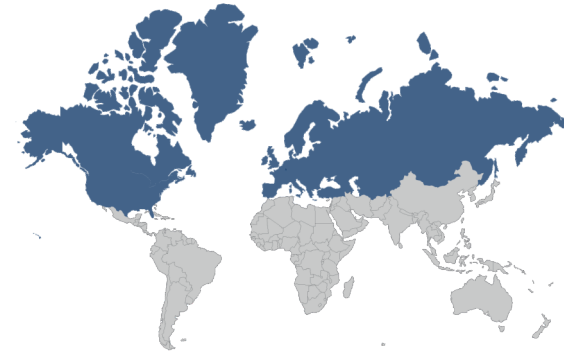


Ministry
of Foreign Affairs
Republic of Poland



FUNDACJA
LEPSZA POLSKA

Public task "Poland's regional position
in times of global tensions and rivalry:
challenges for Euro-Atlantic security"
financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Poland within the
"Public Diplomacy 2022" competition.



OBWE.PL

FROM VANCOUVER TO VLADIVOSTOK

WORKSHOP ON MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY

STAKEHOLDER

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS
REPRESENTING CIVIL SOCIETY

CONTEXT

The OSCE comprises 57 states with diverse regimes and political systems and traditions in their approach to the protection of fundamental rights. The protection of human rights, including the key aspect from the perspective of international security, i.e. the protection of minorities, including national or ethnic ones, is regulated by special mechanisms within the OSCE, and yet there have been and still are abuses in this respect.

The Vienna Mechanism was established during the 1989 Vienna Review Meeting and concerned the human dimension of cooperation within the Meeting. It provided for a four-stage procedure where, initially, countries exchange information on the human dimension and respond to requests for information from other countries. In the second stage, bilateral meetings may be organized at the request of the countries concerned to examine and resolve specific cases relating to the human dimension. In the third stage, all participating states are notified of human cases being processed. In the final stage, cases are discussed in OSCE forums.

The Moscow Mechanism assumes five possible variants. In the first one, the state concerned voluntarily requests the establishment of missions of up to three experts to conduct inspections on its territory. The mission then submits its conclusions within three weeks, and the state concerned should communicate within two weeks what measures it has taken or intends to take with regard to that situation. Another variant assumes that one state may apply for the establishment of a mission in another country. If the second state agrees, then the mission operates as in the first variant. The third and fourth variants are the most problematic. The third variant is launched when a state suspected of violating human rights does not consent to the mission establishment.

Then it is possible to establish a mission of rapporteurs with the support of at least six states (in addition to the requesting state), and the consent of the requested state is not required for its establishment. It is the task of the rapporteurs to examine the objective circumstances and present their conclusions to the interested parties. On the other hand, in the fourth option, if a state considers that there is a “particularly serious risk” in another country, then a rapporteur mission can be established upon request supported by nine other countries. The last, fifth option provides for the possibility of a decision on the establishment of a mission of experts or rapporteurs by the Permanent Council. There were also cases of obstruction, such as in 1993, when a special mission of rapporteurs to investigate the situation in Montenegro and Serbia did not receive entry visas to Serbia.

GOAL

Review of mechanisms and their simplification, changes in the decision-making system on their activation, consideration of introducing sanctions on states for non-cooperation in the implementation of mechanisms.