

HUMAN SECURITY AND SECURITY SECTOR REFORM IN EASTERN EUROPE
INTERNATIONAL ROUND TABLE
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The OSCE was created as a security organization, with a broad concept of security, beyond traditional military security, disarmament and border issues. Based on a broad concept of security, it deals equally with human rights. The OSCE norms in this field cover a wider area than traditional human rights law. The OSCE considers security to be more than merely the absence of war. The OSCE participating States created a comprehensive framework for peace and stability in Europe. They have committed themselves to a comprehensive catalogue of human rights and democracy norms. These form the basis of what the OSCE calls the “human dimension” of security.

The OSCE is not simply an organization of 56 participating States but a “community of values” jointly developing practice and normative custom. This linkage is also reflected in the strong commitment to the rule of law and in the way it is formulated, as a concept based on the dignity of the human person and a system of rights through laws and legal structures.

The OSCE guiding human rights principle on “respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief” was included as an integral element of a regional security framework, on the same basis as politico-military and economic issues. Today political or economic security should be addressed together with human rights and democracy.

Politically binding commitments The OSCE process is essentially a political process that does not create legally enforceable norms or principles. OSCE human dimension commitments are politically, rather than legally, binding. This is an important distinction, since it limits the legal enforceability of OSCE standards.

The OSCE commitments are more than a simple declaration of will or good intentions. They are a political promise to comply with these standards.

The OSCE remains an important partner in facilitating the process of security sector reform in Ukraine through support to the relevant institutions and concrete projects in the field implemented with government civil society sector.

Let me make 3 observations from our ongoing and successful co-operation with Ukraine partners. Firstly, our daily cooperation with Ukraine partners from government and civil society (many of them are present today) is conducted on an equal footing. The Ukraine government and civil society actively participate in the OSCE growing presence in Ukraine as beneficiaries and partners in the co-operation. Secondly, the civil society and non-governmental organizations are playing an important and growing role, as partners of the OSCE and the Ukraine government in developing the human dimension of

security. OSCE actively supports these roles. Thirdly, It is important to notice that as Ukraine civil society performs not only an essential role in the promotion of human rights, democracy and rule of law but significantly contributes to it.

The PCU enhances cooperation between government and civil society while implementing a wide range of reforms in Ukraine. The OSCE Project Coordinator in Ukraine (PCU) is actively engaged in promoting the ideas of human security model. Human security issues have been allocated as a separate element in the PCU project activities. The PCU has continued the implementation of projects which focus on promoting human security norms within civilian security sector reform in Ukraine.

We organized concrete projects on training new police patrol officers in combating human trafficking and domestic violence; improving community police approach; training the reformed neighborhood police units; supporting human-rights-based education. We offered expert assistance to facilitate with reforming the constitution and judiciary as well as integrating civil society in justice reform.

There are growing expectations and demands from the Ukrainian partners, from the government and the civil society, for further expansion of co-operation and dialogues in the areas of security and stability, intersociety dialog, constitutional reform, increasing powers of the local government, and decentralization.

The PCU is well positioned to assist in further strengthening of the stability, rule of law, democracy, security and economic development of Ukraine.