

The Human Dimension of the OSCE:

Some key principles

- ◆ The participating States will respect human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief, for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion. They will promote and encourage the effective exercise of civil, political, economic, social, cultural and other rights and freedoms. *(Helsinki 1975)*
- ◆ Human rights and fundamental freedoms are the birthright of all human beings, are inalienable and are guaranteed by law. Their protection and promotion is the first responsibility of government. *(Paris 1990)*
- ◆ Democratic government is based on the will of the people, expressed regularly through free and fair elections. Democracy has as its foundation respect for the human person and the rule of law. *(Paris 1990)*
- ◆ The participating States categorically and irrevocably declare that the commitments undertaken in the field of the human dimension of the OSCE are matters of direct and legitimate concern to all participating States and do not belong exclusively to the internal affairs of the State concerned. *(Moscow 1991)*
- ◆ Respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law is at the core of the OSCE's comprehensive concept of security. *(Istanbul 1999)*
- ◆ Participating States are accountable to their citizens and responsible to each other for their implementation of their OSCE commitments. *(Istanbul 1999)*

