

Item 8- Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

Organization for Defending Victims of Violence

Human Rights and Cultural Diversity



Mr. President,

Cultures diversity is an undeniable reality of the contemporary world, rooted in the diversity of human identities and expressions. As a source for exchange, innovation and creativity, cultural diversity is a crucial factor for survival of the social life in the contemporary life. Human cultures are the common heritage of Mankind and must be officially recognised for the benefit of today and tomorrow's generation. This has been stressed in article 1 of the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity and articles 5 and 10 of the Vienna Declaration.

Meanwhile the international organizations have a tendency towards belittling cultural diversity in favour of universality principles. The universality of human rights has been reiterated in various human rights documents and stressed that the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms at national and international levels must be universal and without preconditions. Neither cultural diversity nor the universality principle should be used as a tool against the other, since both principles are the prerequisites for safeguarding the implementation of human rights.

As a human rights organization, the ODVV believes that the HRC members should consider both of the principles of universality and cultural diversity as two pillars of human rights and dignity.

Mr. President,

This Organization invites the Council to hold an annual conference on the subject of "international dialogues on cultural diversity and human rights" so that this Council can draft an international document on human rights and cultural diversity.