ENGLISH only

OSCE/ODHIR Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting (SHDM) I: Freedom of Religion or Belief: Issues, Opportunities, and the Specific Challenges of Combatting Anti-Semitism and Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians, Muslims, and Members of Other Religions

VIENNA 22 June - 23 June 2017.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE OSLO COALITION ON FREEDOM OR BELIEF

- 1. There is a need for an interreligious solidarity that only can be realized through organized cooperation between religious and life stance communities in national and local communities.
- 2. Such cooperation should be organized by the communities themselves through official representatives of the community.
- 3. It should not be an instrument in the hands of the government, although the government and the society as a whole will benefit from cooperation with such an organized interreligious organization.
- 4. We will underline that majority religion do have a special ethical responsibility to contribute in this regards.
- 5. One of the main task should be that each member organization develop a theological or philosophical justification of the right to FORB based on their own ideology as a platform for dealing with challenges of national implementation of this right.
- 6. The state has a responsibility to protect all citizens' right to freedom of religion or belief, not to protect religion or belief as such. The right to freedom of religion or belief includes the right to have an interpretation of one's tradition that differs from the dominant interpretation within that tradition and to seek to manifest it accordingly.
- 7. We recommend representatives of religious and life stance communities attending this conference to take initiatives in order to establish such an instrument in those countries lacking such an entity.
- 8. We recommend the OSCE participating state to support the establishing of such interreligious councils and cooperate actively with them
- 9. We recommend OSCE/ODHIR office to collect experiences and best practices from national interreligious councils and share them with the

participating states and the religious and life stance communities of the region.