



INTERNATIONAL
OMBUDSMAN
INSTITUTE

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

OFFICIAL STATEMENT

ON THE OCCASION OF THE FIFTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
“HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION IN EURASIA: EXCHANGE OF BEST PRACTICES
OF OMBUDSPERSONS”

Moscow, 12 October 2021

Добро пожаловать.

It gives me great pleasure to offer my strong support to the success of the Fifth International Conference, *Human rights protection in Eurasia: exchange of best practices of Ombudspersons*.

I express my sincere appreciation to my very valued colleague, High Commissioner Moskalkova, for organising this important event. I also take this opportunity to offer my warmest congratulations on her reappointment as High Commissioner for Human Rights in the Russian Federation in April this year.

As President of the International Ombudsman Institute it is a privilege to welcome all participants in this conference - members of the Eurasian Ombudsman Alliance, Human Rights Commissioners, Ombudspersons, representatives of international organisations, public authorities and non-government organisations.

This Conference will exchange best practice regarding human rights protection in Eurasia including sharing national and international practices on relevant issues on the protection of rights of persons with disabilities and ecological human rights.

As Ombudspersons, advancing our collective understanding of best practice is absolutely vital, for the simple reason that the protection and promotion of human rights is at the very core of why the institution of the Ombudsperson exists. The institution of the Ombudsperson deals daily with fundamental human rights. The independent and impartial investigation of complaints made by citizens regarding the exercise of the power of government as well as the Ombudsperson's own initiated investigations regarding the most vulnerable members of society are central to the Ombudsperson as a protector of human rights.

This core commitment to human rights provides significant explanation for the profound growth of the institution of the Ombudsperson globally, particularly in the last six decades. The most recent recognition came in perhaps its most significant form – the adoption by the UN General Assembly on 16 December 2020 of the UN Resolution *The role of Ombudsman and mediator institutions in the promotion and protection of human rights, good governance and the rule of law.*

This Conference, by ensuring an examination of human rights protection by a wide range of institutions, drawn from many countries, represents the very best way for us to advance our collective understanding, and collaborative work, to support human rights in Eurasia and globally.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Chris Field', written in a cursive style.

Chris Field
PRESIDENT
INTERNATIONAL OMBUDSMAN INSTITUTE