

Unofficial translation

Address
by President of Ukraine Viktor Yanukovich
to the participants of the International High-Level Conference
“Strengthening the OSCE Response to Trafficking In Human Beings”

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to welcome you in Ukraine on the occasion of the High-Level Conference hosted under the auspices of Ukraine’s OSCE Chairmanship.

Human trafficking is one of the most severe violations of human rights and a serious crime against human dignity. Combating this appalling phenomenon has a special importance in the context of realization of OSCE’s concept of comprehensive and co-operative security. That is why Ukraine has set strengthening international cooperation in the fight against human trafficking as a priority of our OSCE Chairmanship.

Ukraine is among the leaders in addressing this issue at the national level. Established legal mechanisms provide for coordinated actions of state authorities aimed at preventing this crime, detecting and prosecuting those responsible, providing assistance to victims.

The challenges facing OSCE Participating States require effective consolidation of efforts at international, regional and national levels. Today we reiterate the need for full implementation by states of their international commitments and for effective application of existing instruments in fighting modern slavery.

I am confident that today’s Conference will mark a new stage in the fight against human trafficking and will make a meaningful contribution to the global efforts aimed at eradicating this security challenge facing the whole civilized world.

I wish you successful work at the conference and further fruitful cooperation.

Viktor YANUKOVYCH