

**Statement of the Delegation of Ukraine
at the Working Session 3 “Democratic institutions, including: democracy at
the national, regional and local levels, democratic elections” of
2017 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting**

Mr. Moderator,

Distinguished participants,

Ukraine aligns itself with the statement of the European Union and I would like to add some lines in my national capacity.

Next March there will be presidential elections in the Russian Federation.

I am sure that the Russian government according to its international commitments will invite international observers.

So, ODIHR and some other organizations will conduct observation.

I suspect that the Russian Federation will organize some activities that will look like “elections” on the territory of temporary occupied Crimea.

We recall the need to strictly adhere to the UNGA Resolution 68/262 “Territorial integrity of Ukraine” adopted on 27 March 2014 calling upon all States, international organizations and specialized agencies not to recognize any alteration of the status of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol on the basis of the so-called “referendum” of 16 March 2014 and to refrain from any action or dealing that might be interpreted as recognizing any such altered status.

OSCE Parliamentary Assembly two months ago adopted Minsk declaration, where it is clearly stated:

«OSCE PA calls on the Russian Federation to restrain its aggressive practices and reverse its annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea».

Last general elections Russian authorities also opened polling stations in Crimea. OSCE/ODIHR did not observe the illegal process in the Crimean peninsula, acting with full respect for the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity of the OSCE participating States.

On behalf of Ukrainian delegation I ask the ODIHR and other election observation missions and organizations to refrain from any observation activity in illegally occupied Crimea.

We also ask to identify very clearly in all observation reports concerning Russia, that observation in Crimea was not conducted according to the international commitments and UN GA Resolutions 68/262 “Territorial integrity of Ukraine” and 71/205 “Situation of human rights in Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol (Ukraine)”

I also would like to inform all the participants that the politicians elected during so-called “elections” in Crimea are not allowed to participate in any international events and I hope this practice will be continued until the reversal of Russia’s occupation of the Crimean peninsula.

I thank you, Mr.Moderator.