



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International Organizations in Vienna

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**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine
Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting
“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”, Closing session
(Vienna, 23 June 2017)**

**Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The Delegation of Ukraine would like to commend the organizers of this Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting as well as the rapporteurs of its four sessions for maintaining the open discussion and providing preliminary thought-provoking findings.

Dear colleagues,

During Ukraine’s OSCE Chairmanship in 2013 my country significantly contributed to strengthening the implementation of the OSCE human dimension commitments, including those on freedom of religion or belief. Our joint efforts with the participating States and OSCE Institutions were crowned with the adoption of the MC Decision No. 3/13 on Freedom of Thought, Conscience, Religion or Belief, which, inter alia, underlines the importance of fostering a climate of mutual tolerance and respect between believers of different communities as well as between believers and non-believers, and to promote dialogue between religious or belief communities and governmental bodies.

This MC Decision also aims at preventing intolerance, violence and discrimination on the basis of religion or belief, including against Christians, Jews, Muslims and members of other religions, as well as against non-believers.

If there is an interest to develop its provisions further and draft any separate documents on discrimination against members of one religion, various aspects of discrimination against Christians, Jews, Muslims and members of other religions under the conditions of occupation need to be duly reflected and addressed. It is now the reality for the OSCE that a part of territory of one participating State is being occupied by another participating State.

I thank you.