



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International Organizations in Vienna

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Closing Statement
by Mr. Sergiy Kyslytsya, Deputy Minister
for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, Head of the Delegation of Ukraine
at the 2017 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting
(Warsaw, 22 September 2017)

Madam Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

The discussions at this year's HDIM once again testified that the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting remains one of the main instruments for the effective monitoring of and promoting compliance with the human dimension commitments, including through the unique active involvement of civil society in the debates.

I will not dignify a parallel reality statement of the Russian delegate by commenting on his unfounded claims – shameless and assaulting every OSCE principle.

This HDIM also once again highlighted the persistence of serious challenges to human dignity and security in the OSCE region stemming from the Russian aggression against Ukraine.

For the first time since the Second World War, one OSCE participating State attempted annexation by force of a part of territory of a neighbouring OSCE participating State and mounted an armed intervention in another part of that state. The flagrant breach by Russia of all ten principles of the Helsinki Final Act and the Paris Charter resulted in clear and gross violations of human rights, in particular in the temporarily occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol and certain areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine. Not only the Russian Federation has not corrected the committed violations, but it persists in its aggression against Ukraine raising the toll of human casualties and strengthening repressive policies in the occupied territories which became the “grey zones” for human rights and freedoms. Russia's external aggression is interlinked with the clamp-down on human rights and freedoms internally.

Madam Chairperson,

One of the purposes of the HDIM is to assess the effectiveness of existing mechanisms in the human dimension. In view of continuing deterioration of human rights situation in the Russia-occupied territories of Ukraine and significant limitations for human rights in Russia itself, we consider it pertinent for all participating States to give serious thinking to what the OSCE mechanisms should be enacted to thoroughly assess the situation and develop due recommendations. Such step would reflect the interest of the OSCE community in Russia's recommitment to the OSCE aquis through practical and measurable action.

We deeply regret that instead of moving towards correcting the violations, Russia used this HDIM to continue spreading its propaganda and aggressive nationalist rhetoric, as well as shifting its responsibility on others. Whereas online the Russian authorities employ an army of trolls to create a parallel reality, at the HDIM they employed scores of so-called GoNGOs, funded and hired for the very same purpose. It seriously undermines any possibilities for a genuine and open exchange.

We also wish to underline our rejection of any attempts by Russia to use the OSCE events for creeping legitimization of illegal occupation of parts of Ukraine's territory. This year an individual, who holds a position in the Russian occupying authorities in Crimea, registered for the HDIM under the disguise of an NGO. It is only through cheating that such individuals can materialize at the OSCE meetings, further eroding the foundation of this organization based on principles and commitments. We call upon the Chairmanship and the OSCE Institutions to take effective measures to counter Russian deceptions.

To foster the OSCE's relevance to the current global and regional security challenges, including in the human dimension, we have to decisively prevent further erosion of the Decalogue of principles and make them well-functioning in our relations.

Since establishment the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities developed valuable sets of recommendations comprehensively addressing respective issues, among them The Hague Recommendations Regarding the Education Rights of National Minorities, The Ljubljana Guidelines on Integration of Diverse Societies, The Bolzano-Bozen Recommendations on National Minorities in Inter-State Relations. So far these sets of recommendations have not been endorsed by the OSCE participating States as their political commitments. I find it promising that some delegations that some years ago opposed or ignored the recommendations today raise and actively promote national minorities agenda. This is seen by us as an opportunity to revisit the issue of those recommendations. Ukraine is ready to work for their adoption within the OSCE to ensure common framework for protection of rights of people, belonging to national minorities, across the OSCE space.

Distinguished colleagues,

Despite external aggression and the trauma it causes, Ukraine stays fully committed to further promote, respect and protect democratic values. Enhancing

implementation of the OSCE commitments in the human dimension remains our high priority which is translated into practice, in particular, through result-oriented implementation of the national Human Rights Strategy.

We stand ready to continue our open and constructive cooperation with the OSCE Institutions – the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the Representative on Freedom of the Media and the High Commissioner on National Minorities, and rely on their expertise and practical support of the efforts of the Ukrainian authorities in promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law.

Looking ahead to the Vienna Ministerial Council meeting in December 2017, Ukraine is interested to work for deliverables in the human dimension, which can make a real improvement, including in the situations of occupation.

In conclusion, let me express our appreciation to the Austrian OSCE Chairmanship and to ODIHR Director Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir and her team for the preparation of HDIM, and all those who contributed to the effective conduct of the meeting, including key-note speakers, introducers, moderators, rapporteurs and interpreters.

Thank you for your attention.