

## **UK STATEMENT – WORKINGT SESSION 10**

We align ourselves with the statement made by The Netherlands on behalf of the European Union. We would like to make some national remarks to highlight the value the UK attaches to the work of the High Commissioner on National Minorities and to make a plea to all participating States to respect, support and cooperate with the mandates of the OSCE's institutions.

The High Commissioner's mandate for sometimes confidential and low profile work to seek early resolution of ethnic tension that might endanger peace, stability or friendly relations between participating States, remains as necessary and relevant today than it has at any time since the office's early years of the 1990s. We welcome the HCNM's sensitive and skillful work not least in providing an independent, impartial and professional view. Her objective and fact-based analysis has amongst other things provided an important counter-narrative to the often inflammatory rhetoric based on propaganda and misinformation that we have seen disseminated by the Russian Federation in the context of the crisis in Ukraine.

We as participating States might not always agree with everything that the OSCE's institutions have to say in their statements and interventions. But we did not give the institutions mandates to say things that make us feel comfortable. We tasked them with the role of monitoring and supporting the implementation of our common commitments without fear or favour. The UK unequivocally supports the HCNM, ODIHR and RFOM in fulfilling this essential role.

Thank you

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