



Statement of Delegation of Hungary

Working session 8: Tolerance and non-discrimination I.

**HDIM, 14. September 2018.
Warsaw**

We align with the EU statement; however, let me make some remarks in our national capacity.

Hungary considers the office and the mandate of the High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM) to be of the utmost importance for the whole concept of comprehensive security of the OSCE in providing early warning and seeking early action with regard to tensions involving national minorities. Earlier this year we had the opportunity to meet with the High Commissioner and engage in constructive dialogue, where we expressed our concerns regarding the situation of Hungarian communities living in the neighbouring countries, especially Ukraine, where an education reform, restricting the rights of mother tongue education for national minorities is underway.

States tend to address the issue of national minorities exclusively from security perspective, relegating other important aspects, i.e. preservation of identity and cultural diversity to the background. Specific national minority rights, such as mother tongue education, use of minority language, adequate representation in public, economic and social sphere, are indispensable for avoiding their assimilation. We deem important for Participating States and for international community to realize that national minorities are not only the sum of a number of individuals but represent also a system of relations among them.

We invite the High Commissioner to follow closely the future developments of linguistic rights of national minorities, the obstacles in their way to be represented in elected bodies, the possible territorial/administrative reforms in the context of guaranteeing full and effective participation of national minorities in public, economic and social life.

Bearing in mind the aforementioned, our recommendations are:

-First, Ukraine fully implements the recommendation on the Education Law of the Council of Europe's Venice Commission, including regarding the transition period, and finding a balanced approach to guaranteeing the right to mother tongue education for national minorities;

- Second, Participating States adopt, in close cooperation with national minorities, a structured approach in implementation of commitments and obligations undertaken at international level



concerning the rights of national minorities, with a view to ensure the peaceful cohabitation among communities and to prevent further assimilation of national minorities;

- Finally, Participating States adopt a coherent and consolidated legal framework related to minority rights protection, fully respecting the acquired rights of national minorities.