



## **Statement of the Delegation of Hungary**

### **Working Session 10: Tolerance and non-discrimination I.**

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**Warsaw**

In our view it has key importance that States carry out their actions with regard to national minorities in good faith, bearing in mind the international political and legal commitments. But we would like to stress that these documents only define minimum standards in the field of protection of national minorities. States should also comply with recommendations of several international bodies such as the OSCE HCNM or the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

In the Copenhagen Document, States also undertook to take effective measures at national, regional and local level to foster understanding and tolerance, particularly in education, culture and information. In the case of Hungarian minority living abroad, we often experience the lack of effective measures of this kind, in various ways some States by administrative measures, hinder fundamental minority rights, such as the use of mother tongue, the use of symbols or the education on mother tongue.

In this context let me highlight a worrying recent phenomenon. In Ukraine the Verkhovna Rada adopted the Law on Education in the second and final reading on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2017. Article 7 of the bill significantly violates the rights of the Hungarian minority to receive education in their mother tongue. In general, the law drastically curbs the already acquired level of minority rights in education and language use. The new law - if signed in this form - would have a detrimental effect on the Hungarian-language education system in Transcarpathia with the possibility of fully liquidating the Hungarian-language educational institutions.

Based on the above mentioned, we recommend Participating States:

- Guaranteeing of education at all level on mother tongue plays a very important role in increasing the reproductive capacity of a minority.
- States should allow the use of minority language in areas where language speakers are traditionally present and there is a need for the use of such language. In doing so, the State does not only tolerate or permit, but must ensure that employees who are in contact with clients are able to actively use minority language.
- In their legislation and media policies States should promote the use of minority languages; refrain from introducing restrictive legal and policy measures, such as mandatory state language quotas, and subtitling / translation obligations. It is particularly important for the media not to convey a negative, prejudicial picture of national minorities and to give no room for hate speech against them.