

**Closing statement
by the delegation of Ukraine
Human Dimension Implementation Meeting
(03 October, Warsaw)**

**Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

At the outset the delegation of Ukraine would like to express its sadness and deep condolences upon the tragic loss of life of the International Committee of the Red Cross representative, Swiss citizen, who was killed as a result of shelling by the terrorists of the ICRC Office in Donetsk. We strongly condemn this terrorist act which cannot be justified. The terrorists, in a barbaric way, dared to take up arms against those who came to Donbas with a humanitarian mission – to help people.

This case is seen in the same vein when terrorists were taking hostages and the OSCE staff for the sake of intimidating representatives of international organizations who help restore peace and calm in Donbas.

All individuals and organizations implicated in this crime shall be brought to justice in accordance with the Ukrainian legislation and the international law.

Distinguished delegates,

As reaffirmed by the OSCE **Astana Commemorative Declaration the inherent dignity of the individual is at the core of the OSCE comprehensive security** and the commitments undertaken in the field of the human dimension are matters of direct and legitimate concern to all participating states. The broad concept of comprehensive security would remain hollow without the promotion and protection of human rights as its essential elements.

Translating into reality the Astana Summit's call for the establishment of a free, democratic, common and indivisible Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community that is "rooted in **agreed principles, shared commitments and common goals**" requires continuous engagement, coordinated efforts and persistence in implementing our commitments.

The discussions at this year's HDIM once more testified that the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting is **one of the fundamental pillars of our cooperation and remains the main instrument for the effective monitoring of compliance with the human dimension commitments**, including through the unique involvement of civil society in OSCE human dimension events.

This year's HDIM was unprecedented in view of **serious challenges to human dignity and security in the OSCE region stemming from the Russian aggression towards Ukraine which ran like a red thread in our debates** on implementation of the OSCE human dimension commitments.

For the first time ever a part of one OSCE participating State has been **annexed** by another OSCE participating State. The **flagrant breach by Russia of founding OSCE principles by violating Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity** endangers international peace and security in the OSCE area.

Regretfully, instead of committing to correct the violations of fundamental OSCE principles and commitments, and restoring respect for them, Russia used this OSCE human dimension forum to continue spreading its propaganda, aggressive nationalism, hatred throughout the OSCE space and shifting its responsibility on others.

The damage inflicted by the Russian actions upon the OSCE and its cooperative security requires our common efforts in identifying solutions and strategies to address them. We are convinced that in view of the breach by one participating State of the Helsinki Decalogue, **the Organization should take more decisive measures to respond effectively to existing and emerging challenges.**

Our progress on the way towards 2015 will depend upon the **willingness and readiness** of all participating States **to abide by the OSCE principles and commitments** fully and in good faith, in particular those on respect of the **sovereignty and territorial integrity** of each other, promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and readiness **to make concrete steps** to demonstrate it.

In order to increase the OSCE relevance in the run-up to the 40th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act **we have to prevent further erosion of the Decalogue of principles and make them well-functioning in our relations.**

Mr. Chairman,

Despite the current security challenges, **Ukraine is fully committed to further promote, respect and protect democratic values.** Strengthening implementation of the OSCE commitments in the human dimension remains our primary goal.

The **domestic reform process "Strategy of reform – 2020"** was recently presented by the President of Ukraine, encompassing fight against corruption, decentralization and state governance reform, judicial reform, reform of the law-enforcement, tax reform, deregulation and entrepreneurship, defence and security reform, health-care, energy efficiency.

Practical implementation of the Strategy is to be launched immediately after the **early parliamentary elections, scheduled for 26 October.**

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 in the areas of human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy and rule of law.

Looking ahead to the Basel Ministerial Council meeting in December 2014 Ukraine emphasizes the need to produce **concrete deliverables in the human dimension, which would not only strengthen implementation of our existing**

commitments but address the current threats to human dignity and security in the OSCE region.

We are convinced that it is a **defining moment** for our **Organization to safeguard OSCE principles and commitments** and to ensure their full **implementation** by all participating States without exception.

We reiterate our call to the Russian Federation to return to the tenets of international law, ensure full respect for sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine and reverse annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, withdraw all Russian regular military units from the territory of Ukraine and refrain from further aggressive actions against our country.

In conclusion, let me express our appreciation to the Swiss OSCE Chairmanship and to Director Michael Link and his team for the excellent preparation of HDIM, and all those who contributed to the effective conduct of the meeting, including key-note speaker, introducers, moderators, rapporteurs and interpreters.

Thank you for your attention.