



**ДЕЛЕГАЦИЯ
РОССИЙСКОЙ ФЕДЕРАЦИИ**

**DELEGATION OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

**28th Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council
(Stockholm, 2-3 December 2021)**

Side-event

**Strengthening the implementation of the OSCE commitments on democracy,
human rights and the rule of law**

2 December 2021

Dear Madame/Mister Moderator,

Human rights and corresponding commitments tend to become a bargaining chip in political process or be used in order to meddle in internal affairs of sovereign countries. A number of participating States resort to the tools in this sphere to promote their vested interests. Such a misuse affects confidence-building and security in the region.

There should be a clear distinction between protection of human rights and non-interference into internal affairs.

Let me remind that Chapter VI of the Helsinki Final Act foresees that «the participating States will refrain from any intervention, direct or indirect, individual or collective, in the internal or external affairs falling within the domestic jurisdiction of another participating State». At the same time the 1991 Moscow Document states that «commitments undertaken in the field of the human dimension are matters of direct and legitimate concern to all participating States». No mention of the possibility of any kind of interference. Instead, countries expressed «their determination to fulfil all of their

human dimension commitments and to resolve by peaceful means any related issue, individually and collectively, on the basis of mutual respect and co-operation».

It is equally important to fully respect the fundamental principles of international law as enshrined in the 1970 Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. In particular, the Declaration refers to the “duty not to intervene in matters within the domestic jurisdiction of any State, in accordance with the Charter”.

Unfortunately, quite the opposite happens and human rights fall prey of selective interpretation of above-mentioned commitments. Hence, it is of utmost importance to strike a balance in this sphere, making it depoliticized and respectful. Only such an approach would create an atmosphere of confidence within OSCE. That is why Russia insists on a well-balanced agenda of Human Dimension in general, which would reflect the current challenges we all face. Mainly, this means a «package» that is to be prepared as early as possible each year by the Chairmanship. This refers to the agenda of HDIM as well. All the responsibility for not holding HDIM-2021 lays solely on those who cover glorification of neo-Nazism and are not ready even to prevent it, not even to discuss the issue.

Also HDIM should be conducted only in physical format. Due to technical reasons such a representative event with 1500-2000 participants (who must have free access with no discrimination) is hardly to be organized well-enough online. Moreover, the only online-platform used in OSCE (ZOOM) closed its service for a number of regions of the world, including one in Russia. This is manifest discrimination.

Thank you for your attention.