

Lithuanian delegation

Mr. moderator,

I would like to use my right of reply to the insinuations brought by Russian delegation and its long-serving satellites.

First of all, it's cynical, from Russian side, to question HCNM work related to Crimea and to suggest to focus on other issues, when Russia blatantly violated Helsinki Final Act and is brutally prosecuting ethnic minorities in the annexed Crimea region.

I would like also to echo previous statements of other delegations and civil society representatives, including from Russia, on the **self-imposed role of Russia** in globally fighting radicalism, neo-nazism, extremism and nationalism. We share the concern of others, that these important issues are manipulated and misused by the Russian Federation especially in the context of the ongoing Russian aggression against Ukraine.

Time after time when Russian Federation enters in different international fora in rhetorical deliberations on the issue of aggressive nationalism, we are getting the feeling that this sort of diplomacy is nothing less than desperate attempt to mask [also with the help of state controlled media] blooming manifestations of a very large scale far-right extremism and aggressive nationalism in Russia itself, where aggressive slogans were converted into violent actions.

However, this **state policy of aggressive nationalism and separatism** is not limited within Russian territory, but is actively spreading through Russian borders and affecting as well neighbouring countries and was used by Russia for justification of the annexation of a part of a sovereign State, in clear violation of international law and the fundamental principles of the OSCE and the UN. In this context, it is very surprising when **Russia is stamping anti-fascist movements in the neighbouring countries**, and at the same time organises at

home high level meetings of far-right and extreme radical parties from the entire OSCE region.

Therefore, the OSCE community must learn from the very recent dire lessons that Russia's aggressive rhetoric is always followed by aggressive actions and it has no borders.

I, thank you.