



**Delegation of Ukraine
to the OSCE**

**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine
at the Opening session of the 2012 Human Dimension Implementation
Meeting**

As for delivery by Permanent Representative of Ukraine H.E. Mr. Ihor Prokopchuk
24 September 2012

Mr. Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my privilege to address this Opening session of the 2012 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting.

I would like to extend our appreciation to the Irish OSCE Chairmanship, the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and the OSCE Secretariat for organizing this meeting. We are grateful to the host country Poland for the warm hospitality.

Mr. Chairperson,

For Ukrainian Delegation this meeting carries particular significance as it is the last HDIM before we enter next year's Ukrainian OSCE Chairmanship. We will listen very carefully to all substantive recommendations expressed on behalf of the civil society as well as statements by official delegations to see in which areas we should seek further progress in implementation of commitments.

Promotion of implementation by all participating States, without exception, of the existing commitments in the human dimension will be high on the Ukrainian Chairmanship's agenda.

Protection of human rights, promotion of democracy, the rule of law, protection of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, promotion of tolerance and non-discrimination, free movement of people, gender equality are the areas of importance for the OSCE participating States and thus will be the focus of attention of the Ukrainian Chairmanship. Priority focus will be given to combating trafficking in human beings; freedom of the media in the context of legal framework; youth education on the principles of tolerance and non-discrimination.

Traditionally, in Ukraine we have strong and active civil society. The authorities of Ukraine provide necessary assistance in facilitating its further independent development. In April this year the President of Ukraine signed a new Law of Ukraine on civil society associations, which will enter into force in January

2013, and enhance implementation in the country of European standards for civil society activities. As an OSCE Chairmanship we will strive to continue constructive engagement of the civil society in achieving the goals of our Organizations in all three dimensions.

We are also convinced that the OSCE needs to have strong institutions in order to effectively fulfil its functions. We will continue to strongly support the work of the three OSCE autonomous institutions – HCNM, ODIHR and RFOM and consider them as one of the OSCE’s greatest assets.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Ukrainian Delegation looks forward to our constructive cooperation in the course of next year. Only together tangible results can be achieved in transforming OSCE into a Community with the highest standards of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, with strong democratic institutions and strong civil society.

It is broadly recognized that all participating States have room to improve implementation, thus we believe our debate in human dimension in particular should be about engaging in a cooperative spirit in equal dialogue and assisting each other in implementation of undertaken commitments. This will undoubtedly lead to strengthening of trust and confidence among delegations and thus facilitate practical outcomes of our discussions and negotiations.

Mr. Chairperson,

In conclusion, let me welcome the civil society representatives, who participate in this meeting, particularly those from my country, and express interest of the Ukrainian Delegation in thorough, respectful and open discussion which would result in better implementation of the human dimension commitments by the participating States.

Thank you.