

**Concluding Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine**  
**Human Dimension Implementation Meeting**  
*(Warsaw, 02 October 2015)*

**Distinguished participants,**

The 2015 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting once again testified that it offers an excellent platform not just to review implementation of our commitments on observance of human rights, fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law, but also **to identify acute challenges which need to be addressed by our common and individual efforts.**

As this meeting takes place in a year when we mark **the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act and 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Paris Charter for New Europe**, let me recall from the Paris Charter that “observance and full exercise of human rights and fundamental freedoms are the foundation of freedom, justice and peace. Our relations will rest on our common adherence to democratic values and to human rights and fundamental freedoms”. This statement was true then just as it is today.

**The flagrant breach by Russia of OSCE founding principles** by violating Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity has not only imperiled European and international peace and security, but also led to grave violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms. They **have again been high on the agenda of our debates because of their magnitude and far-reaching consequences.**

We regret that instead of committing to correcting the violations of fundamental OSCE principles and commitments, restoring respect to them, **Russia used the HDIM to continue to distort and mislead**, aiming at evading its responsibility for violations.

We once again emphasize that under the continuing Russian aggression against Ukraine **all responsibility for human rights violations in the temporary occupied regions of Ukraine rests with Russia** in accordance with the international law.

We view as **unacceptable the Russian Federation’s political provocation as it manipulated the issue of civil society participation in the HDIM to advance its attempts to legitimize Russia’s illegal occupation and annexation** of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol in breach of the norms of international law, OSCE principles and commitments, as well as UN GA Resolution 68/262 “Territorial Integrity of Ukraine”.

Russia’s aggression against Ukraine both stems from and further generates **serious regress in** the area of exercise of human rights and fundamental freedoms in **Russia itself**, which warrants **comprehensive assessment of the human rights situation** in the country.

We encourage the **OSCE Institutions to offer Russia assistance** in overcoming these disturbing trends inconsistent with the OSCE commitments and international obligations. We call on Russia to avail itself of such assistance.

We are convinced that the **OSCE has potential to strengthen its role in response to the current crises and conflicts in Europe** which affect the human rights and dignity in the first place.

It is important to **develop such mechanisms within the OSCE that would foster responsibility** for implementation of relevant commitments.

Given the crisis is further unfolding despite significant international efforts, **the vision of the security community becomes ever more distant**. Under the circumstances we strongly believe that our fundamental **principles and democratic values must not be sacrificed or compromised** as it will generate only more uncertainty and instability for our common future.

Our progress will depend upon the willingness and readiness of all participating States without exception to implement the OSCE principles and commitments fully and in good faith.

**Distinguished colleagues,**

Ukraine is convinced that protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms must remain at the core of the OSCE concept of comprehensive and indivisible security. Despite the current security challenges, **Ukraine is fully committed to further strengthening implementation of the OSCE commitments in the human dimension**.

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.

It is of paramount importance to ensure **permanent international monitoring and reporting on the human rights' situation in the occupied territories**. The role of the OSCE Institutions is essential in this context and we encourage the Chairmanship to provide every support to their efforts.

Looking ahead to the **Belgrade Ministerial Council meeting Ukraine recognizes the need to produce concrete deliverables in the human dimension**, which would duly respond to the current threats to human dignity and security in the OSCE region.

**Thank you for your attention.**