

**Statement of the Delegation of Ukraine
at the Working Session 13 (specifically selected topic) “Rights of migrants” of the
2018 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting**

**Mr. Moderator,
Distinguished participants,**

At the outset, we would like to thank the introducers for their thought-provoking presentations.

The International Organization of Migration defines a migrant as any person who is moving or has moved across an international border or within a State away from his/her habitual place of residence.

In the UNHCR data of 67.7 mln people displaced at the end of 2016, 36.6 mln or 54% constituted internally displaced persons.

Among 10 million persons of its concern within the OSCE area - more than a quarter or 2.8 million are internally displaced persons. In Ukraine about 1.5 million of people have been registered as IDPs (nearly 4% of population of the country).

The forced displacement of such a high number of people within a short period of time due to external aggression against my country has created significant demands on the national government, the local authorities and communities to accommodate the needs of the IDPs.

Against this background we do not see any grounds to move the problem of IDPs, seriously affecting a number of OSCE participating States, beyond the scope of the today's discussion as it, regrettably, happened in the provided HDIM draft annotated agenda.

It is necessary, in our view, to maintain a holistic approach to dealing with the challenges of migration.

Mr Moderator,

While acknowledging the leading role of the UNHCR, the IOM, the ICRC and other international bodies in addressing migration crisis, we should seek a recognizable complimentary and supporting role of the OSCE.

In this connection it is important to make sure that duplication and overlap are avoided in this major international endeavour, while the OSCE would be able to provide real added-value through efficient and focused use of its human and financial resources. In this regard, we should enhance, in particular, the role of the OSCE as a platform for dialogue and exchange of good practices to work out respective international mechanisms and strategies on protection and assistance for IDPs.

Distinguished colleagues,

With its comprehensive approach to security the OSCE is well-placed to address issues of forced displacement both from a political and from a human rights perspective.

The OSCE participating States adopted several human dimension commitments, where they committed to address the issues of IDPs, such as Helsinki 1992, Stockholm 1992, Budapest 1994, Lisbon 1996, Istanbul 1999, Bucharest 2001, Maastricht 2003, Sofia 2004, and Ljubljana 2005.

This year we also celebrate 20th anniversary of the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement – an essential framework for the OSCE and participating States in addressing the needs of IDPs. In this regards, we recommend:

- to the Italian OSCE Chairmanship to convene a conference to analyze the status of implementation of the respective OSCE commitments and guarantees of existing international human rights and humanitarian law relevant to IDPs – 3 million citizens of participating States;
- to the OSCE Secretariat, ODIHR and other OSCE Institutions to use UN/IOM definitions of “migration” and “migrant”;
- to the OSCE Secretariat to analyze and share the best practices of the OSCE field missions on supporting of the IDPs;
- to ODIHR in cooperation with other OSCE Institutions and executive structures to assist participating States in support of the sustainability of the national bodies and local communities with the big influx of IDPs due to natural disasters or political reasons.
- to the delegation of the Russian Federation not to mislead HDIM participants on “2 million Ukrainian refugees” as a result of ongoing Russia’s aggression against my country as, according to the Federal Service of State Statics of the Russian Federation, there are only 166 refugees from Ukraine registered in Russia as of January 1, 2018.

I thank you.