

**Statement-Reply of the Delegation of Ukraine
at the Working Session 16 “Tolerance and non-discrimination II,
including: equality of opportunity for women and men; implementation of the
OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality; prevention of
violence against women and children” of
2017 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting**

**Mrs. Moderator,
Distinguished participants,**

We condemn the provocative attempts by the Russian Federation to use the HDIM for legitimization of the illegal occupation of Ukraine’s Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol. There are no such regional entities in Russia. Meanwhile, there are two Ukrainian regions, which have been illegally occupied by Russia since 2014.

We recall the need to strictly adhere to the UNGA Resolution 68/262 “Territorial integrity of Ukraine”, calling upon all States, international organizations and specialized agencies not to recognize any alteration of the status of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol on the basis of the so-called “referendum” of 16 March 2016 and to refrain from any action or dealing that might be interpreted as recognizing any such altered status;

We always have a cognitive dissonance, when I hear from Russian representatives about human rights violations in Donbas.

The conflict in Donbas is of completely artificial nature as it has no ethnic, religious or historical backgrounds. Russian aggression is the only root cause of the crisis and the security threats for Europe, the OSCE region and the existing international order.

The Russian Federation permanently fuels the hostilities in Donbas. Multi-faceted Russian aggression serves a practical purpose – to exert influence on Ukraine’s internal and foreign policy to make it impossible for the Ukrainian nation to fulfill its European aspirations.

In response to statements of some NGOs on non-compliance of Ukraine with the OSCE Action Plan on promoting gender equality in the sphere of education, I would like to point out that taking into account the recommendations of the said plan and in cooperation with other competent authorities, the Governments of Ukraine has carried out such work:

1. The cultivation of a culture of management emphasizing professionalism, sensitivity to gender aspects, and also forms a working climate that takes these principles into account.

- 1.1. To make equality between women and men an integral part of the Ministry's policy at the state level and promote gender equality (paragraph 42), a strategy for the full implementation of the gender component in education "Education: Gender Dimension 2021" has been developed. The strategy has

already passed a public discussion and agreement in the ministries and is currently being prepared for adoption by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine. According to the Gender Mainstreaming Strategy developed in the Education: «Education: Gender Dimension 2021», the Gender Advice Institute and the monitoring of parity in the representation of women and men in the management of higher education institutions are envisaged.

1.2. To implement the tasks outlined in the Strategy, Plan of Measures for the Strategy "Education: Gender Dimension 2021" is being developed.

1.3. The Regulation on Anti-Discriminatory Examination of Educational Content is being developed.

1.4. The State Social Program for Ensuring Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men for the period up to 2021 includes a number of items on promotion of gender equality, which are within the competence of the Ministry of Education and Science.

1.5. The Working Group of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine is working on Gender Mainstreaming and Anti-Discrimination in Education and consists of 24 leading specialists representing various higher educational institutions and non-governmental organizations.

1.6. All documents of the educational reform "New Ukrainian School" (concept, standards of education, educational programs) and others undergo gender and anti-discrimination expertise are adjusted according to the gender component.

2. In accordance with the obligation to abide by the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Ministry of Education prepared and presented its part to the report of Ukraine (February 2017) and began to implement the received recommendations.

2.1. The names of the parts of the subject "labor training" are canceled: "Labor training (for girls)" and "Labor training (for boys)", with the replacement of them with "Labor training (servicing kinds of labor)";

2.2. It was given a possibility to choose certain modules from both parts of the subject "Labor studies" at the discretion of the school;

2.3. From 2017, in the lessons of labor training, it is recommended to classify the class into subgroups not by gender, but depending on the interests of students and the available resources of the educational institution.

3. Within its competence, the Ministry of Education and Science contributes to the provision of women with equal opportunities in the economic sphere (44, f).

3.1. The State Social Program for the Guarantee of Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men for the period up to 2021, within the limits of paragraph 11, "Reducing the gap between the payment of men and women", includes the following items:

1) conducting awareness-raising events to raise awareness about the importance of STEM education;

2) Encouraging and ensuring the conditions and equal access of girls to STEM-education and continuing their education at all levels of education.

4. Regular efforts are being made to overcome gender stereotypes.

4.1. At the state level, an anti-discrimination examination of school textbooks was introduced on a permanent basis to be printed out for state budget funds.

4.2. The tasks and measures for implementation of the State Social Program for ensuring equal rights and opportunities for women and men for the period up to 2021 (p. III, p. 9) include:

- raising awareness of gender stereotypes and hidden discrimination by means of gender-sensitive language;

- conducting exercises for authors' groups, painters, illustrators, designers, editors, publishing staff members to ensure equal rights and opportunities for women and men, to eliminate gender stereotypes from school curricula, textbooks and other educational content;

- ensuring using of the same content in curricula for all subjects for girls and boys, including labor training, physical education;

- monitoring (using the gender audit methodology) to comply with the principle of equal rights and opportunities for women and men in schools with separate education for girls and boys.

I thank you.