

Concluding Statement
by Mr. Andrii Deshchytsia
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ukraine
to the Republic of Poland,
Deputy Head of the Delegation of Ukraine
at the 2016 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting

(Warsaw, 30 September 2016)

Distinguished participants,

First of all let me express sincere thanks to the ODIHR and the Polish hosts for excellent organization and hosting the 2016 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, which offered a platform to review the implementation by participating States of their commitments on observance of human rights, fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law.

Our discussions remain affected by the ongoing deepest crisis in the European security since the end of the Cold war. The crisis is a result of Russia's ongoing military aggression against Ukraine and flagrant violation of the OSCE fundamental principles and commitments. It has resulted in illegal occupation of Ukraine's Crimea and bloody conflict in Donbas, where Russian weaponry and military personnel have killed thousands of Ukrainians, both civilians and military, for over two years.

We wish to thank all delegations and civil society actors, who demonstrate constant attention and genuine deep concern over the human rights situation in the Russia-occupied territories of Ukraine.

Ukraine welcomes and supports the important role of the OSCE as part of international efforts aimed at assisting Ukraine in addressing the consequences of the Russian aggression. We highly value the role of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission in contributing to defusing tensions and fostering peace, stability and security.

Ukraine appreciates close co-operation with the OSCE autonomous Institutions and the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine.

Dear colleagues,

Our two-week discussion in this hall clearly reaffirmed that among many challenges that exist, the most glaring violations of human rights take place in the situations of occupation, where the rule of terror and propaganda prevail, where the international organizations are not allowed to enter and establish a permanent monitoring.

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

We strongly condemn the ban of Mejlis by Russian occupant authorities in the Ukrainian Crimea as well as ongoing repressions undertaken by Russia against those Ukrainians and Crimean Tatars who opposes Russian occupation of Crimea.

We, as our many international partners, do not recognize parliamentary elections held by Russia on the temporary occupied Crimea, which was yet another manifestation of Russia's violation of international law.

We see the imperative to seek permanent monitoring and presence in Crimea of the UN, OSCE and other international organizations in compliance with the UN GA Resolution 68/262 "Territorial Integrity of Ukraine". The role of the OSCE Institutions is essential in this context and we encourage the current and incoming OSCE chairmanships to provide every support to their efforts.

We view as unacceptable that the issue of civil society participation in the HDIM was manipulated to advance the attempts to legitimize Russia's illegal occupation and annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol.

We do expect that the ODIHR will strictly adhere to the aforementioned UN GA Resolution, OSCE principles and commitments, and take appropriate measures to prevent the recurrence of such manipulations.

Distinguished participants,

Our debates have clearly indicated that the present Russia's external aggression cannot be considered in separation from Russia's non-compliance with the principles of democracy, rule of law and human rights, which it committed to observe.

We deplore the situation when the Russian authorities now for years avoid meaningful co-operation with the OSCE and other international institutions, placing obstacles and effectively barring their visits to Russia.

We regret that the Russian Federation again failed to seize the opportunities offered by HDIM to commit to correcting the violations of fundamental OSCE principles and commitments.

This worrying situation warrants comprehensive assessment on the state of affairs with human rights and fundamental freedoms in Russia.

Dear colleagues,

The current threats to human rights and security in the OSCE region, emanating from the gross breach by one participating State of the Helsinki Decalogue principles and commitments, must be duly reflected in the human dimension deliverables at the Hamburg Ministerial Council meeting.

It is also essential that the incoming Austrian Chairmanship places the issue of respect to the OSCE core principles and commitments as its key priority in office and focuses on seeking correction of violations and their full implementation.

Our progress will depend upon the willingness and readiness of all participating States, without exception, to abide by the OSCE principles and commitments fully and in good faith, as well as to take consistent efforts to uphold them.

Thank you, for your attention.