

**Reply Statement of the Delegation of Ukraine
at the Working Session 2 “Freedom of the media” of the
2018 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting**

Mr. Moderator,

Distinguished participants,

I am sure that all of you have this feeling of frustration and confusion as the result of facing what we call hybrid warfare in action.

The orchestrated show today of the number of controlled journalists and NGOs is about trying to justify occupation of Crimea, is about blurring the real picture of aggression Russia against Ukraine first military and now informationally, diplomatically, economically, legally.

We also condemn the provocative attempt 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 by bringing here the representatives of the entity that was registered by the specific law of the Russian Federation by the occupation authorities, namely the Federal Law on Civic Chambers in the entities of Federation;

As the Russian Federation is recognized by the UN as the Occupying Power in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol the application of its legislation in the occupied territory contravenes international humanitarian law.

Moreover, the composition of this entity by approval of the Occupation authorities making it just instrument of their propaganda and has nothing to do with civil society.

The OSCE ODIHR must continue to be guided by respective OSCE decision that recognizes the legal status of Autonomous Republic of Crimea as integral part of Ukraine (note verbale #303/2018 of 3 August 2018).

The registration of the entity under such name demonstrates the inefficiency of the new ODIHR Conference registration system.

Giving the floor to this speaker, Madam/Mister Moderator, could be interpreted as violation of the OSCE principles and commitments as well as provisions of 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.

Dear colleagues,

We accept that a lot to be done for Ukraine to assure safety of journalist and the toughest challenge when the county is under the war. But there is a huge difference between two countries Russia and Ukraine - we are not the police state. The state does not interfere editorial policies. The only regulator of the information space is the National Council for TV and radio that is transparent. We don’t finance the launch of the puppet controlled NGOs who would travel the world and name black the white. The index of freedom of speech according to credible Reports without borders has improved by 26 points since 2014.

The greatest manipulation is when Russia firstly occupies Crimea, starts the war in Donbas and today makes its best to condemn Ukraine in all possible violations, namely almost medieval inquisition of journalists. And unfortunately this distinguished platform is being used as a tool of ongoing attack and information aggression of Russia against Ukraine.

I thank you.