



**Delegation of Ukraine  
to the OSCE**

**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine  
at the opening of the 2011 Human Dimension Implementation  
Meeting**

As for delivery by Permanent Representative of Ukraine H.E. Mr. Ihor Prokopchuk  
26 September 2011

Mr. Chairperson,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honor for me to address the opening session of the 2011 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting.

At the outset I would like to extend our appreciation to the Lithuanian OSCE Chairmanship, the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and the OSCE Secretariat for organizing this meeting. We are grateful to the capital of the EU's current Presidency for giving a warm welcome to the OSCE again.

Mr. Chairperson,

Democratic values, fundamental freedoms and human rights represent a firm base for our cooperation within this Organization. Protection and promotion of them was recognised by the Heads of states and governments of the OSCE participating States as the first responsibility. This reconfirmation last year on behalf of all 56 shows determination and will to face existing threats and challenges to our common security that derive from violations of human rights.

Ukraine sees no alternative to democratic development, and remains fully committed to respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. At the highest level meeting in Astana the President of Ukraine H.E. Mr. Viktor Yanukovich called for Organization to become a community, where the highest standards of respect for fundamental human rights and freedoms, rule of law, support for democratic institutions, strengthening civil society are met, underlining that security of an individual is a precondition of a successful state.

This is a goal yet to be aspired for, but our meeting today is another step in the right direction through respectful dialogue and cooperation in good faith.

Mr. Chairperson,

We are strongly convinced that the OSCE needs to have strong institutions in order to effectively fulfil its functions. Ukraine reiterates its full support to the activities of the OSCE institutions in the human dimension field. Their autonomy and independence can not be compromised.

Ukraine strongly supports the ODIHR's elections observation mandate and its operational autonomy, we benefit from its support in strengthening national electoral system. We remain open to a frank and constructive dialogue with the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media and highly appreciate the expertise of the High Commissioner on National Minorities in developing minority-related legislation.

Ukraine will support additional efforts aimed at strengthening the efficiency of the human dimension of the OSCE.

We should facilitate efforts in identifying issues for even closer cooperation of the OSCE with other international organizations dealing with the human dimension. We see space for greater coordination between the OSCE, United Nations and the Council of Europe. Let me recall that on 21 September the 20<sup>th</sup> high-level meeting between the OSCE and the Council of Europe was held in New York. During the meeting the Chairperson of the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers, Ukraine's Foreign Minister Kostyantyn Gryshchenko highlighted the importance of promotion by both Organizations of shared principles and objectives that are based on democracy and respect for human rights.

Mr. Chairperson,

Ukraine values the civil society's participation in the work of the OSCE. We look forward to having an open exchange views, dialogue and cooperation with civil society, which would contribute to better implementation of commitments in the human dimension by the participating States. We would welcome constructive recommendations from the NGO representatives during our deliberations.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.