

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION AT THE OSCE SUPPLEMENTARY HUMAN
DIMENSION MEETING ON FREEDOMS OF PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY
AND ASSOCIATION, WITH EMPHASIS ON
FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION**

Vienna, 16 and 17 April 2015

Closing session

Mr. Chairperson,
Distinguished participants,

Through this exchange of ideas we can confirm that practically all OSCE participating States have established a suitable legal basis to safeguard freedom of peaceful assembly and association, which are vital to the development of democratic society. At the same time, practically all participating States are faced with certain problems regarding practical law enforcement.

Constructive and inclusive dialogue within society is required to resolve these problems and ensure that the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association can be effectively asserted. The combined efforts of States and society, authorities and non-governmental organizations play a key role in this regard.

Attention should be paid as a priority to safeguarding the principle of equal treatment. It is unacceptable for some organizations to be given preference on account of their neoliberal views while others have labels hung on them merely because they defend the rights of children and traditional, religious, family and cultural values.

The rule of law must serve as the basis for promoting these freedoms. The requirements of national law must apply equally to all civil society organizations without any exceptions.

The assertion of the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association is particularly relevant in the OSCE area to protect economic and social rights and the rights of national minorities, migrants, senior citizens, disabled people and children. The OSCE agenda should also take due account of the role of trade unions in combating discrimination at a time of economic crisis.

The exploitation by radical movements of the right to peaceful assembly to spread misanthropic ideas and extremism, to incite hatred and to provoke riots or organize *coups d'état* is a matter of the greatest concern. The OSCE must react to these threats and concert its efforts to combat these dangerous tendencies.

It is important for both participating States and OSCE executive structures to base these activities on the OSCE's commitments and not to interpret them arbitrarily in order to serve their political interests.

Thank you for your attention.