

Closing statement
on behalf of the Head of the delegation of Ukraine, Deputy Minister for
Foreign Affairs of Ukraine Mr. Sergiy Kyslytsya, at the OSCE
Human Dimension Implementation Meeting
(21 September 2018, Warsaw)

Madam Chairperson,

If you ask the delegation of Ukraine whether we find the commonly agreed OSCE human dimension commitments of particular value and relevance, our answer would be affirmative.

If you ask our delegation whether we see it important that the HDIM was conducted under the current circumstances, our answer would be definitely yes.

But if you ask us whether we achieved at this HDIM tangible results which can be put to practical use for addressing unprecedented challenges in the human dimension, we are not ready to give a positive answer.

Without any prejudice to a number of notable speakers and participants, to whom we are grateful for their useful contributions, we are not sure that a marathon of 3 minute statements by government delegations and subsequent dispersion of attention to lengthy discussions of multiple topics, could produce a significant aggregated effect on the ground. The OSCE response that is needed at times when people continue to die in a real warfare, against the background of grave violations caused by military aggression of one OSCE participating State against the other.

We cannot hold Human Dimensions Implementation Meetings the way we did 10 years ago, when Russia invaded Georgia. We cannot conduct human dimension events the way we did 5 years ago, when Russia committed armed aggression against Ukraine and occupied its territories.

It is true that problems exist in all OSCE participating States. However, as prescribed by the protocols of catastrophe medicine, if many people are injured, the most seriously injured person should be attended first.

People continue to be killed on our continent, both in war and in peace. In the countries, which are facing challenges in democratic development as well as in the country where the death of democracy led to external aggression.

Instead of eliminating the source of infection, we resort to treating those affected by infection.

We regret that this HDIM was used by one OSCE participating State to continue spreading its propaganda and manifestations of aggressive nationalism and hatred as well as shifting its responsibility on others.

We see Russia's deliberate manipulations on civil society participation in an attempt to legitimize illegal occupation and annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol in breach of the norms of international law, OSCE principles and commitments, as well as UN GA Resolution 68/262 "Territorial Integrity of Ukraine".

To create a parallel reality, Kremlin employed many of so-called GoNGOs, funded and hired in Russia and abroad. It has seriously undermined the opportunities for a genuine and open dialogue.

We call for effective measures to be taken by the OSCE Chairmanship and institutions to counter Russian deceptions.

Distinguished delegates,

Looking ahead to the Milan Ministerial Council meeting in December 2018, we stand ready to work towards producing concrete deliverables in the human dimension, which would address in a real and meaningful way the current threats to human dignity and security in the OSCE region, including in the situations of foreign occupation.

Thank you for your attention.