



**Delegation of Ukraine
to the OSCE**

**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine
at the Working session 12: Tolerance and non-discrimination I
of the 2011 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting**

Madam Chair,

Ukraine aligns itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Poland on behalf of the European Union and wishes to make several remarks in the national capacity.

Promotion of tolerance and non-discrimination, elimination of factors of interethnic tensions, protection of the rights of persons, belonging to national minorities remain the priority tasks of the Government of Ukraine.

Over 130 representatives of national minorities reside in Ukraine. We consider this fact as a factor of cultural and spiritual enrichment and as a guarantee of a friendly and fruitful cooperation with other states.

Ukraine remains fully committed to its international obligations and commitments undertaken in the field of protection of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities. The Ukrainian national legislation and bilateral agreements, concluded with a number of neighbouring countries, provide for protection of national minorities and are aimed at ensuring necessary conditions for satisfying their social and cultural needs and interests. The work of intergovernmental bilateral commissions on national minorities, established with neighbouring states, is aimed towards further developing the level of protection for persons belonging to national minorities.

A couple of examples to illustrate the situation in Ukraine in ensuring educational and cultural needs of national minorities, residing in our country:

- in Ukraine there are 85 cultural centres of national minorities and 8697 creative amateur groups.

- 1149 schools with Russian language of education, 82 – with Romanian, 66 – with Hungarian, 15 – in the language of Crimean Tatars.

- the information needs of ethnic minorities in Ukraine are provided by print media: in Russian language – 2 343, Hungarian– 10, Bulgarian– 2, Polish – 5, Romanian – 6, Tatar – 4, German– 3, Chinese– 2, Vietnamese– 3.

Madam Chair,

Ukraine consistently supports the OSCE High Commissioner's mandate and his activities.

The level and intensity of our cooperation is unprecedented. It is even more exemplary that such level of cooperation reflects the recognition by the Ukrainian Government of the fundamental need to ensure rights of persons, belonging to national minorities, rather than interethnic tensions or conflicts that Ukraine has managed to avoid through 20 years of its independence.

We highly appreciate the expertise of the High Commissioner on National Minorities in developing minority-related legislation in Ukraine and look forward to Ambassador's Knut Vollebaek upcoming visit to Ukraine to discuss further development of practical cooperation between Ukraine and the HCNM.

The work of the HCNM is crucially important for developing timely responses to emerging threats to stability, which may arise from interethnic tensions in the OSCE area. It is therefore very important that the participating States continue to provide the HCNM with all necessary support to allow him to implement fully and effectively his important mandate.

As a future OSCE Chairmanship in 2013, Ukraine will continue to support the activities of the HCNM.

Thank you.