

Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine
Working Session 1: Democratic Institutions, including address
by the Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions
and Human Rights

(Warsaw, 19 September 2016)

The delegation of Ukraine aligns itself with the EU statement and would like to make some remarks in its national capacity.

In this session Ukraine would like to focus on one particular aspect of democracy and the rule of law that affects Ukraine and the OSCE community at large.

Ukraine strongly condemns the conduct of elections to the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation of the seventh convocation on 18 September 2016 on the territory of the temporarily occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, which constitute an integral part of the sovereign territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders.

These actions violate the legislation of Ukraine and the fundamental norms and principles of international law, including the United Nations Charter, the UN General Assembly Resolution 68/262 “Territorial Integrity of Ukraine” and the Helsinki Final Act of 1975.

The conduct of these elections de-legitimizes Russia's parliament, which consists of 450 members. The legislation stipulates that one half of the deputies are elected in accordance with single-mandate voting system as people will cast their votes for specific candidates. This will make it easy to identify illegitimate members of the parliament elected in the occupied Crimea and ensure their non-recognition. There will be four of them.

However, another half of the parliament is elected on the proportional basis. The lists of voters were increased by forcing the residents of Crimea to take the Russian citizenship, intimidation and repressions in violation of human rights. The votes in the occupied Crimea for parties, not persons, delegitimized the results of vote for 225 deputies, the entire half of the parliament.

Adding 4 deputies from the first half to 225 from the second half amounts to 229, an illegitimate majority in the composition of the Duma.

The Delegation of Ukraine calls upon consistency of the OSCE Chairmanship, participating States, the ODIHR and the OSCE PA in upholding the norms of international law and the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity. We call not to recognize the results of elections to the Russia's State Duma in the part of voting in the illegally occupied Crimean peninsula.

It is necessary to take all measures to prevent the inclusion of MPs elected in the temporarily occupied Crimea to Russian parliamentary delegations to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and other international parliamentary bodies.

We welcome position of the United States of America, France and other countries that already officially stated that they are not recognizing the result of elections to the Russia's State Duma.