



**Permanent Mission of Ukraine**  
to the International Organizations in Vienna

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## **Statement in Response to the Chairs of the Three Committees**

As delivered by Ihor Prokopchuk,  
Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna,  
to the 1161<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Permanent Council,  
19 October 2017

### **Mr. Chairman,**

The delegation of Ukraine joins previous speakers in thanking Ambassadors Steffen Kongstad, Kairat Sarybay and Sian Macleod for their presentations on the work of the three Committees.

The discussions, which took place this year in the three Committees reaffirm the continuing relevance of the OSCE comprehensive approach to security. The biggest challenge remains the flagrant violation of our OSCE commitments by one participating State and its ongoing aggression against a fellow OSCE participating state.

With regard to the work of the Security Committee, we welcome the focus on countering terrorism and preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism. We support the implementation of the relevant OSCE's Ministerial commitments as well as the continuation of the established practice of voluntary reporting by participating States.

The situation of ongoing violation of Ukraine's border underscores the imperative of seeking full implementation of the OSCE Border Security and Management Concept and other OSCE border-related commitments, including prevention cross-border movement of persons, weapons and funds connected with terrorist and other criminal activities.

On cyber security, Ukraine continues to give special attention and support to the work of the Informal Working Group as well as to further developing confidence- and security-building measures and strengthening their implementation.

We extend full support to the activities of the Second Committee on good governance, combating corruption and money laundering, energy security, fostering the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Among our focus are the issues of economic renewal of Donbas and rehabilitation of conflict-affected territories, countering the forceful seizure of assets and property in Russia-occupied areas of Donbas, and addressing the acute environmental aspects of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict.

We welcome the priorities of the incoming Italian Chairmanship in the second dimension, in particular its focus on promoting economic progress and security through human capital and investment.

However, we stress that the OSCE work in the area of promoting connectivity should concentrate on the practical implementation of Hamburg Ministerial Council decision “Strengthening good governance and promoting connectivity” and be founded on full respect for the OSCE fundamental principles and commitments.

As our Organization places respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms at the core of its comprehensive approach to security, protection of human rights in the situations of occupation remains a key challenge. We must not allow the existence of human rights “grey zones” in the OSCE area. We should continue to seek practical ways to address multiple and grave human rights abuses by the Russian occupying authorities in Crimea and in the occupied part of Donbas. We should find effective ways of reacting to the evidences of serious human rights violations in Russia itself.

We encourage the Chair of the Human Dimension Committee and the incoming Italian Chairmanship to provide every support to the OSCE Institutions and mechanisms in monitoring and reporting on the human rights situation in the occupied territories and in responding to gross violations of human rights law.

The discussions at the Hamburg Ministerial meeting on large movements of migrants and refugees highlighted the need to address the rights of the internally displaced people. As this issue has not yet been dealt with, it is essential that we take it up promptly and consider OSCE’s role in complementing the efforts of other international actors in dealing with this challenge.

Freedom from state propaganda, eradicating the phenomenon of political prisoners, ensuring right to a fair trial, combating torture and enforced disappearances should receive priority attention in the Committee’s work.

As the issue of national minorities protection have been recently raised by some participating States, we see it as an opportunity to look seriously at strengthening the relevance of recommendations of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, which address important issues of education, integration and interstate relations with regard to national minorities. We encourage the incoming Italian OSCE Chairmanship together with the Chair of the Human Dimension Committee to launch the discussions taking also into account the set of HCNM recommendations in order to build a common space for minority protection.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The Ukrainian delegation hopes that the present and future deliberations in the three Committees will be translated into actions aimed at renewing compliance with the principles and commitments of our Organization, without which our common security and cooperation remain under threat.

We assure the Chairpersons of the three Committees of our continued support for their work and wish them every success in future endeavours.

**Thank you, Mr. Chairman.**