

Permanent Mission Ukraine

Thank you, Madame Chair.

Ukraine has always been committed to the principles of respect for the rights of persons belonging to national ethnic religious and linguistic minorities. Ukraine has been providing peaceful coexistence for over 100 ethnic group in the country. Russian aggression since 2014 has seriously affected the situation with human rights and fundamental freedoms related to minorities. The situation got even worse in the beginning of the full-scale war in February 2022. It clearly demonstrated that the issue of national minorities has been gravely instrumentalized in pursuit by one state of its imperialistic geopolitical missions. Nevertheless, Ukraine remains resolute in its efforts to achieve the highest international standards and further develop a democratic society in our country. Thus, in November 2022, the law on national minorities of Ukraine was adopted. According to this document any Ukrainian citizen belonging to a national minority have the right of self-identification, the right to use and access education in the language of national minority, as well as to preserve the cultural identity of the national community. Ukraine takes all appropriate measures to provide education for further integration of national minorities in economic and social life. On 11 June 2023 Ukraine adopted a law extending transition period for education in minority language by one year for pupils starting their education before 2018. In October 2023, Ukraine registered a draft law in Parliament to exempt these pupils from the obligations of the education law. This would allow Ukraine to reconsider the minority school system and to ensure equal opportunity for persons belonging to national minorities, and to avoid [inaudible] and interference with their rights. The adoption of the declaration on the rights of persons belonging national ethnic religious or linguistic minorities was a landmark step taken by the international community 30 years ago. However, the aggression against Ukraine is a turning point that define the foundations of the entire international community. Thus, we call on the international community to pay utmost attention on the systematic human rights violations against minorities committed by Russia and Russian led forces and make every endeavour to stop these abuses.