



KYIV-WARSAW FORUM

Developing cooperation in reducing chemical threats and enhancing chemical safety and security and voluntary fire service

Kyiv, 17th August, 2018

FORUM DECLARATION

on the cooperation in the development of Voluntary Fire Service in Ukraine

1. The Kyiv-Warsaw Forum was co-organized by the All-Ukrainian Association of Local Self-Government Bodies "Association of Ukrainian Cities" (AUC) and the Ukrainian Fire and Technological Safety Union (USPTB) and the International Centre for Chemical Safety and Security (ICCSS), Warsaw, Poland and support of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Ukraine, and cooperation with the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Project Coordinator in Ukraine (OSCE PCU), and participation of national and international partners from governments, local authorities, industries, academia, and international organizations.
2. The Kyiv-Warsaw Forum was the continuation of the Warsaw-Kyiv International Forum on developing cooperation in reducing chemical threats and enhancing chemical safety and security and voluntary fire service which was held on 24th of April, 2017 in Warsaw. The participants of the Warsaw-Kyiv Forum supported the initiative to create the nation-wide program "Ukraine system of voluntary fire service and adopted Declaration on the cooperation in the development of Voluntary Fire Brigades in Ukraine.
3. The participants welcome an active engagement and cooperation of the International Centre for Chemical Safety and Security (ICCSS) with the Ukraine and international partners in enhancing chemical safety and security and improving the first response capacity in emergency situations. They further welcome the effective implementation and further development of the of the EU-CHEM-REACT project, financed by the European Union, to support the civil protection capacities in Ukraine and in the region.
4. The participants welcome the very positive role of and requested the OSCE Project Coordinator in Ukraine to continue leading role in developing concrete programs aiming at enhancing chemical safety and security and improving the first response capacity in emergency situations.
5. The participants supported the initiative to create the nation-wide program "Ukraine system of voluntary fire service", to be introduced in accordance with the EU rules and regulations on civil protection and emergency response. The development and implementation of the Ukraine system of voluntary fire service, as an important process of supporting local communities, developing self-governance and civil society, increasing local capacities to prevent, prepare for and respond to CBRN accidents and environmental protection. Being implemented in Ukraine the proposed approach should be offered to other countries.

6. The participants confirmed that the Polish model for the voluntary fire service is relevant and suitable for Ukraine.

7. The participants noticed that according to the law "On Local Self-Government in Ukraine", where territorial communities independently decide the issues of communities and governance in their territory.

8. The Association of Ukrainian Cities (AUC), as the Forum co-organizer, taking into account the tense situation in the field of fire and technological safety of buildings and structures at local level, confirmed its support and offered active cooperation in the process of the development of the voluntary fire service in Ukraine, including the development of the legal framework.

8. The Ukrainian Fire and Technological Safety Union" – UFTSU and the International Centre for Chemical Safety and Security (ICCSS) in Warsaw, NGO "Union of Fire Volunteers of Ukraine" were encouraged to continue close cooperation and lead efforts, with agencies in Ukraine and Poland, as well as international partners and stakeholders, to promote the development of Ukraine system of voluntary fire service.

9. The participants agreed to establish a Working Group, coordinated by The Association of Ukrainian Cities (AUC), and requested support of the OSCE to develop further the concept of voluntary fire service in Ukraine, including the draft proposals for legal, administrative and relevant standards, to be presented to the relevant national authorities.

10. The participants agreed to meet in the summer 2019 in Poland to continue review the progress achieved and further support and promote concrete activities to be implemented in the process of development of Ukraine system of voluntary fire service.