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*Introductory speech*

**Dear participants of the conference!**

First of all I would like to welcome our guests! To all of them and to the educational and research establishments they represent, I wish success in the development of education and science, broadening of ties with practical institutions, and strengthening of the unity of our country - Ukraine.

One of the results of the development of society is the aspiration to reach a condition when the very idea of infringing on the interests of others would be impossible while the most harmonized coexistence of people, their communities, and society as a whole could be achieved. In the process of reaching such a condition the state as an instrument for keeping order and regulating relations arising between people plays a crucial role.

One could claim that modern concepts of the state, of its essence, are inseparably connected with such notions as civil society, law-governed and social state. All these elements together create an ideal framework guaranteeing everyone the degree of freedom which could meet the need of particular individual without endangering the interests of others. This ideal framework creates a condition in which every person will be able to consciously bear responsibility for their own actions and for the effect those actions will have on other persons.

The formation of a new strong democratic state, which would efficiently solve the problems both at the national and international levels as well as handle issues in the sphere of national and international security, welfare, and environmental protection, requires joint efforts of many states.

In the modern understanding national security is a complex phenomenon which includes personal, civil and state security. The state security system performs the function of preventing and avoiding dangers, reducing risks and eliminating threats to the normal functioning of the state, to the existence of an individual and society as a whole.

The problem of provision of national security is becoming more and more urgent due to both external and internal factors such as: the outdated institutional framework and principles of its functioning, their inconsistency with the current needs of the society, its tasks and objectives. In the conditions of a democratic state, which cannot exist separately from a civil society, the phenomenon of national security and the mechanism of its provision must be rethought and reformed in order to meet current needs. Therefore, a systemic approach to understanding the phenomenon of national security is fully justified. It suggests that both the state

security and non-state security sectors must function within the national security system.

According to this approach the non-state security sector is a capable and equal system that complements the state security sector. A well-balanced interaction of the state security and non-state security sub-systems is an undeniable condition of the efficient operation of the nationwide security system.

This idea has been partially embodied in the Law of Ukraine “On the Fundamentals of National Security of Ukraine”, under which associations of citizens along with state units are subjects of national security provision. However, this statement is absolutely insufficient for the former to be recognized as equal subjects of the national security system of Ukraine, since one can claim that the real mechanism of their participation in the national security provision is absent. Today numerous private agencies involved in the fields of ecological, financial and informational security as well as security services of enterprises and banking institutions, security organizations, etc. operate in Ukraine. However, their formation, functions, tasks and objectives are extremely disordered.

The development of the efficient nationwide system of state security is closely connected with the development of non-state security sector along with the state security one. For this purpose further doctrinal thinking followed by enactment of appropriate legislation is needed.

The materials of the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Scientific-Practical Conference “Non-State Security Sector: Modern Experience and Problems of Comparative Legal Regulation” will make a significant contribution and give a strong impetus to solving problems of the development of non-state security sector and its transformation into an effective mechanism of keeping order at all levels and in all spheres of the life of society.

I wish the participants of the International conference fruitful work, achievement of the goals and accomplishment of the tasks set.