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MC.DEL/8/22  
1 December 2022

ENGLISH only

**Speech of Mr Jan Lipavský, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic  
at the plenary session of the OSCE Ministerial Council Meeting**

**1 December 2022**

Mr Chair,

With your permission I would like to pass the floor to the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy first then I will make a few remarks in my national capacity.

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HR/VP Borrell

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Mr Chair,

I fully subscribe to all the points just mentioned by the High Representative and now I would like to make a few remarks in my national capacity.

- The OSCE of today is different from what it was a year ago. **Russia's aggression against Ukraine trampled the most fundamental principles the OSCE was founded on.** I am calling on Russia to stop the war and completely withdraw its forces from the territory of Ukraine.
- All the crimes committed during the illegal invasion must be prosecuted and perpetrators must face justice. **I am taking this opportunity to thank the rapporteurs of the Moscow Mechanism, as well as ODIHR and numerous**

**NGOs for their work in keeping the records of the violations. I am also calling on all of you to support the creation of a special international tribunal to prosecute crimes of aggression committed by Russia.**

- On behalf of the Czech Republic I would like to stress that we believe in the purpose and principles of the OSCE.
- In the future, **the OSCE can play an important role in a new security architecture in Europe.** The collection of commitments and confidence building measures is unique and needs to be preserved and further developed.
- An essential asset is the OSCE's comprehensive approach to security. We should nourish it, not weaken it. **Obstructions of the human rights mechanisms weaken also our security in the OSCE region. With stagnation in the politico-military agenda, the economic and environmental dimension will stall as well.**
- Already today, the support of the OSCE is needed in Ukraine. It is regrettable that most of the OSCE activities in the country had to be terminated. We cannot give in to the blackmail of the aggressor. **The Czech Republic applauds the new OSCE Support Programme to Ukraine. We will donate 160.000 EUR for the OSCE activities in support of Ukraine.** A part of this donation will be earmarked for the OSCE Documentation Centre in Prague for the upkeep of the OSCE files evacuated from the country after the invasion.
- Finally, for the OSCE to be able to fulfil its role, it needs financial stability. **I am calling on all Participating States to take a responsible approach and secure a budget that will provide for effective and efficient functioning of the OSCE across all three dimensions.**

- Thank you for your attention and **I am looking forward to welcoming delegations of Participating States next September at the 31<sup>st</sup> OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum, traditionally held in Prague.**
- I KINDLY ASK YOU, MR. CHAIR, TO ATTACH MY SPEECH TO THE JOURNAL OF THE DAY. THANK YOU.

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