



**Australia's National Statement to the 1383rd Meeting of the Permanent Council
of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe**

Thursday 21 July 2022

**To be delivered by Alternate Representative Dr Katie Mead,
Multilateral Counsellor, Australian Permanent Mission**

Thank you, Chair.

Australia fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of the Netherlands on Malaysia Airlines flight MH17, including on behalf of Belgium and Germany.

As you know, last week marked eight years since the downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17, which resulted in the tragic deaths of 298 passengers and crew members.

As others have noted in our meeting today, Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine has undoubtedly strong associations for the relatives of the MH17 victims. Australia continues to condemn in the strongest possible terms Russia's unprovoked, unjust and illegal invasion of Ukraine.

Australia is also steadfast in our enduring commitment to seek truth, justice and accountability, including on behalf of the victims of the downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17. We must hold those responsible to account, in accordance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 2166.

Since 2018 Australia and the Netherlands have maintained that Russia is responsible under international law for the downing of Flight MH17, based on the strong body of evidence presented by the Joint Investigation Team.

Australia and the Netherlands' pursuit of accountability through our dispute against Russia in the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) for its role in the downing is an important step forward.

Australia condemns Russia's unilateral, illegal and immoral aggression against the people of Ukraine. Russia's ongoing aggression is no doubt a painful reminder of the tragic circumstances surrounding the downing of Flight MH17.

In the interests of the safety of global civil aviation we must ensure that such a horrific act as the downing is never repeated. We call on Russia to cooperate fully with the efforts to pursue accountability.

Our thoughts remain with those who perished on board, their families and loved ones. We owe it to the victims and their loved ones to do everything possible to deliver the justice and accountability they seek.

Thank you, Chair.