



**Permanent Mission of Ukraine**  
to the International Organizations in Vienna

**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine  
on the occasion of the presentation of the OSCE Moscow Mechanism  
Report on the violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms  
in the russian federation**

As for delivery by Ambassador Yevhenii Tsymbaliuk,  
Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna,  
to the 1390<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Permanent Council,  
22 September 2022

**Mr. Chairperson,**

The Delegation of Ukraine expresses its gratitude to the distinguished expert, Professor Angelika Nußberger, for the preparation of the solid Report under the OSCE Moscow Mechanism in line with the mandate established by 38 participating States as OSCE's reaction to gross violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms in russia.

As my delegation stressed numerous times in this hall for over 8 years, it was long overdue for the international community, including the OSCE, to closely examine the particularly serious human rights situation in russia and to prepare a comprehensive Report on the issue.

We highly value your, Professor Nußberger, professional and independent work, which resulted in a comprehensive Report you presented to the Permanent Council this afternoon.

We take note of the fact that the russian federation refused to cooperate with the expert, which serves as a clear indication that russia is not only fully aware of the human rights violations taking place in the russian federation, but also that such repressions are ranked at the level of state policy by those in power.

The Delegation of Ukraine wishes to draw special attention of the OSCE and its participating States that the findings and conclusions of the Report clearly testify to the detrimental effects on international peace and security of the situation with human rights, fundamental freedoms, democracy, rule of law, tolerance and non-discrimination in the russian federation.

As stressed in the document, the russian legislation, which increasingly restricts the basic civil freedoms, freedom of expression, freedom of association and freedom of assembly, has to be seen in the context of domestic and foreign policy.

In fact, the Report fully acknowledges the direct link between serious violations inside russia and russia's external aggression. According to the Report: "To start a war with another country, the elite must be sure that there will be no two-front war ... . Therefore, restrictive measures are considered necessary in order not to be disturbed during the preparation for war or after it has started. This explains the wave of repressive measures in russia immediately before, but, above all, after 24 February 2022."

In addition, the Report also demonstrates how internal repression allows and encourages russia to perpetrate wars abroad with no domestic accountability for that.

Against the backdrop of russia's ongoing war of aggression against Ukraine, the document exposes how russian authorities use propaganda of war and hatred,

repressive legislation, violence and dispersal of peaceful assemblies to create a climate of fear and intimidation for civil society, activists, media and journalists. The crackdown on remaining independent media in russia following the start of the war of aggression against Ukraine has led to a total state monopoly on information.

The findings of the Report clearly testify that this long-term and overall pattern of russian authorities' policies and actions is aimed at dismantling of democratic institutions, including free and fair elections, persecution of political opponents and dissenting voices, as well as integrating civil society into the vertical of power.

In conjunction with the restrictive legislation on "foreign agents" and "undesirable organizations", full-scale state censorship in the media and internet, restrictions on freedom of assembly, violations of rights of national and other minorities such steps demonstrate a clampdown on democracy, human rights and the rule of law in russia.

The Report stresses that in recent years the russian federation has not only failed to follow numerous valuable recommendations of international organizations and their human rights bodies, but on the contrary has reacted in such a way that the situation has further deteriorated.

Such repressive measures of the russian federation exacerbate its self-isolation and testify, in the international legal context, to russia's default on its international obligations.

Following russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022, accompanied by mass atrocities and other grave violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, russia was excluded from the Council of Europe and United Nations Human Rights Council.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

The respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law is at the core of the OSCE comprehensive concept of security. In 1991, the OSCE participating States recognized that "commitments undertaken in the field of the human dimension of the OSCE are matters of direct and legitimate concern to all participating States and do not belong exclusively to the internal affairs of the State concerned".

In view of the unprecedentedly critical situation and gross human rights violations in the russian federation, the Delegation of Ukraine urges the OSCE and its autonomous institutions to give priority attention and to address immediately the most critical issues, identified in the Report, that continue to seriously undermine democratic stability, peace and security throughout the OSCE region and could have even greater unpredictable consequences at national and international levels.

We view as a critical task for all - OSCE Chairmanship, participating States and executive structures - to make russia abide by its international obligations, including under applicable international humanitarian and human rights law, and the OSCE principles and commitments, in particular the Helsinki Final Act. russia must take significant steps to rectify the violations it committed.

We reiterate that it is time to find a long-term solution to the russian crisis within the OSCE.

I kindly ask that this Statement be attached to the Journal of the Day.

**I thank you, Mr. Chairperson.**