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**STATEMENT BY
AMBASSADOR STEFANO BALDI, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ITALY
TO THE OSCE, AT THE 1382nd MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

14 July 2022

**On the report by the mission of independent experts under the Moscow Mechanism
invoked by 45 OSCE participating States**

Mr. Chairperson,

Italy fully aligns itself with the statements by the European Union and Albania on behalf of the 45 participating States that invoked the Moscow Mechanism on 2 June and would like to add some observations in a national capacity.

From the very start of this unjustified and unjustifiable war of aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine, Italy has firmly supported international initiatives to identify and punish those responsible for breaches of international humanitarian law and human rights violations – in particular, the efforts of the International Criminal Court and the United Nations Commission of Inquiry.

Through the reports of the two missions of independent experts under the Moscow Mechanism and the monitoring work of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the OSCE can make a vital contribution to establishing the violations of shared commitments and the atrocities that have been committed in Ukraine and to punishing those responsible. That is essential to put an end to this senseless conflict.

We thank the experts for the excellent report presented today. It constitutes a trustworthy account of the terrible destruction and unspeakable suffering caused by the war, providing an accurate and detailed picture of the atrocities perpetrated, particularly by the Russian armed forces. The description of the extrajudicial killings and torture committed in Bucha and other Ukrainian towns under temporary Russian occupation, together with that of the camps set up for the “filtration” of civilians, attests to the brutality of this conflict. The visit that the mission’s experts were able to undertake to Ukraine and their conversations with witnesses, local authorities and civil society representatives confirm the importance and added value of the Moscow Mechanism.

We greatly lament that, on this occasion too, the Russian Federation chose not to co-operate with the expert mission and instead chose to express unfounded doubts as to the effectiveness and validity of this

important OSCE instrument for verifying and supporting the participating States' implementation of shared commitments in the human dimension.

We consider it essential to ensure the widest possible dissemination and awareness of the reports of the two expert missions established under the Moscow Mechanism, and will continue our efforts to promote follow-up actions within the OSCE and to achieve closer co-operation with other international accountability mechanisms.

I kindly ask that this statement be attached to the journal of this meeting. Thank you.