



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

**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine in response to  
Mr Matteo Mecacci, Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic  
Institutions and Human Rights**

As delivered by Ms Viktoriya Kuvshynnykova,  
Deputy Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna,  
to the 1415<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Permanent Council,  
16 March 2023

**Mr Chairperson,**

The Delegation of Ukraine welcomes back to the Permanent Council meeting Director Matteo Mecacci and thanks him for the comprehensive presentation.

Let me first reiterate Ukraine's sincere appreciation of ODIHR's swift reaction to Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine launched on 24 February 2022 and your Office's priority attention to the situation on the ground.

As it was recently stressed in ODIHR's statement, I quote: "A year after the launch of Russia's military attack in Ukraine, the armed conflict is still having a devastating effect on civilians as they continue to be impacted by ongoing military strikes and subjected to other violence and inhumane treatment". End of quote.

It remains important to keep the international community duly informed on the ongoing violations and crimes committed by the Russian Federation in Ukraine, and express ODIHR's position on the events.

In order for the OSCE and its institutions to be truly efficient there is a need to respond clearly and meaningfully to the specific situations and challenges.

We count on ODIHR's continued engagement in addressing severe consequences of Russia's war of aggression on the people of Ukraine.

**Distinguished colleagues,**

As of 15 March 2023, the Prosecutor General's Office registered 74,159 crimes committed by the Russian armed forces, 71,902 of which are violations of the laws and customs of war by the Russian troops. The Russian invaders have killed 464 Ukrainian children and wounded another 935.

The terror against the civilian population, summary executions, cases of torture and ill-treatment, sexual violence, abduction, forcible deportation of civilians, including many children, filtration camps and other crimes are all parts of the premeditated actions of the aggressor - state aimed at the extermination of Ukrainians.

Bucha, Irpin, Borodyanka, Mariupol, Izium, Lyman, and the settlements in the Kherson region are the places where the Russian armed forces committed the cruelest crimes against humanity.

We commend the implementation of ODIHR's Monitoring Initiative aimed at documenting the ongoing violations of international humanitarian and human rights

law by the russian armed forces in Ukraine. As it was emphasized by your Office “The two reports published by ODIHR so far provide details of violations on the ground and helping to ensure accountability for violations of international law.”

We are also gravely concerned by ODIHR’s findings about “Numerous credible allegations of forced transfer and deportation of unaccompanied children within the occupied territories of Ukraine, as well as to the russian federation’s own territory”.

In view of ODIHR’s ongoing monitoring activities and preparation of the next report, there is a need to duly reflect that much of Ukraine’s territory, invaded by russia after 24 February 2022, is still under the russian occupation, where the aggressor-state continues to massively terrorize the civilian population and perpetrate war crimes.

It is also critically important to ensure that ODIHR’s monitoring activities cover the entire territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders, including the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol.

We believe that continuation of ODIHR’s monitoring and reporting will positively contribute to prevent impunity of criminals and ensure justice for victims.

**Mr Director,**

The latest Moscow Mechanism Report on the situation in russia acknowledged 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.

Indeed, for a long time russian elites have cultivated the notions of russian superiority, exceptionalism and chauvinism. This led to a consistent policy of hatred against other nations, minorities, vulnerable and religious groups, political opposition.

This overall policy of hatred and chauvinism has acquired a genocidal character in relation to Ukrainians as a national group. You have seen it with your own eyes when visiting Bucha and Irpin last year.

We encourage ODIHR to address one of the root causes of russian aggression which manifests in the policy of dehumanization of the Ukrainian people brought in russia to a state level through the russian neo-Nazis concepts of so-called “denazification”, “russian world” and “protection of russian-speaking population”.

It is critically important to understand that even after the war ends, without duly addressing human rights situation in russia, this huge human rights ghetto, with enormous legacy of decades of repressions and violations, will remain a source of permanent threat to peace and security in the OSCE region and beyond.

**Thank you, Mr Chairperson.**