



**PERMANENT REPRESENTATION OF PORTUGAL  
TO THE OSCE**

---

**1403<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Permanent Council**

**22 December 2022**

**Statement by Portugal on the  
Russian Federation's ongoing aggression against Ukraine**

Mr. Chair,

Portugal aligns itself with the statement by the European Union, but please allow me to add the following remarks in my national capacity:

As we approach the end of 2022, we cannot but remember this year as disgraceful. This was the year when the Russian Federation discarded the possibilities offered by diplomacy and, with the support of Belarus, opted to wage instead a destructive war of aggression against Ukraine.

As an outcome, thousands have been killed or injured, millions have been forced to leave their homes and become refugees, cities have been massively bombed, hospitals, schools, and other civilian infrastructure, including cultural sites, have been deliberately targeted. Furthermore, international law and security continue to be challenged by Russia with an impact that goes way beyond the borders of Ukraine.

Let me be clear: the actions conducted by Russia against the Ukrainian civilian population are despicable and unjustifiable. There can be no other words to describe deliberate onslaught inflicted with the purpose of causing human suffering and breaking the resolve of a sovereign people, aggravated by Winter conditions.

Portugal reiterates its unwavering support to Ukraine independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders. We will never recognise any illegal annexation of territory in Ukraine or elsewhere. We pay our tribute to the resilience shown by the Ukrainian People. Our thoughts are with those who are suffering the impact



## PERMANENT REPRESENTATION OF PORTUGAL TO THE OSCE

---

of the Russian aggression and lost their loved ones during this year. We will continue to provide assistance to Ukraine, both bilaterally and in the framework of the EU.

We recall that under international human rights and humanitarian law, States are obliged to comply with rules and principles that forbid practices that amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity. We fully support the ongoing international efforts directed toward the investigation, collection, and preservation of evidence, which are essential to hold the perpetrators to account.

The OSCE initiatives, including the recent ODIHR report and the finding of the two Moscow Mechanism reports, of which Portugal was one of the initiators, are a key contribution to that endeavor.

Russia must immediately cease the aggression and completely and unconditionally withdraw all of its troops and military equipment from the entire territory of Ukraine. As such, Portugal reiterates its plea for peace and its full support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its recognized borders.