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EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation N°1055 Vienna, 20 September 2023

EU Statement on Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine

- Madam Chair, as we speak, Russia's illegal, unprovoked and unjustified war of aggression against Ukraine is continuing and its toll is growing. Russia's atrocious war is also an attack on democracy and the international rules-based order. It is a flagrant violation of international law, notably the UN Charter, and goes against the fundamental OSCE principles and commitments, including the Helsinki Final Act and the Charter of Paris.
- 2. As underscored by the Leaders of the G20 in their Declaration less than two weeks ago, 'all states must act in a manner consistent with the Purposes and Principles of the UN Charter in its entirety. All states must refrain from the threat or use of force to seek territorial acquisition against the territorial integrity and sovereignty or political independence of any state'.
- 3. We will continue to condemn Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and the support provided by Belarus in the strongest possible terms. There is no justification for this war. And to quote the recent G20 Leaders' Declaration again, 'Today's era must not be of war'.
- 4. The EU and its Member States recall their unwavering support for Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders and its inherent right of self-defence against the Russian aggression.
- 5. We will not cease our support to Ukraine. On top of the bilateral support provided by Member States, the EU Military Assistance Mission in support of Ukraine will continue to help strengthening the capacity of the Ukrainian Armed Forces to defend Ukraine's territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders and to deter and respond to possible future military offensives by Russia. The EU has already trained over 26,000 Ukrainian soldiers. EU High Representative for

Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Josep Borrell, has proposed 40,000 Ukrainian soldiers being trained by July 2024.

- 6. Through the European Peace Facility, the EU and its Member States provide substantial financial support for military supplies to Ukraine. And overall financial support of the EU and its Member States will not stop with the end of the war either. Further resources will be needed to rebuild Ukraine following the destruction caused by Russia's war of aggression.
- We fully support the Peace Formula presented by President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelenskyy. It should remain at the centre of international discussions about how to build a just and lasting peace in Ukraine.
- 8. The EU and its Member States will continue to provide strong financial, economic, humanitarian, military and diplomatic support to Ukraine and its people for as long as it takes. Together, we defend democracy.

Thank you.

The Candidate Countries NORTH MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO*, ALBANIA*, UKRAINE, REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA and BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA*, the Potential Candidate Country GEORGIA, the EFTA countries ICELAND, LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, the members of the European Economic Area, as well as ANDORRA and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

* North Macedonia, Montenegro, Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.