



PERMANENT REPRESENTATION OF PORTUGAL TO THE OSCE

Statement by

Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of Portugal

at the 1391st reinforced meeting of the Permanent Council

29 September

Mr. Chair,

In the same vein as many previous speakers, Portugal **strongly condemns** the war of aggression waged by Russia against Ukraine.

Russia has ignored our calls for an end to the war and our pleas for peace. And now this crisis is escalating even further: the **so-called “referenda”** for annexation by Russia of temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine are totally illegal and unacceptable. Their outcome will not be recognised.

Portugal renews its **strong solidarity with Ukraine and the Ukrainian people**, and its unwavering support to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders.

Russia’s unprovoked, unjustified, and illegal war of aggression against Ukraine is a **blatant violation** of the UN Charter and of international law, as well as a serious breach of the Helsinki Final Act, of the Charter of Paris principles and of OSCE commitments.

This senseless war is taking a **heavy toll on the population in Ukraine**, killing and wounding thousands of persons, and displacing millions, including women and children.

Russia’s **war of choice** is an attack on the sovereignty of a neighbouring country, it jeopardises the rules-based international order, it disrupts the economy and the global food supply chains. It has dealt a serious blow on Europe’s security, stability, and recovery from the financial and the pandemic crises.

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Ladies and gentlemen,

The link between the internal repression in Russia and its war of aggression against Ukraine is evident. These are two sides of the same coin.

After the Russian invasion of Ukraine, Portugal has joined in invoking the **Moscow Mechanism** on three occasions. The conclusions of the Mechanism reports are appalling:

- They confirm clear patterns of serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law by the occupying power in Ukraine, which may amount to crimes against humanity and war crimes.
- They confirm a climate of fear and intimidation imposed on civil society in Russia, through the gradual, yet systematic, restrictions on freedoms of expression, of the media, of peaceful assembly and of association.

We **urge Russia** to stop this illegal aggression, to immediately and unconditionally cease its military actions and fully withdraw from the entire territory of Ukraine, including the illegally annexed Autonomous Republic of Crimea and City of Sevastopol.

We also **urge Russia** not to recognise the outcome of the illegal “referenda”, and to reconsider its approach towards the OSCE and its instruments and mechanisms in all three dimensions, and to effectively address all the issues identified in the Moscow Mechanism reports.

I conclude by stressing once again Portugal’s full support to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine.

Thank you.

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