



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE

As delivered by Ms Viktoriya Kuvshynnykova, Deputy Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna

1558th meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council

Agenda Item 2, “Report by the Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)”

(19 March 2026)

Mr Chairperson,

The Delegation of Ukraine warmly welcomes Director Maria Telalian to the Permanent Council and thanks her for the comprehensive presentation of ODIHR’s 2025 Annual Report. We commend Director Telalian and her team for principled, professional and demand-driven work at a time when the human dimension across the OSCE area is under growing pressure. As the Director rightly underlined today, preserving and strengthening the human dimension is not secondary to security. It is indispensable to it.

Madam Director,

We highly value ODIHR’s continued monitoring of violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law committed in and against Ukraine. We take note that the Ukraine Monitoring Initiative has already produced the seventh and eighth interim reports, drawing on more than 700 unique witness and victim testimonies, and that the ninth report is expected in July this year. This sustained work is of major importance for preserving evidence, amplifying the voices of victims and survivors, and narrowing the space for denial and impunity.

We also appreciate that ODIHR's Annual Report reflects practical support provided to Ukraine beyond monitoring. We refer, inter alia, to ODIHR's legal assistance in 2025 on issues relating to judicial integrity, protection of lawyers and counter-terrorism, as well as to the Office's broader work to strengthen democratic institutions, electoral integrity and the rule of law across the OSCE region. We equally note ODIHR's milestone of 25 years of electoral legal assistance, which remains especially relevant for Ukraine as we prepare for the day when a just and lasting peace will make it possible to organize elections in full accordance with Ukrainian law and international standards.

Distinguished colleagues,

Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine remains the most flagrant assault on the OSCE comprehensive concept of security. Russia violates not only the sovereignty and territorial integrity of a participating State. It seeks to destroy the very logic of Helsinki by attempting to demonstrate that large-scale aggression, terror against civilians, torture, arbitrary detention, forced deportation of children and repression in the temporarily occupied territories can proceed without consequences.

Against this background, ODIHR's work on Ukraine carries significance far beyond one country. It is directly linked to the credibility of our Organization and to the ability of the OSCE to defend its own acquis. We therefore encourage ODIHR to continue and further strengthen its monitoring and analytical work on Ukraine, including with regard to torture and ill-treatment, arbitrary deprivation of liberty of civilians, conflict-related sexual violence, enforced disappearances, sham trials, and the deportation, forced transfer and indoctrination of Ukrainian children. We also welcome Director Telalian's intention to visit Kyiv next week and trust that such engagement will further reinforce ODIHR's co-operation with Ukrainian authorities and civil society.

Mr Chairperson,

Accountability must remain our common strategic priority. ODIHR's reporting, together with the findings of the Moscow Mechanism and other international accountability efforts, forms an essential part of the broader architecture of justice. We count on the autonomous institutions to remain seized of the consequences of Russia's aggression and to continue contributing, within their respective mandates, to international efforts aimed at ensuring accountability for war crimes, crimes against humanity and the crime of aggression.

Ukraine also appreciates ODIHR's broader work in response to the shrinking civic space, the misuse of vague 'foreign agents' legislation, rising hate crime, and attempts to curtail fundamental freedoms under the pretext of security or technological change. These trends deserve firm attention. Yet it must also be stated clearly that the gravest and most destructive human dimension crisis in the OSCE area continues to stem from Russia's war against Ukraine. Any serious discussion of the future relevance of the OSCE must therefore begin with sustained, resolute and practical support for Ukraine.

Ukraine remains firmly committed to the OSCE acquis and to close co-operation with ODIHR. You can count on Ukraine's full support in this important work.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.