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Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International Orgainnizations in Vienna

Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine in response to the Report by the Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, Ms Maria Telalian

as delivered by Yurii Vitrenko, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the International Organisations in Vienna
to the 1583rd meeting of the Permanent Council,
29 October 2026

Mr Chairperson,

The Delegation of Ukraine warmly welcomes Director Maria Telalian back to the Permanent Council, and thanks her for her report. We value ODIHR's independence, professionalism and sustained engagement with Ukraine. In an OSCE region where the fundamental principles are under attack, an effective human dimension is more than indispensable.

Madam Director,

We appreciate ODIHR's contribution to this year's Warsaw Human Dimension Conference, and commend the Swiss Chairpersonship and Poland for making this important forum such an important platform. The testimonies of Ukrainian survivors and civil society representatives reminded us that our commitments are measured not by declarations, but by the protection they afford to people. Their voices must continue to be heard, freely and without intimidation.

ODIHR's Ninth Interim Report offers another sobering assessment. It records a 45 per cent increase in verified civilian casualties in government-controlled areas, alongside continued torture, enforced disappearances, CRSV, and fabricated prosecutions by Russian authorities. It also documents the intolerable conditions facing civilians in Russian-occupied communities, including Oleshky. We thank the Ukraine Monitoring Initiative for giving these violations a rigorous, evidence-based record.

The urgency of this work is only growing. As we mentioned earlier, on 22 October, Russia struck Kyiv's historic centre with a ballistic missile carrying a cluster warhead, damaging civilian buildings near some of Ukraine's most important religious and cultural landmarks. Repeated strikes on energy facilities, homes and medical infrastructure as winter approaches underscore the same reality: Russia bets on terror and civilian suffering, which remains an instrument of war for Kremlin.

Distinguished colleagues,

Of particular value is the latest Moscow Mechanism report. Its documented Russia's systematic indoctrination and militarisation of Ukrainian children in the temporarily occupied territories. The experts concluded that this coordinated, top-down state policy may amount to the crime against humanity of persecution.
We thank ODIHR for supporting this mechanism, and urge meaningful follow-up to its recommendations, including the safe return of deported children, restoration of their identity, and accountability for those responsible.

Mr Chairperson,

Even while defending our country, Ukraine continues to strengthen the institutions that safeguard human dignity. In particular, on 12 October, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy approved a new National Human Rights Strategy. It sets priorities for rights protection under martial law and during recovery, underpinned by non-discrimination and alignment with European standards. A participatory operational plan for 2027–2029 will translate these commitments into action. We look forward to ODIHR's continued involvement.
We also appreciate ODIHR's practical engagement with the Central Election Commission and the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine in preparing for post-war elections. Ukraine is committed to genuinely democratic, inclusive and credible elections when security and legal conditions permit, with due regard to the rights of our service members, displaced persons and citizens abroad. Electoral integrity cannot be separated from the safety and freedom of voters.

Madam Director,

We fully agree that ODIHR must have the resources and institutional independence required to effectively discharge its mandate. We encourage participating States to secure sustainable funding, including for the Ukraine Monitoring Initiative, and to support the Office through voluntary contributions and qualified secondments.
Ukraine for its part will remain a reliable partner of ODIHR in the defence of human rights, democratic institutions and the rule of law. A just and lasting peace will require both the restoration of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and ensuring accountability for violations committed in the course of Russia's aggression.

I thank you, Mr Chairperson.