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**STATEMENT BY
AMBASSADOR STEFANO BALDI, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ITALY
TO THE OSCE, AT THE 1390th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

22 September 2022

**On the report by the mission of independent experts under the Moscow Mechanism
invoked by 38 OSCE participating States**

Mr. Chairperson,

Italy aligns itself with the statement made by the European Union and with the statement by Ireland on behalf of the 38 participating States that invoked the Moscow Mechanism in July and would like to add a few remarks in a national capacity.

We should first like to thank Professor Nußberger for the excellent report presented today. It contains a lucid and detailed analysis of the worrying deterioration of the human rights situation in the Russian Federation and provides useful recommendations to promote the implementation of Russia's international commitments and obligations in this regard and to safeguard Russian civil society's spaces for expression and protect human rights defenders and journalists subject to increasing restrictions and repression, particularly in the wake of the outbreak of Russia's unjustified and unacceptable war of aggression against Ukraine in February.

The latest worrying and dramatic developments in Russia related to the partial military mobilization warn of the risks, well illustrated in the report, associated with restrictions on freedom of expression and association and with the increasing verticalization of power, without the existence of adequate institutional counterweights to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms.

In the Helsinki Final Act, all participating States of this Organization recognized that respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms "is an essential factor for the peace, justice and well-being necessary to ensure the development of friendly relations and co-operation among themselves as among all States".

From 1975 to the present day, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, like all other OSCE commitments, has formed the basis of our Organization and co-operation. As reiterated at the highest level by our Heads of State or Government in the 2010 Astana Commemorative Declaration: "We regard these commitments as our common achievement, and therefore consider them to be matters of immediate and legitimate concern to all participating States."

This solemn commitment underpins the many tools available to the OSCE to encourage and support all participating States in promoting and protecting the human rights and fundamental freedoms of their citizens. Together with the other autonomous institutions and field operations, the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights does valuable work in supporting the promotion of human rights, the protection of the rule of law and the strengthening of our democratic institutions. The annual human dimension conferences and meetings provide an indispensable forum for discussion with civil society organizations.

The human dimension mechanisms agreed upon in Vienna and Moscow are also a useful tool to help implement our common human dimension commitments. They are more relevant today than ever before and it is our joint responsibility to make the best use of and strengthen them. While expressing profound regret over Russia's lack of co-operation with the Moscow Mechanism, we reiterate our deep conviction about the effectiveness and enduring relevance of this important OSCE tool. Finally, we believe it is essential that all participating States help to ensure the widest possible dissemination and awareness of expert mission reports and commit to implementing their recommendations.

Thank you.