



PERMANENT MISSION OF ROMANIA
to the International Organizations in Vienna

**Statement by Romania in response to the report of the Representative on Freedom of the Media
at the 1397th Meeting of the Permanent Council, 3 November 2022**

Mr. Chairperson,

Let me join previous speakers in welcoming back the Representative on Freedom of the Media, Ms Teresa Ribeiro, to the Permanent Council and thank her for her comprehensive report.

Mr. Chairperson,

Romania fully subscribes to the statement by the European Union. In addition, I would like to make the following remarks in my national capacity.

As a long-standing OSCE participating State, Romania is fully committed to implementing all commitments regarding media freedom and safety of journalists. We thank the Representative for her recent visit to Romania and for the valuable input provided in the interaction with the Romanian authorities. Let me reiterate Romania's full support to the mandate and independence of the RFoM and assure you, Ms. Ribeiro, and your team, of our continuous support in these challenging times.

We thank the Representative for continuing to closely monitor the media freedom situation and safety of journalists, as a result of the Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. We deplore that many journalists and media actors, from national and international media, were killed or injured, while reporting on the developments on the ground. Many more were attacked, intimidated and abducted. Journalists are civilians, who perform a critical role in providing information during a conflict, and are not to be targeted. Their safety must be ensured.

Mr. Chairperson,

Journalists and other media actors also act as early warning agents and whistle-blowers, when democracies are in danger and when abuses occur; they must be therefore guaranteed a safe space for carrying out their work. Ensuring safety of journalists is a commitment undertaken by all OSCE participating States in Milan in 2018, together with the commitment to take effective measures to end impunity for crimes committed against them. The *International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists*, marked every year on 2 November, is a reminder for all of us to live up to our commitments.

I take this opportunity to inform that Romania was elected in the United Nations Human Rights Council for the term 2023-2025. As a member of the Human Rights Council, Romania will contribute to advancing human rights and fundamental freedoms. Promoting media freedom and pluralism and protecting journalists from intimidation, harassment and violence

will be among priority topics during our mandate. We aim to devote particular attention to journalists reporting from war or conflict areas, as well as to women journalists, who are disproportionately subjected to threats, harassment and violence, both online and offline. We also hope to continue to build synergies among the international organizations dealing with the matter, and, in this respect, RFoM plays an important role.

Mr. Chair,

There is no security without media freedom. The event organized yesterday under this slogan, marking 25 years since the establishment of the mandate of the RFoM, was a recognition of the vital role played by the institution in achieving security in the OSCE region. It is therefore our responsibility to protect and support it.

Thank you.