



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International Organizations
in Vienna

**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine
in response to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe,
H.E. Marija Pejčinović Burić**

As delivered by Ms Viktoriya Kuvshynnykova,
Deputy Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna,
to the 1377th meeting of the Permanent Council,
9 June 2022

Mr. Chairperson,

Let me start by expressing my gratitude to Secretary General of the Council of Europe H.E. Marija Pejčinović Burić for her strong and important statement.

Today's address of the Secretary General to the Permanent Council is taking place against the backdrop of violent and devastating Russian war against Ukraine. Since February 24th, due to the Russian war the overall security situation as well as the nature of international organizations has changed dramatically – as Russia has not only violated all possible norms of international law, but also undermined credibility to international organizations and their ability to respond to this war effectively.

We highly appreciate the Council of Europe's real stewardship among all international organizations on strong condemnation of Russia's aggression against Ukraine by ceasing this country's membership. This proper and important step clearly demonstrates that the membership or participation in international organizations is not something granted, but needs to be confirmed by the actions.

Dear colleagues,

We support that both organizations maintain working relations on combating trafficking in human beings, promoting of tolerance and non-discrimination and protecting rights of national minorities.

At the same time the launch by the Russian Federation of all-out war against Ukraine demands from both organizations a special attention to such challenges as forced deportation of Ukrainians and forced imposition of Russian citizenship, targeting Ukraine's identity, attempts to introduce Russia's educational standards.

We believe that there is room for reinforcing efforts in the context of the OSCE and Council of Europe cooperation on the promotion of tolerance and non-discrimination.

We are deeply concerned by the level of anti-Ukrainian rhetoric and hate speech against Ukraine in Russia. Up to 80 % of the Russian society supports Putin's invasion of Ukraine and this is a result of long-lasting governmental propaganda, which has been rooted so deeply that now Russian people justify war, atrocities, bombardments,

tortures, raping. This is a severe problem and much more attention from the international community should be paid.

Dear Secretary General,

We highly commend your working visit to Ukraine, in particular to the cities of Irpin and Borodyanka ruined by Russia, where high scale of atrocities can be observed everywhere. We welcome that the Council of Europe has already been working on the assistance to Ukraine's Prosecutor General's Office on investigations into gross human rights violations committed by Russia as well as the ongoing work on the post-war package of measures.

Since the very beginning of the Russian aggression against Ukraine in 2014, the Council of Europe has been involved in monitoring of human rights degradation in the Ukrainian areas under the Russian occupation. Your strong stance on supporting Ukraine's territorial integrity was reconfirmed by your participation in Inaugural Summit of the Crimea Platform on August 23, 2021, which we highly value.

And we believe that proper implementation of the Committee of Ministers' decision on the human rights situation in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol (Ukraine) from May, 2021, would be an important step towards the de-occupation of the Crimean peninsula and restoration of human rights protection there.

Let me assure you that in the same way how Ukraine has already proved to be a true democratic state ready to uphold and protect human rights and human values, in the same spirit we will remain a reliable Council of Europe partner on human rights promotion.

Finally, we wish you all the success and encourage you to continue your valuable work on safeguarding democratic values and institutions.

Thank you.