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FSC.DEL/368/23
12 October 2023

ENGLISH only



REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS
PERMANENT MISSION
TO THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF CYPRUS
1058th FSC Plenary Meeting
(11 October 2023)
Agenda Item 1, General Statements

Madame Chair,
Dear Colleagues,

Cyprus fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union but allow me to add some remarks in my national capacity.

The security situation in the OSCE region and around it is extremely worrisome. We have a shared responsibility of ensuring that the Principles of the Helsinki Final Act, are unimpededly implemented.

For the past one year and a half, our organization is operating on a non-business as usual mode because of the war against Ukraine. Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, within its internationally recognized borders' must be respected. Revisionist policies and the use of force and coercion to change borders, has no place in the 21st century. At the same time, attacks against civilians are unequivocally condemned, in the strongest possible terms. Respect to international law and the international legal order must prevail.

Moreover I wish to utterly and fully condemn the horrific terrorist attack of Hamas to Israel. The indiscriminate attacks against civilians is an outrageous terrorist act in blatant violation of all principles of international humanitarian law. We stand in full solidarity with Israel and our thoughts are with everyone affected. Cyprus, being in close proximity to Israel, has activated yesterday the Special National Plan ESTIA for the reception and repatriation of foreign citizens from the area in crisis, through the territory of the Republic of Cyprus. In this context, the Republic of Cyprus is ready to offer facilities for the repatriation of foreign nationals from Israel through Cyprus.

Thank you