



**Permanent Mission of Ukraine**  
to the International Organizations in Vienna

**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine in response to  
Mr. Matteo Mecacci, Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic  
Institutions and Human Rights**

As delivered by Ambassador Yevhenii Tsymbaliuk,  
Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna,  
to the 1395<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Permanent Council,

20 October 2022

**Mr. Chairperson,**

The Delegation of Ukraine welcomes back to the Permanent Council meeting Director Matteo Mecacci and thanks him for the information on the ODIHR's activities.

Ukraine sincerely appreciates ODIHR's swift reaction to russia's war of aggression against Ukraine launched on 24 February 2022 and permanent priority attention to the situation on the ground.

russia not only turned the sovereign territory of Ukraine into a battle field, but also transformed it into a scene of russia's most heinous crimes and acts of terror by perpetrating gross violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, war crimes, crimes against humanity and other atrocities.

Residential areas, schools, kindergartens, medical facilities, religious sites, critical infrastructure have become a routine target for the russian military. A number of civilian casualties is shocking and grows every day.

As of 19 October, the Prosecutor General's Office registered over 39.000 crimes committed by the russian armed forces, almost 38.000 of which are violations of the laws and customs of war committed by the russian troops. The russian invaders have killed at least 422 Ukrainian children and wounded another 805.

The terror against the civilian population, summary executions, cases of torture and ill-treatment, sexual violence, abduction, forcible deportation, filtration camps and other crimes are all parts of the premeditated actions of the aggressor State aimed at the humiliation and extermination of Ukrainians.

Bucha, Irpin, Borodyanka, Mariupol, Iziium, Lyman and many other places in Ukraine has added their names to the list of places where the cruelest crimes against humanity were committed.

All these atrocities are accompanied by a large-scale state sponsored propaganda in russia aimed at the dehumanization of Ukrainian people.

**Mr. Director,**

Ukraine commends ODIHR's activities aimed at monitoring and documenting the ongoing violations of international humanitarian law and human rights by the russian armed forces in Ukraine.

We appreciate the valuable contribution of the ODIHR's first interim report and look forward to the publication of the next document in November.

ODIHR's work together with the OSCE Moscow Mechanism reports form an integral part of a wider international efforts to ensure justice and accountability.

**Director Mecacci,**

The Armed Forces of Ukraine have achieved considerable success in the liberation of the territories of Ukraine invaded by russia. The reality discovered on all the territories under the occupation of the russian army is appalling – mass burials, torture chambers, terrible destruction.

However, much of Ukraine's territory, invaded by russia after 24 February 2022, is still under the russian occupation, where the aggressor-state continues to massively terrorize the civilian population and perpetrate war crimes.

Let me remind you that on 29 July 2022 russia committed a mass murder of over 50 Ukrainian prisoners of war in the occupied Olenivka, where it continues detaining many POWs in the inhuman conditions. So far, independent experts have not got access to Olenivka because russia denies access.

And all over the years of illegal occupation of Crimea, russia clearly displayed its policy towards the occupied territories and local population by turning the peninsula into a human rights' ghetto.

The case of Denys Myronov is a horrific and emblematic illustration of human suffering encountered by people in the russia-occupied territories on a daily basis: after his illegal detention by russian military in the invaded Kherson in March he was transferred to Crimea and tortured to death there; at the end of May his body was returned to his family.

This is how russia uses the de facto control over the parts of Ukraine's territory – to commit and hide crimes.

It is critically important to ensure that any international monitoring activity in Ukraine covers the entire territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders, including the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol and other temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine.

This is crucial for the sake of justice and for safeguarding the OSCE principles and commitments enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act.

**Mr. Director,**

It remains important to keep the international community duly informed on the ongoing violations and crimes committed by the russian federation in Ukraine and express ODIHR's position on the events. In order for the OSCE to be truly efficient there is a need to respond clearly and meaningfully to the specific situations and challenges.

We appreciate all the ODIHR's statements related to the russian aggression against Ukraine, issued since 24 February 2022.

Ukraine highly values your, Director Mecacci, and RFoM Teresa Ribeiro resolute position on categorically condemning russia's attempt to annex the territory in the Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson oblasts of Ukraine in violation of the peremptory norm of international law prohibiting the acquisition of territory by force.

We count on ODIHR's continued engagement in addressing severe consequences of russia's war of aggression on the people of Ukraine, including by making russia abide by its OSCE commitments and international obligations.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

By way of concluding I cannot but mention that the latest Moscow Mechanism Report on the situation in russia acknowledged the detrimental effects on international peace and security of the situation with human rights, fundamental freedoms, democracy, rule of law, tolerance and non-discrimination in the russian federation. In view of the unprecedentedly critical situation with gross human rights violations in russia, the Delegation of Ukraine calls on the ODIHR to address the most critical issues, identified in the Report.

We once again thank you, Director Mecacci, for your presentation and wish every success in your responsible endeavors.

**Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.**