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**STATEMENT BY
THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY AT
THE 1382nd MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

14 July 2022

**Under agenda item 2: Moscow Mechanism invoked by 45 OSCE participating States
following consultations with Ukraine**

Mr. Chairperson,
Esteemed colleagues,

In their statements today on the Moscow Mechanism, the European Union and Albania both spoke on behalf of Germany, among other countries.

Allow me to add the following on behalf of the Federal Government.

Germany thanks the experts, Ms. Bílková, Ms. Guercio and Ms. Sancin, for their detailed report, which they drew up at very short notice and under difficult conditions.

We should also like to thank all the Ukrainians who contributed to the report by describing their terrible experiences in this war. Finally, our thanks go to all those who are securing evidence and who made it available for this report.

Mr. Chairperson,

This extensive and balanced new report confirms the conclusions of the first expert mission from the spring of this year. It shows clearly that it is Russia which is responsible for the increasing deterioration of the human rights situation as a result of the unjustified Russian war of aggression against Ukraine in breach of international law. The report also highlights new, extremely alarming developments.

In their report, the experts establish clear patterns of grave violations of international humanitarian law through targeted attacks on civilian objects, indiscriminate attacks in densely populated areas (including attacks using cluster munitions) and carpet bombing by the Russian military. The events in the towns of Bucha and Irpin, both of which were visited by the experts, are described as war crimes in the report.

Russia has violated international human rights on a massive and broad scale. This refers to fundamental civil and political rights, the right to life and the prohibition of torture, the right to liberty and security, the right to a fair trial and freedom of expression.

There are instances of targeted killing of civilians, including journalists, human rights defenders and local mayors, and of large-scale deportation of Ukrainian civilians, including numerous children, to Russia. There are reports of civilians and prisoners of war being ill-treated and tortured.

There are harrowing reports of rape and sexual abuse against women and girls, but also against men and boys, by Russian military personnel, especially in the newly occupied territories. Children, too, are directly and indirectly falling victim to this cruel war in various ways.

Moreover, the experts have drawn attention to two new alarming phenomena, namely the establishment of so-called “filtration centres” and the attempts by Russia to bypass its international obligations by handing detained persons over to the so-called People’s Republics of Donetsk and Luhansk. There they are subjected to degrading or inhuman treatment, tortured or even sentenced to death.

Mr. Chairperson,

In addition to the accountability of States for human rights violations and breaches of international humanitarian law, individual perpetrators can also be held to account individually for crimes in connection with these violations – for, say, crimes against humanity and war crimes.

Together with Ukraine and our international partners, the Federal Government will do everything in its power to ensure that the crimes committed in Ukraine in the course of Russia’s war of aggression in breach of international law are thoroughly investigated and the perpetrators identified so that they can be brought to justice before national and international courts. We will also continue to support the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights in its efforts to document human rights violations.

The Moscow Mechanism is an instrument that provides an unbiased and factual basis for further dialogue and action. It was established by consensus and in good faith by all participating States to fulfil our shared commitments in the human dimension.

Mr. Chairperson,

International humanitarian law applies to all States, and all States must observe the applicable international human rights obligations.

Indeed, Russia ought not to have conducted this war in the first place.

This war by Russia is and remains contrary to international law. It is and remains a war of aggression. It is a war that not only in and of itself is in flagrant breach of international law, but is additionally being waged by Russia in a brutal and inhuman manner.

Russia must end this war at once and withdraw its troops from the entire territory of Ukraine.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. I request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.