

Vienna, 3 March 2022

His Excellency
Mr. Matteo Mecacci
Director of the Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)
Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Ul. Miodowa 10, 00-251
Warsaw, Poland

Director Mecacci,

On February 24, 2022, the Russian Federation, with the support of Belarus, launched an invasion to wage war against Ukraine. This further invasion took place against the backdrop of ongoing Russian aggression against Ukraine that has, since 2014, violated Ukraine's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders and territorial waters.

The delegations of Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America, following bilateral consultations with Ukraine under the Vienna (Human Dimension) Mechanism, are invoking the Moscow (Human Dimension) Mechanism under Paragraph 8 of that document. We request that the Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) inquire of Ukraine whether it would invite a mission of experts to address the human rights and humanitarian impacts of the Russian Federation's invasion and acts of war, supported by Belarus, on the people of Ukraine, within Ukraine's internationally recognized borders and territorial waters.

The mission of experts, if Ukraine agrees, could be tasked, inter alia, to undertake the following:

- Establish the facts and circumstances surrounding possible contraventions of OSCE commitments, and violations and abuses of international human rights law and international humanitarian law;
- Establish the facts and circumstances of possible cases of war crimes and crimes against humanity, including due to deliberate and indiscriminate attacks against civilians and civilian infrastructure; and to collect, consolidate, and analyze this information with a view to presenting it to relevant accountability mechanisms, as well as national, regional, or international courts or tribunals that have, or may in future have, jurisdiction.

We also request that, should Ukraine agree to a mission of experts, ODIHR provide any relevant information or documentation derived from that mission to other appropriate accountability mechanisms, as well as national, regional, or international courts or tribunals that have, or may in future have, jurisdiction.

CC: Ambassador Yevhenii Tsymbaliuk, Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the OSCE

Signed,

Ambassador,
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Albania to
the International Organisations in Vienna

Ambassador,
Delegation of the Principality of Andorra to the
OSCE

Ambassador,
Permanent Mission of Austria to the OSCE

Ambassador,
Permanent Mission of Belgium to the OSCE

Ambassador,
Permanent Mission of Bosnia and Herzegovina
to the OSCE

Ambassador,
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Bulgaria to
the OSCE

Ambassador,
Delegation of Canada to the OSCE

Ambassador,
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Croatia to
the OSCE

Ambassador,
Permanent Mission of Cyprus to the OSCE

Ambassador,
Delegation of the Czech Republic to the OSCE

Ambassador,
Permanent Delegation of Denmark to the OSCE

Ambassador,
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Estonia to
the OSCE

Ambassador,
Permanent Mission of Finland to the OSCE

Ambassador,
Permanent Representation of France to the OSCE

Ambassador,
Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Georgia
to the OSCE

Ambassador,
Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of
Germany to the OSCE

Ambassador,
Permanent Mission of Greece to the OSCE

Ambassador,
Permanent Mission of Hungary to the OSCE

Ambassador,
Permanent Mission of Iceland to the OSCE

Ambassador,
Permanent Mission of Ireland to the OSCE

Ambassador,
Permanent Mission of Italy to the OSCE

Chargé d'Affaires a.i.,
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Latvia to
the OSCE

Ambassador,
Permanent Mission of the Principality of
Liechtenstein to the OSCE

Ambassador,
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Lithuania to
the OSCE

Ambassador,
Permanent Delegation of the Grand Duchy of
Luxembourg to the OSCE

Ambassador,
Delegation of Malta to the OSCE

Chargé d'Affaires a.i.,
Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Moldova
to the OSCE

Ambassador,
Permanent Mission of the Principality of Monaco
to the OSCE

Ambassador,
Permanent Mission of Montenegro to the OSCE

Ambassador,
Permanent Mission of the Netherlands to the
OSCE

Ambassador,
Permanent Mission of the Republic of North
Macedonia to the OSCE

Ambassador,
Permanent Delegation of Norway to the OSCE

Ambassador,
Permanent Mission of Poland to the OSCE in
Vienna

Ambassador,
Permanent Representation of Portugal to the
OSCE

Ambassador,
Permanent Mission of Romania to the OSCE

Ambassador,
Ambassador Delegation of the Republic of San
Marino to the OSCE Meetings in Vienna

Ambassador,
Permanent Mission of Serbia to the OSCE

Ambassador,
Permanent Mission of the Slovak Republic to the
OSCE

Ambassador,
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Slovenia to
the OSCE

Ambassador,
Permanent Mission of Spain to the OSCE

Ambassador,
Permanent Delegation of Sweden to the OSCE

Ambassador,
Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the OSCE

Ambassador,
Permanent Mission of Turkey to the OSCE

Ambassador,
United Kingdom Delegation to the OSCE

Ambassador,
United States Mission to the OSCE