



PERMANENT MISSION OF ROMANIA
to the International Organizations in Vienna

Statement
by H.E. Mr. Bogdan Aurescu,
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania,
at the 28th meeting of the Ministerial Council of the OSCE
(Lodz, 1st of December, 2022)

Mr. Chair,

I congratulate you for organizing this event and for all the effort deployed this year, in very difficult circumstances.

We are now in the tenth month of Russia's illegal, unprovoked and unjustified war of aggression against Ukraine. We have largely discussed this situation over the past two days at the NATO Foreign Affairs Meeting, which I hosted in Bucharest and it is very good that we will continue our analysis and discussions.

This war is a frontal assault against our values and principles. Continuous, deliberate attacks on civilian infrastructure and killings of innocent civilians, by the Russian Federation, are horrendous. Filtration camps, torture chambers, murders, bring human suffering to new heights. These constitute blatant violations of international humanitarian law, amount to war crimes and must stop immediately.

Romania has been very firm in strongly condemning Russia's war of aggression of Ukraine, in blatant violation of the basic principles of international law, the UN Charter and OSCE commitments. We reiterate our call on Russia to immediately and unconditionally stop this aggression and withdraw all its military forces and equipment from the entire territory of Ukraine, within its internationally recognized borders. We also reiterate our call on Belarus to stop enabling the Russian aggression and to abide by its international obligations.

As stated on many occasions, Romania strongly condemns all Russia's attempts to undermine the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, be it: the illegal so-called referenda and attempted annexation; the attempts to replace democratically elected and

legitimate Ukrainian administration; the simplified process for issuing Russian passports to Ukrainian citizens; the attempts to introduce the Russian rouble or to impose the Russian curricula in schools.

We have witnessed Russian military actions at and around Ukraine's nuclear facilities, an attempted illegal seizure of a nuclear power plant. This behavior is unacceptable and must stop. We urge Russia to cease all its actions against and at nuclear facilities in Ukraine, release all detained personnel, and allow the competent authorities of Ukraine to regain full control over such facilities.

Russia's aggressive attacks are seriously damaging and destroying Ukrainian energy and electricity infrastructure. Its ruthless behavior to exploit energy as a weapon of war is affecting people in Ukraine and in the region. The start of the winter makes the human suffering even more severe.

Mr. Chair,

Since February 24, Romania has been at the vanguard of the response to the multidimensional crisis prompted by Russia's aggression. We managed the flow of over 2.9 million Ukrainian refugees who entered Romania, including by providing them shelter, food, medical assistance, access to education and labour market to all those fleeing the war. We have also ensured delivery of substantial humanitarian assistance from Romania and other countries, through a humanitarian logistical hub we have opened only three weeks from the beginning of the war.

Part of the consequences of Russia's war against Ukraine is the global food security crisis. It should be crystal-clear that Russia, by instrumentalizing food in this war, bears the entire responsibility for this crisis and its global implications.

Romania has implemented measures to facilitate the transit of Ukrainian grain and other agricultural products, and so far, – over 8.4 million tons transited Romania. I assure you that we remain resolute to continue to support timely and stable delivery of Ukrainian agricultural products to global markets.

And we have shown our firm determination to make those responsible of all the heinous crimes in Ukraine accountable for their acts. Romania is joining all efforts of the international community in holding those responsible accountable, including within the OSCE, by joining the participating States that invoked the Moscow Mechanism.

As part of these efforts, Romania has also joined the proceedings initiated by Ukraine against the Russian Federation before the International Court of Justice, concerning Allegations

of genocide under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. Romania has also filed a declaration of intervention in the case *Ukraine v. Russia* at the European Court of Human Rights concerning claims of grave human rights violations committed by Russia in the context of its military invasion of Ukraine. Romania was also one of the States that referred the situation in Ukraine to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court.

I use this opportunity to assure you that Romania will spare no effort in continuing to support Ukraine and the Ukrainian people affected by Russia's war of aggression.

Mr. Chair,

The ongoing war in Ukraine has a major negative impact in the region, especially on the most vulnerable states, as the Republic of Moldova. Confronted with an unprecedented inflow of refugees, an unpredictable security environment and a deterioration of the already difficult socio-economic situation, including challenges in the energy sector, the Republic of Moldova needs our immediate support.

The meetings in Berlin, Bucharest and Paris of the Support Platform for the Republic of Moldova, which I co-chair together with my counterparts from France and, have proven a solid framework for mobilizing international support. This is proof of solidarity will help Chisinau to overpass some of the current crises and will facilitate the modernization and reform path to the European Union. We also need to ensure that this support is continuous, and focused, at the same time, on strengthening Moldova's resilience.

We also support our neighbor and friend by covering between 80% to 90% of the Republic of Moldova's electricity needs. The trilateral cooperation format Romania, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, which I launched this September, in Odessa, together with my counterparts, and with the participation of the Ministers of Energy, was one of the means for finding solutions to help them avoid the effects of energy blackmailing attempts.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Romania, including myself, has been arguing for a long time on the need to keep the so-called protracted or frozen conflicts close in our attention and to envisage on possible solutions. As I said before, the Black Sea area has been the region where Russia created and fuelled artificial such conflicts, where it first tested its disintegration tactics. The Republic of

Moldova in 1992, Georgia in 2008, and Ukraine starting in 2014, were theatres for Russian direct aggression.

The war against Ukraine demonstrated us that, in such contexts, the absence of war does not mean peace. Therefore, protracted conflicts such as those in the Black Sea region are disputes that need to be addressed without deferral.

Let me reiterate that Romania firmly supports a comprehensive, peaceful, and sustainable settlement of the conflict in the Republic of Moldova, based on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova within its internationally recognized borders, and without affecting the European perspective of the country. I once again emphasize the importance of withdrawing Russian troops and ammunition from the territory of the Republic of Moldova, in accordance with international law and the OSCE commitments.

I also use this opportunity to reiterate Romania's unwavering support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia. Ambassador Viorel Moșanu, Special Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office for Southern Caucasus, is investing professionalism, energy, and dedication in supporting the Geneva International Discussions.

We welcome the frank and productive discussions between the leaders of Armenia and Azerbaijan facilitated by the President of the European Council Charles Michel and the reached outcomes. We encourage the parties to continue their diplomatic engagement, with the support of the EU, in order to find comprehensive solutions to all outstanding issues.

Mr. Chair,

The current crisis has shown that the Organization has managed to keep on functioning, even in these challenging circumstances, and that its structures, field missions and autonomous institutions have kept on providing support to the participating States. We use this opportunity to express our steadfast support for their mandates and continuous work.

Last but not least, please allow me to underscore that Romania fully subscribes to the statement by the European Union.

Let me conclude by expressing our deep appreciation for the Polish Chairpersonship and for the able way in which it steered the organization during this unprecedented crisis. We wish success to the incoming Macedonian Chairpersonship.

Thank you.