



**PERMANENT REPRESENTATION OF PORTUGAL  
TO THE OSCE**

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**29<sup>th</sup> OSCE Ministerial Council**

**1 and 2 December 2022**

**Statement by Portugal**

Mr. Chairman, dear Zbigniew,

Excellencies,

Distinguished participants,

Let me begin by thanking the Polish Chair and you personally Minister Rau, for steering the OSCE through this daunting year, and for hosting us here today, in Łódź, UNESCO City of Film.

**Russia's illegal and unprovoked war of aggression against Ukraine** has brought brutal turmoil to our region, and poses the most serious threat to the Organization since its inception.

Due to Russia's reckless war of choice, the principles and commitments agreed upon in **Helsinki, Paris and Astana** have been shattered.

Russia's war of aggression is a blatant violation of the UN Charter, of Russia's international obligations, international humanitarian and human rights law, as well as of the OSCE principles and commitments.

**Portugal strongly condemns Russia's illegal and unprovoked war against Ukraine** and urges Russia to immediately, completely



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and unconditionally withdraw all of its troops and military equipment from the entire territory of Ukraine. We will never recognize any illegal annexation of territory in Ukraine or elsewhere.

To Dmytro Kuleba, Portugal reiterates its **unwavering support for Ukraine's** independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders. I pay our tribute to the resilience shown by the Ukrainian People and pay our condolences to the families of those who have lost their lives during the war. We will continue to provide assistance to Ukraine, both bilaterally and in the framework of the EU.

We are appalled by the insidious Russian attacks against civilians, critical infrastructure and civilian objects, namely schools, hospitals and cultural heritage. The Moscow Mechanism findings on Russia's violations of international human rights and humanitarian law are deeply disturbing. Russia must be held accountable for its actions.

Ladies and gentlemen, let me underline the destructive impact of propaganda upon peace and security. At the moment that we celebrate the **25th anniversary of RFoM's mandate**, we must support the work of Teresa Ribeiro and her team in reversing the alarming downward trend of media freedom, freedom of expression and media workers in particular in Russia and Belarus. This is part of the OSCE added value.



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The risks of **spillover effects of Russia's reckless war against Ukraine in protracted conflicts** is real and we call on Russia to refrain from further destabilizing the region, and to fully respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia and Moldova. Portugal supports the leading role of the OSCE toward the political settlement of these and other disputes.

Excellencies,

Portugal's commitment for **effective multilateralism** and for the **Culture of Peace** is longstanding and our belief in the OSCE is unwavering.

The **OSCE must remain** an inclusive platform for all-encompassing dialogue and cooperation. It has proven its added value, overcome many challenges and broadened its scope to address new global risks and hybrid threats. It cannot and will not be a victim of one spoiler state. Each of our countries can play a decisive role in strengthening the OSCE on the basis of its irrevocable foundational principles.

Just as these are difficult times for our region and the world, the functioning of our institution has also come under attack. In these circumstances I must pay homage to the remarkable commitment and tenacity of Secretary-General Helga Schmid and all of the staff of the secretariat and autonomous institutions. We are deeply grateful.



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Minister Bujar Osmani, my dear friend, I wish North Macedonia all the success in the new Chairmanship. You can count on Portugal's engagement and support.

Thank you!