

Statement by Denmark
OSCE 29th Ministerial Council, 1. December 2022

As delivered by the Permanent Representative of Denmark to the OSCE, Ambassador Christian Grønbech-Jensen

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

It has been an exceedingly difficult year.

First and foremost for the Ukrainian people. But 2022 was a watershed year for all of Europe as well.

This watershed did not emerge from nowhere. Russia's aggression against Ukraine started in 2014. In increasingly shrill terms over the years, Russia has laid all shortcomings of European security at the feet of the so-called 'collective West'. Any legitimate grievances which Russia may have had were obscured in a fog of disinformation and propaganda.

We can agree, I hope, that no country is perfect, and that every country shares the responsibility for maintaining peace and security in our region.

But this year, one OSCE participating state has invaded another. Russia has chosen to let the guns speak, turning its back on cooperative security.

Denmark reiterates its strongest condemnation of Russia's aggression against Ukraine, as well as our unwavering commitment to Ukraine's sovereignty and independence.

Mr. Chair,

The crisis of security we are witnessing is also a crisis of human rights. Both in Ukraine and in Russia, as all three reports under the Moscow Mechanism have documented this year. Those responsible for violations and abuses of human rights and international humanitarian law in Ukraine must be held accountable.

Security is comprehensive, which is why all OSCE states freely agreed 31 years ago – in Moscow – that the commitments in the human dimension are matters of direct and legitimate concern to all OSCE States.

We reiterate our call on the Belarusian authorities to put an end to violence and repression. We maintain our efforts to ensure that perpetrators will be held accountable. We also call on Belarus to end its complicity in Putin's war on Ukraine.

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Mr. Chair,

We acknowledge and appreciate the great efforts of the secretariat and the independent institutions. They have made important contributions to preserve our common principles this year. The establishment of the Support Programme in Ukraine, the Warsaw Human Dimension Conference and the efforts to shed light on the human rights situation on ground are examples of this.

Before I yield the floor, I want to wholeheartedly thank our current Chairperson-in-Office, Minister Rau, and his team for leading the organisation through this difficult year.

We look forward to the incoming OSCE Chairpersonship of North Macedonia”. You have our full support.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.