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MC.DEL/70/24
12 December 2024

Original: as delivered

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OSCE Ministerial Council Plenary Session
December 5, 2024

Allow me to begin by thanking Malta's Chair-in-Office, and his team, for all that they have done throughout this challenging year and for hosting this meeting. Malta has been steadfast in working towards ensuring a strong, principled and functional organization.

Mr. Chair,

Russia's unprovoked and unjustifiable war of aggression against Ukraine, conducted with Belarus' complicity, is now well past the 1000-day mark.

Despite continued efforts to shift the blame for this conflict, as we heard again today, the fact is that Russia's brutal conduct of this war shows its utter disregard for international law and for its OSCE commitments. Russian forces have targeted civilians and civilian infrastructure; used torture and sexual violence against POWs and civilian detainees; and unlawfully deported or transferred thousands of children, all in efforts to erase Ukraine's identity.

We count three SMM observers – Maksym Petrov, Dmytro Shabanov, and Vadym Golda – among those wrongly and arbitrarily detained. Canada calls for their immediate release.

Au-delà de l'Ukraine, la Russie continue de porter atteinte à la souveraineté et à l'intégrité territoriale de la Géorgie et de la Moldavie et se livre à des activités hybrides malveillantes visant à affaiblir les démocraties dans notre région.

Tant que la Russie ne mettra pas fin à sa guerre d'agression et ne retirera pas ses troupes du territoire internationalement reconnu de l'Ukraine, ses politiques menaceront la sécurité européenne et mondiale dans son ensemble.

Nous déplorons les événements récents en Géorgie et condamnons l'usage excessif de la force contre des manifestants pacifiques. Nous appelons au calme, à la retenue et à un dialogue politique constructif en Géorgie. Nous appelons le gouvernement à respecter pleinement ses obligations en matière de liberté d'expression et de droit de réunion pacifique. Nous appuyons les commentaires du ministre des Affaires étrangères du Luxembourg sur l'impératif de respecter les droits de la personne, y compris en ce qui concerne l'orientation sexuelle.

Monsieur le président,

En 1975, une Europe divisée et polarisée s'est réunie pour adopter l'acte final d'Helsinki - le document fondateur de notre organisation. Les principes et les engagements que tous les états participants ont acceptés à Helsinki - et dans les décisions ultérieures - ont été et seront à nouveau la base d'une paix et d'une sécurité durables.

The OSCE has a role to play in preventing conflicts, in managing tensions, in protecting and promoting human rights, fundamental freedom and democracy and in addressing security threats caused by climate change. It falls on participating states to enable the organisation to overcome these challenges, to continue to deliver results for the people of this region.

Its independent institutions and its field missions and programs continue to support participating states in meeting their commitments. We greatly appreciate this work and, furthermore, welcome the way it is being taken forward. Including the work by the conflict prevention center and other OSCE bodies to advance WPS objectives regarding the role of women in peace processes.

As we welcome Finland as the incoming chair-in-office, we thank them for their renewed emphasis on the OSCE toolbox. While security and confidence in the region have been ravaged, many of the tools for rebuilding them already exist. We should not underestimate the OSCE's flexibility and ability to deploy unique mechanisms, which, when fully utilized, will help us rebuild the European security architecture. The tools are

at our disposal, and it is up to participating states to keep them relevant for when we will need to deploy them.

Thank you.