



Rappresentanza Permanente d'Italia  
OSCE

**AMB. STEFANO BALDI**

**ITALY'S STATEMENT AT THE WARSAW HUMAN DIMENSION CONFERENCE  
OPENING SESSION**

Warsaw, 26 September 2022

Mr Chair,

Italy aligns with the statement delivered by the European Union and would like to add some additional remarks in a national capacity.

First of all, allow me to thank the Polish OSCE Chairmanship for the initiative to convene this Warsaw Human Dimension Conference and ODIHR for its contribution to the organisation. We regret that once again this year it was not possible to reach consensus on the mandated decisions to organise the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting due to the opposition of the Russian Federation.

Today more than ever, there is a pressing need for participating States and civil society organisations to discuss how to enhance the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms across the OSCE area and Italy fully supports the decision of the Polish Chair to convene us today to this end.

We have observed for many years now, both in the OSCE region and worldwide, new alarming threats to the respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms. The resilience of our democratic institutions is being tested by disinformation and the abuse and misuse of new and emerging digital technologies. Restrictions on media freedom, freedom of expression and attacks against journalists, both offline and online, are on the rise, as well as the instances of racism, intolerance and discrimination on the grounds of ethnicity, religion or belief, gender, sexual orientation and disability. The social consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic and rising economic inequalities affect those in most vulnerable situations within our societies, in particular women and youth.

At the same time, the first war of aggression on our continent since the Second World War has shaken the foundations of the European security architecture, bringing incommensurable human suffering and destruction in Ukraine and beyond. We condemn in the strongest possible terms Russia's illegal, unprovoked and unjustified war of aggression against Ukraine as well as the illegal "referenda" which have taken place over the last few days in the Ukrainian territories under Russian temporary occupation. We stand by Ukraine and will continue to unwaveringly support the Ukrainian people in their fight for freedom and justice.

In the aftermath of the Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, the rapid activation of the Moscow Mechanism has allowed us to establish the facts around the atrocity crimes committed in Ukraine and to assess the deteriorating human rights situation in the Russian Federation. It is imperative that the authoritative reports prepared by the different missions of independent experts established under the Moscow Mechanism this year, continue to be widely disseminated to support international efforts towards accountability and to strengthen the implementation of our human dimension commitments.

Mr Chair,

Italy remains firmly convinced that respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in open and inclusive democratic societies, free from intolerance and discrimination is essential to guarantee the security, prosperity and well-being of our countries and our citizens.

With its comprehensive approach to security, the OSCE has a wide toolbox to support participating States in addressing persistent shortcomings and new challenges.

Thanks to its independent, transparent and impartial mandate, ODIHR plays a leading role in strengthening democracy, human rights and the rule of law in the OSCE area and in supporting all participating States in the implementation of our shared commitments. In particular, ODIHR's electoral observation missions provide for an authoritative and independent assessment, which is essential to strengthen democratic processes across the OSCE region. It is our common duty and responsibility to protect and enhance the independence of ODIHR and of the other OSCE Autonomous Institutions.

Thank you.