



Rappresentanza Permanente d'Italia
OSCE

AMB. STEFANO BALDI

CHAIRPERSONSHIP SECURITY REVIEW CONFERENCE 2023

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Mr Chair,

Italy aligns with the statement of the European Union and wishes to add some remarks in its national capacity.

Unfortunately, we are forced today to meet in a different format than the mandated Annual Security Review Conference. However, equally exceptional is the prolonged period of insecurity that our region is experiencing since 24 February 2022.

But let's be clear. The threat to the security of the OSCE area is one, and one only: the aggression perpetrated by one participating State, the Russian Federation, against another participating State, Ukraine, with the complicity of another, Belarus, in violation of all the rules of our Organization, the UN Charter and international law.

Such a threat is so profound that it produces a multi-dimensional crisis that cuts across all dimensions of security, and has global effects.

We witnessed the refusal of dialogue and of engagement in the implementation of the security and confidence-building measures envisaged in the Vienna Document. Similarly, we are witnessing the formal exit of the Russian Federation from the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe.

We look with great concern at the Russian Federation's unacceptable and repeated allusions to the use of nuclear weapons. The deployment of Russian tactical nuclear weapons in Belarus undermines Euro-Atlantic security and represents yet another escalation of Moscow's irresponsible nuclear rhetoric since the beginning of the conflict.

We are witnessing a series of actions that not only cause death and destruction, but also generate poverty and threaten food security globally.

In addition, we are observing dramatic violations of human rights and humanitarian law, extensively documented by the OSCE instruments like the Moscow Mechanism and

ODIHR monitoring activities in Ukraine. The Russian Federation's persistent failure to meet its commitments in the Third Dimension has greatly aggravated regional security.

In this situation, it is necessary to continue to support Ukraine in every sphere so that it is able to exercise its right to self-defense. Italy has supported Ukraine's territorial integrity, full sovereignty and independence within its internationally recognized borders since the beginning of the war. We have provided humanitarian aid, welcomed refugees, offered military support and implemented sanctions against Russia, in addition to supporting Ukraine's future reconstruction and its aspiration to become a member of the European Union.

It is also crucial to ensure that those responsible for any international crimes do not go unpunished and that the Russian Federation is called upon to repair all the damage caused by its senseless aggression. On this issue, too, Italy is at the forefront, in the Group of Friends of Accountability, the Core Group on Accountability for the Crime of Aggression, and the Council of Europe's Register of Damages. Our commitment to restoring respect for international law is also clear thanks to our support to the proceedings initiated by Ukraine against Russia at the International Court of Justice.

We must not lose sight of the goal of achieving a just, comprehensive and lasting peace with full ownership by Ukraine. To this end, Italy supports the Peace Formula proposed by President Zelensky and believes that the OSCE can play a leading role as the main regional security platform.

With its acquis across the three dimensions, with the invaluable work of its field missions and Autonomous Institutions, as well as with its mechanisms for preventing escalation and protecting human rights, the OSCE remains a key instrument at our disposal.

The insecurity caused by Russia's aggression against Ukraine also affects the life of our Organization, which has long been unable to operate normally because of the continuing and now chronic misuse of the consensus rule.

All participating States must defend and cherish the shared principles and values underlying our Organization. We must work to ensure its resilience and functioning through the necessary funding.

I would like to conclude with the words of the President of the Italian Republic, Sergio Mattarella: "We must firmly reject the return to a policy of spheres of influence, and the violations of the rights of some peoples and countries. Instead, we must proclaim in the true "spirit of Helsinki" the equality of rights for all peoples and all individuals."

Thank you.