



Rappresentanza Permanente d'Italia  
OSCE

**AMB. ANDREA CASCONI**

**ITALY'S STATEMENT AT THE 2024 WARSAW HUMAN DIMENSION CONFERENCE  
OPENING SESSION**

Warsaw, 30 September 2024

Madam Chair,

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

First of all, I would like to express our full support and sincere gratitude to the Maltese Chairpersonship for convening this Conference and to ODIHR for its contribution to the organization. It is important to be in Warsaw and to have the opportunity to engage and discuss with other participating States and representatives of civil society organisations how to address existing challenges to the protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms across the OSCE region.

Despite the transparent and wide consultation process conducted by the Maltese Chairpersonship throughout this year and the support expressed by the overwhelming majority of participating States, it is very much regrettable that once again the Russian Federation has blocked the approval of the mandated decisions to organise the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting. Such abuses of the consensus rule undermine the correct functioning of our Organisation and are reprimandable.

As we are confronted with a wide range of grave and unprecedented security challenges in our region, we need a strong and functional Organisation to advance together the comprehensive security agenda, based on the full respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, which we have committed to almost fifty years ago in Helsinki. We would like to reiterate our sincere gratitude to former ODIHR Director Matteo Mecacci for leading the Office in such challenging times. Italy strongly supports the tireless efforts of

the Maltese Chairpersonship in seeking a new leadership for the OSCE and calls on all participating States to reach consensus without delay.

Madam Chair,

Russia's illegal war of aggression against Ukraine continues unabated, causing immense human suffering and destruction. Italy stands by Ukraine and supports all efforts to ensure accountability for the atrocities and horrific violations of international humanitarian law and human rights committed during the war. The Moscow Mechanism reports and ODIHR's continuous monitoring activities are important tools to this end.

With almost half of the world's population set to vote this year in more than 50 countries, including many OSCE participating States, 2024 will be remembered as a momentous year for democracy, the rule of law and human rights. ODIHR's electoral observation missions provide for an authoritative and independent assessment of democratic processes across the OSCE region and represent a cornerstone of our Organisation.

We have observed for many years now new alarming threats to the respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms due to the growing role of artificial intelligence and other technologies. As G7 Presidency this year, Italy has set out as a priority to reaffirm the importance of promoting "an inclusive, human-centered, digital transformation that underpins economic growth and sustainable development, maximizes benefits, and manages risks, in line with our shared democratic values and respect for human rights."

In conclusion, allow me to reiterate Italy's continued support for ODIHR and the other Autonomous Institutions. They offer invaluable support to all OSCE participating States in the implementation of our human dimension commitments and in addressing new threats as well as persistent shortcomings to the protection of human rights, democracy and the rule of law. It is our common responsibility to cherish and protect them.

Thank you.