



Rappresentanza Permanente d'Italia
OSCE

AMB. ANDREA CASCONI

ITALY'S STATEMENT AT THE 2025 WARSAW HUMAN DIMENSION CONFERENCE OPENING SESSION

Warsaw, 6 October 2025

Mister Chair,

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

First, Italy commends the efforts of the Finnish Chairpersonship, in close cooperation with ODIHR, for convening this Conference despite the persistent obstruction by the Russian Federation, which has once again blocked the mandated decision to organise the Human Dimension Implementation Meetings.

We wish to reiterate our full support to ODIHR Director Maria Telalian, who since taking office last December has combined outstanding expertise with political wisdom, while steering ODIHR's work in full respect of its mandate.

Italy fully supports ODIHR's mandate on election monitoring and its methodology, which takes into account the entire electoral process: before, during and after elections. This methodology is internationally recognised as the gold standard, grounded in independence, impartiality and professionalism. We express concern that in several recent cases ODIHR has not been able to carry out its mandate. Let us recall that all OSCE participating States have committed to invite election observers from fellow participating States, and have tasked ODIHR with a role in election monitoring. The accreditation of ODIHR observers is an integral element of this commitment and must be respected.

Chair,

Russia's illegal war of aggression against Ukraine continues to cause immense human suffering and destruction. Italy stands firmly by Ukraine and supports all initiatives aimed at ensuring accountability for atrocities and grave violations of international humanitarian law and human rights. In this regard, the five Moscow

Mechanism reports and ODIHR's continuous monitoring activities remain indispensable tools.

Chair,

This year, Italy has presented its candidature to the Human Rights Council for the term 2026–2028. The promotion and protection of human rights remain a central pillar of Italy's foreign policy, guided by the principles of universality, objectivity and non-selectivity. We will continue to advance a constructive and inclusive approach to human rights, fostering ownership by local actors and cooperation with civil society organisations.

In conclusion, allow me to reiterate Italy's unwavering support to ODIHR and the other Autonomous Institutions. At a time marked by the resurgence of power politics and unprecedented hybrid threats, ODIHR's work is essential to uphold our common human dimension commitments and to shed light on recurring challenges to human rights, democracy and the rule of law. Italy will remain committed to supporting ODIHR in carrying out this vital mission.
