



PERMANENT MISSION OF ROMANIA
to the International Organizations in Vienna

Intervention by Romania at the 2022 Annual Security Review Conference Vienna, 28-29 June 2022

***Mr. Chairperson,
Ladies and gentlemen,***

- This Annual Security Review Conference takes place in the midst of the most severe security crisis in Europe since the Second World War.
- It triggers a range of cross-dimensional security concerns, including a full spectrum of hybrid actions. As the Polish Chairmanship rightly said, after the start of the Russian military aggression against Ukraine, the Organization cannot continue with a business as usual approach. The parameters of the dialogue in the OSCE have dramatically changed, as a result of Russia's military aggression.
- Despite continuous calls on the Russian Federation in many instances, including in this room, to end the illegitimate war it started against Ukraine, the unlawful aggression continues. This Monday, in Khremenciuk, another reckless attack made the list of the civilian targets side even longer and the toll of human lives even drearier. Romania strongly condemns such barbaric acts and calls on the Russian Federation to immediately and unconditionally stop this aggression and withdraw all its forces and equipment from the entire territory of Ukraine, within its internationally recognized borders.
- Deliberate attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure by the Russian Federation constitute serious violations of the international humanitarian law, amount to war crimes and must stop immediately. The unspeakable crimes in Bucha, Irpin, and in many other places in Ukraine, the siege of Mariupol, the closure of escape routes for those fleeing the war and the denial of access for humanitarian aid – are part of this deliberate behaviour. From the areas currently under Russian military control, we receive chilling reports about arbitrary detentions, torture, sexual violence, forced deportations of Ukrainian citizens, including children, to Russia, to Russia-controlled territories or Belarus through so-called “filtration camps”.
- The reports under the OSCE Moscow Mechanism will for sure contribute to more in-depth investigations for establishing accountability. All initiatives – ICC investigation, the Commission of Inquiry established by the United Nations Human Rights Council, show

that the international community stands united in holding those responsible to account. Romania decided to intervene in favour of Ukraine at the International Court of Justice in proceedings against the Russian Federation.

- As littoral country to the Black Sea, Romania is deeply worried about the larger implications of the Russian military aggression in the Black Sea. The militarization of the Crimean Peninsula which started shortly after its illegal annexation was the first step in a larger plan of the Russian aggression. Nowadays, another grabbed territory, the Serpents' Island is a military outpost used for systematic actions against the freedom of navigation.
- Russian actions against Ukraine in the Black Sea have serious consequences also in the field of the food security. As a relevant part of the solution to the food crisis generated by Russia, Romania is actively involved, as a regional hub, in the efforts to facilitate the transit of grain exports from Ukraine.
- Russia's military aggression has a huge impact over the lives of the citizens and residents of Ukraine, who find themselves forced to flee the country in search of refuge and safety. Over 1,5 million Ukrainian citizens have entered Romania since the beginning of the war, the vast majority being women and children. There has been a massive mobilization of the Romanian authorities, private sector and civil society to provide them shelter, food, medical assistance, access to education and labour market. Romania will continue to help bilaterally and through the European Union Civil Protection Mechanism.
- The ongoing war in Ukraine has a major negative impact on the Republic of Moldova, confronted with an unprecedented inflow of refugees, an unpredictable security environment and the effects of the economic crisis.
- Let me express my country's gratitude to the Republic of Moldova for all its efforts to tackle the consequences of the refugee crisis and underscore our readiness to provide continued support in this regard. The second donor conference of the Moldova Support Platform, co-chaired by France, Germany and Romania will be hosted in Bucharest this summer. The aim of this conference is strengthening international aid for the R. Moldova and to back this country on the path of reforms.
- At the same time, we welcome the frank and productive discussions between the leaders of Armenia and Azerbaijan hosted by the President of the European Council Charles Michel and the reached outcomes. We encourage the parties to continue their diplomatic engagement, with the support of the EU, as well within the OSCE, in order to find comprehensive solutions to all outstanding issues related to and resulting from the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.
- Ambassador Viorel Moşanu, the Special Representative of the CiO for Southern Caucasus is investing professionalism, energy, and dedication in supporting the objective to identifying a lasting solution for this conflict.
- To conclude, we welcome the historical decision by the European Union Heads of States and Government who decided to give Ukraine, Republic of Moldova the status of candidate countries to the EU accessions and acknowledge the European perspective of Ukraine, Republic of Moldova and Georgia. This is a paradigmatic change for the whole Eastern Europe, and brings hope that it will have a positive impact for solving conflicts that have for years negatively affected a broader security environment.
- Thank you.