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**STATEMENT**  
**By the Delegation of Georgia to the OSCE**  
**On Moscow Mechanism invoked by 45 OSCE participating States following**  
**consultation with Ukraine**  
**At the Special 1369th Meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council**  
**Vienna, 13 April 2022**

Mr. Chairman,

We align with the statement delivered by the delegation of the European Union, we also join the Statement delivered by the Delegation of Romania. In addition, allow me to add the following remarks, in my national capacity.

We welcome Professors Benedek, Bílková and Sassòli to the Permanent Council and wholeheartedly thank them for the professional work in preparing the thorough report in accordance with their mandate under the Moscow Mechanism.

While, obviously, due to ongoing armed hostilities and limited timeframe, the Mission of Experts was unable to verify each and every incident of international human rights law violation, it was concluded that they have found “credible evidence suggesting that such violations concerning even the most fundamental human rights (such as - right to life, prohibition of torture and other inhuman and degrading treatment and punishment) have been committed, mostly in the areas under the effective control of Russia or entities under overall control of Russia”.

Experts point out that that “they have found clear pattern of international humanitarian law violations by the Russian forces, in particular in their conduct of hostilities”. They note that the violations committed by the Russian Federation, are by far, larger in nature and scale. The report also recognizes massive amount of human rights violations, including illegal detentions and ill-treatment of civilians, among them, journalists and local officials, targeted killings, rape, enforced disappearances deportations and other grave abuses.

As experts confirm Russia's illegal and unprovoked aggression has made it extremely difficult for Ukraine to effectively respect, protect and fulfil human rights of its residents.

Mr. Chair,

We share the concerns about the damage and destruction sustained by the civilian infrastructure due to the war instigated by Russia that includes residential buildings, medical and education facilities, water stations and electricity systems. This gravely undermines human rights and fundamental freedoms of millions of Ukrainians, however, it particularly negatively affects vulnerable groups, such as women, children, elderly and persons with disabilities.

The report also lists concrete examples when civilians and civilian infrastructure were targeted by Russian forces; there are also cases of so-called "double tap attacks" – such as against Kharkiv regional administration building, which is a clear breach of the rules on distinction, proportionality and precautions envisaged under the IHL.

The report confirms our concern over the humanitarian situation in besieged cities, such as Mariupol, where civilian evacuation is hampered and humanitarian access is barred. As noted in the report, intentionally using starvation of civilians as a method of warfare and willfully impeding relief supplies, constitutes a war crime.

The report also points out the severe damage of medical infrastructure, mentioning 74 incidents in which medical facilities were affected with various degrees of damage. Medical units and transport, whether military or civilian, are protected under IHL and their targeting is also a war crime.

We remain alarmed by the environmental and nuclear security risks stemming from the Russian aggression as well as by the damage it has inflicted upon the cultural heritage and places of worship in Ukraine.

Importantly, as stressed in the report that in the current situation, Russia is the aggressor and therefore responsible for all human suffering in Ukraine, whether or not it results from violations of IHL.

Mr. Chair,

We fully support Ukraine's efforts, and together with the international community, take effective steps under available international mechanisms to ensure that perpetrators are

brought to justice. With this in mind, we invoked the Moscow Mechanism, supported establishment of an Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine and also, joined referral to the International Criminal Court to launch relevant investigation.

Dear Professors, we thank you again for effectively carrying out your mission under exceptionally difficult circumstances. We believe that the report you produced will contribute to the establishment of legal and political accountability for the crimes committed.

We also thank the ODIHR for excellent cooperation and urge to continue addressing the consequences of Russia's aggression in Ukraine.

Thank you.