



PERMANENT DELEGATION OF NORWAY
TO THE OSCE

STATEMENT ON THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION'S ONGOING AGGRESSION
AGAINST UKRAINE

As delivered by Minister Councillor Knut-Are Okstad at the Permanent Council,
Vienna, 19 October 2023

Thank you, Mr Chair,

After more than 600 days, Russia's aggressive warfare in Ukraine continues. Russia's actions constitute serious violations of the UN Charter and crucial OSCE commitments as enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act and other OSCE documents.

We stand firmly with Ukraine's government and people, ready to lend the support needed during these challenging times.

We are deeply troubled by Russia's illegal detention of international workers, including our three colleagues from the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission. We demand the immediate release of all individuals detained in the course of serving peace and diplomacy. Their freedom is non-negotiable, and this unjust situation must be rectified promptly preserving the integrity of international peacebuilding and humanitarian efforts.

Mr Chair,

Let highlight the work of the OSCE in and for Ukraine. For nearly three decades, the OSCE and its autonomous institutions have been deeply rooted in Ukraine, collaborating hand in hand with Ukrainian authorities and civil society. Our strength lies in our dedicated team, profound understanding of Ukraine's unique challenges, steadfast commitment over the years and local ownership.

Norway's staunch support for the OSCE's activities in Ukraine is a testament to a bond that values long-term security and prosperity for all Ukrainians, tackling the immediate hardships from the conflict and strengthening Ukraine's democracy for what is ahead.

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Whereas one state is blocking the establishment of a fully-fledged OSCE operation in the country, we are willing to use all other means available to continue OSCE's work on the ground, such as the work of the Special Representative of the Chair, the Support Programme for Ukraine, the monitoring activities of ODIHR as well as existing OSCE tools and mechanisms. We call on all participating States to contribute to the functionality of these tools.

Colleagues,
Chairman Osmani's recent visit to Kyiv underscored our unwavering commitment with Ukraine. His interactions, especially those at a local school and children's rights center, highlighted the human stakes of this conflict.

Norway will stand by Ukraine for as long as it takes.

Thank you.