

JOINT SESSION OF THE THREE GENERAL COMMITTEES
WINTER MEETING 2023

Friday 24 February 2023, 09:00 – 12:00

General Debate: *One Year In: Russia's Continued Full-Scale War on Ukraine*

**Address by Mr. HAJDU Gábor,
Member of the Romanian Delegation to the OSCE PA**

Dear colleagues,

In the short term, within OSCE, we should focus on two lines of action. First is to continue to show support and solidarity for Ukraine. And second, to continue to hold Russia accountable for the atrocities committed in Ukraine.

Ever since the start of Russia's illegal, unjustified and unprovoked war of aggression against Ukraine, the international community has invested significantly in the means provided by international law. One of the results was making the perpetrators accountable for their most heinous crimes committed during this war.

Romania is a strong supporter of the efforts to seek accountability for these crimes. In this respect, Romania joined the core group of states that will work alongside Ukraine to identify the most appropriate legal basis to establish a Tribunal on the crimes of aggression against Ukraine. To this end, we work on ensuring a large support for this initiative within the international community.

Looking at the wider region, the negative impact of the ongoing war in Ukraine affects especially the most vulnerable states, as the Republic of Moldova, that already had to deal with protracted conflicts. The overlapping multiple crises that is confronted with - refugees, energy security, inflation – put additional stress on the country's vulnerability.

The war against Ukraine demonstrated us that, in such contexts, the absence of war does not always mean peace. Therefore, protracted conflicts, such as those in the Black Sea region, are disputes that also need to be addressed without deferral.

The OSCE acquis, starting with the Helsinki Final Act, has been providing a solid and comprehensive framework of commitments. The problem is not with norms – they are still adequate and valid. If they have been observed entirely in letter and in spirit by Russia, Europe would be at peace.

Thank you.