

Parliamentary Summit of the Crimea Platform Statement by OSCE PA President Margareta Cederfelt

Zagreb, Croatia | 25 October 2022

As delivered

Madam Speaker, Your excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen,

Our presence in Zagreb today is yet another expression of our full, united solidarity with the people of Ukraine.

Many of us have also offered support by visiting your country in these trying times.

In Kyiv and its surroundings – in Bucha, in Irpin, in Borodiankia – we have seen with our own eyes the horrors brought upon by Russia's unprovoked and unjustified aggression.

And I must say – on the 24th of February, the OSCE PA held its first Winter Meeting since COVID, as the war broke out, and my dear colleague, the Head of the Ukrainian Delegation, Mykyta Poturaiev, spoke out when he said that now, when the meeting was over, he was going back home to Ukraine to defend his country. It was a moment when all of us – all his colleagues in the OSCE PA – were affected. We were going back home to our families, to our nice dinner tables, Mykyta was going back home to defend his country.

Every day, in the OSCE PA, my colleagues and I, we share the suffering of millions of Ukrainians targeted by indiscriminate attacks by Russia.

Since 2014, we have denounced Russia's annexation of Crimea as a clear, gross, and uncorrected violation of the Helsinki Final Act.

We have remained steadfast in our support for Ukraine and its independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders.

Our latest Declaration, adopted in July, the Birmingham Declaration, condemns in the strongest terms the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine.

As the Russian Federation persists in its gross violations of international law and in its attacks against the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the people of Ukraine, our international community must remain united and resolved.

We must continue to call for Russia's unconditional withdrawal from Ukraine.

We have to call for Russia to respect Ukraine's integrity.

We must continue to support Ukrainians – those on the frontlines and those who have sought shelter in our countries.

And we must continue to make clear that full respect for international law and compliance with international commitments are the only way to build long-lasting peace in Europe.

Regardless of party politics, our members from all across the OSCE region will continue to defend our shared values in your parliaments and with your governments.

The OSCE PA will support a full accounting of all war crimes and crimes against humanity.

And we will inside the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly continue to promote conflict mediation. But this means that mediation can only be done if all parts – and by this I mean Russia – respect shared values and commitments inside the OSCE region.

But I will also say that, tomorrow, we will be ready to assist you in rebuilding a strong, prosperous Ukraine with respect for its international-recognized borders.

Thank you for your attention. Slava Ukraini.