

## **Arria-formula meeting on violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law investigated by the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine, 27 October 2023**

Malta Statement delivered by Ms Justine Micallef, First Secretary  
Permanent Mission of Malta

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Chair

I thank Albania, the UK, and the US for organising today's meeting. I also thank Commissioners Møse, de Greiff, and Grover for sharing their insights, and reiterate Malta's full support for the mandate of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry.

Russia's aggression against Ukraine has brought unimaginable suffering and irreparable harm to the Ukrainian people. They have been forced to live through a war and endure countless violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law.

The Commission's report details extensive evidence of war crimes committed by Russia. These include rape and other forms of sexual violence, as well as indiscriminate attacks against civilian targets. These have resulted in numerous casualties, loss of access to essential services, and access to housing, in clear violation of international humanitarian law.



Further, Malta is gravely concerned about reported widespread and systematic torture in detention centres. These are often exacerbated by ill-treatment, inhumane conditions, and wilful killing. Another sobering reminder of Russia's disregard for the dignity of people and its obligations under international law.

## Chair

Malta reiterates its grave concern over the unlawful transfers and deportations of Ukrainian children to within Russia's borders and other regions under Russian control. We call on Russia to immediately cease these unlawful acts, to transmit a clear and transparent list of all children who have been transferred, and to work proactively to facilitate their return. We further urge Russia to swiftly adopt and implement its action plan to end and prevent grave violations against children.

Malta echoes the Commission's recommendations to make sure that perpetrators are held accountable. In addition to judicial measures, we also reaffirm the importance of survivor-centred approaches to accountability, which include reparations and guarantees of non-recurrences.

In this regard, we welcome the COI's documentation and preservation of evidence to aid the prosecution of those individuals responsible.



We further welcome the establishment of the Register of Damage for Ukraine.

Malta urges the Russian Federation to fully cooperate with the Commission of Inquiry, including granting access to all territories under Russian control to allow investigations to take place in fulfilment of the Commission's mandate.

To conclude, Chair, let me reiterate Malta's full support for Ukraine's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders. We reiterate our strong condemnation of the illegal annexation and continued aggression perpetrated by Russia against Ukraine.

We are committed to a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace in Ukraine, as exemplified by the upcoming round of talks on the Peace Formula Initiative, which will be held in Malta in the coming days. Until such a peace can be achieved, we will continue to stand in solidarity with Ukraine and its people.

I thank you.