



**REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS**

**PERMANENT MISSION  
TO THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE**

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF CYPRUS

1448th meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council

Agenda Item 1: Report by the Director of OSCE/ODIHR, Matteo Mecacci

Vienna, 2 November 2023

Mr Chair,

The Republic of Cyprus fully subscribes to the statement made by the European Union, but I would like to add some brief remarks in our national capacity.

Director Mecacci thank you for your report and allow me to comment you and your able team for your excellent work and commitment in the implementation of our organisation's comprehensive concept of security, by putting human rights and democracy at the forefront of our activities.

In this respect, the organisation of the Warsaw Human Dimension Conference (WHDC) was a testament to our unequivocal dedication in safeguarding the implementation of our relevant commitments, always considering the views and positions of the civil society.

I agree with you that indeed ODIHR is a unique platform which we owe to support and protect. If we didn't have this platform, we would need to establish it.

Despite the grave security challenges we face, I am confident that our principled stance, guided by the respect to the international rules-based order will guide us through. This has been the case and should continue to be as regards the continued war of aggression against Ukraine. Moreover, following the mass exodus of Armenians from Nagorno-Karabakh, it is important to safeguard the implementation of international humanitarian law.

Before concluding, allow to pay tribute to ODIHR's commendable work, among others, on gender equality, and preventing sexual and gender-based violence. I also comment your work on combating hate speech or any form of hatred based on intolerance. There is still a lot to do on this issue and we fully support your efforts in this regard, as hate speech, coming also from political leaders or heads of states is extremely worrisome and needs our special attention in this critical juncture.

Thank you, Mr Chair.