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**STATEMENT BY
MS. ANNA LÜHRMANN, MINISTER OF STATE FOR EUROPE AND CLIMATE
OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, AT THE 1391st (REINFORCED)
MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

29 September 2022

Excellencies,
Colleagues,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Many thanks to the Polish Chairmanship and especially for the words of my Ukrainian colleague Emine Dzhaparova. You can be sure of our solidarity. We are so pleased that you have paved the way here in Vienna for the return of the OSCE to Ukraine. We will do all we can to support this project as well.

Germany condemns in the strongest possible terms Russia's unscrupulous war of aggression against Ukraine. We stand for a rules-based international order in which the strength of the law applies – not the law of the strongest. This law – the Charter of the United Nations, human rights conventions, the basic OSCE principles – is being wantonly broken by Russia.

Russia will not get away with this. We stand together with the overwhelming majority of OSCE participating States behind Ukraine, for its right to sovereignty and self-determination and for the inviolability of its territorial integrity. We again call on Russia: stop your war.

The OSCE is the forum for dialogue, confidence-building and conflict resolution. As recently as the beginning of this year, the Polish Chairmanship presented an offer of talks on European security on behalf of almost all participating States. Russia rejected this offer and ignored the tools at their disposal. Instead, Russia escalated its violation of all international obligations in the cruellest way.

The two Moscow Mechanism reports on the situation in Ukraine and the interim report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine document serious violations of international humanitarian law and massive human rights abuses, especially in Russian-occupied territories. The Moscow Mechanism report on Russia by Professor Nußberger gives a striking account of the lines being crossed also inside Russia. We have all been following very closely the protests against the partial mobilization. The oppression of elements of the Russian population goes hand in hand with the violation of international law and the unspeakable suffering that the Russian attack on Ukraine has inflicted upon the people there.

The sham referendums that have now been carried out in the territories illegally occupied by Russia represent a further step taken by Russia away from a peaceful, jointly shaped European order that

contributes to the well-being of all. By threatening to annex Ukrainian territory again, Russia is continuing to choose the path of escalation and mockery of the international community and its most elementary rules. We condemn these sham referendums in the strongest possible terms. Together with the vast majority of OSCE participating States, we say clearly and definitively that we will never recognize the results of the sham referendums and the annexations. The regions of Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia are part of Ukraine. Crimea is also part of Ukraine.

Russia is isolating itself more and more, moving further and further away from any possible way out of its self-made crisis. It is deliberately isolating itself within the community of States that is seeking solutions to pressing global challenges. Even countries that used to defend Russia will not recognize these sham referendums and illegal annexations of territory of a sovereign State. This was also evident at Tuesday's United Nations Security Council meeting.

Until 1989, a number of OSCE participating States did not enjoy freedom. We sympathize all the more with the Ukrainians, whose right to self-determination is being forcibly taken away by the Russian Government and whose lives, health and community Russia is destroying with its brutal war of aggression. We stand with you, dear Emine Dzhaparova.

I have spoken in my national capacity, but Germany, of course, also endorses the statement by the European Union.