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Buantoscáireacht na hÉireann
don Eagraíocht um Comhoibriú agus Slándáil san Eoraip
Permanent Mission of Ireland to the
Organisation for Security and Co-Operation in Europe

Rotenturmstrasse 16-18
1010 Vienna
Austria

Remarks by Ireland – Reinforced OSCE Permanent Council
Delivered by Minister of State Thomas Byrne
29 September 2022

Thank you, Mr. Chair

Ireland aligns with the statement of the EU and would like to add the following points. We would like to thank you, Mr Chair, the OSCE Secretary General Helga Schmid and the OSCE Secretariat for convening this meeting and for the work to date in support of Ukraine.

Ireland condemns the sham referendums conducted by Russia and its proxies in Ukraine. We consider these referendums to be both illegal and illegitimate. They represent another cynical ploy to undermine Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity in a desperate attempt to change the course of an unprovoked, unjustified and illegal war. It will not succeed.

Might does not make right.

Ireland's support for the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders remains steadfast. We will never recognise the sham referendums or their falsified results. They will not change the legal or political status of the four regions. Nor will they



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change the legal or political status of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant or other Ukrainian nuclear facilities. Ireland condemns Russia's nuclear threats, and all nuclear threats, whether explicit or implicit regardless of circumstance.

These referendums violate the UN Charter and Russia's obligations under international law. They follow Russia's appalling brutality against the Ukrainian residents of these regions and the forced deportation of civilians. The blatant disregard that Russia shows for international law in its actions in Ukraine follows years of repressing human rights and fundamental freedoms within Russia, as outlined so clearly at this Council last week in the OSCE Moscow Mechanism Report.

Ireland, once again, calls on Russia to observe its OSCE commitments and to comply with its obligations under international law. Russia must withdraw all forces unconditionally from the sovereign territory of Ukraine. It must end its aggression in Ukraine immediately. We also call on Russia to ensure the immediate and unconditional release of the three SMM staff unjustly detained by its proxies in Ukraine on fabricated charges.

Thank you Mr Chair.