



Permanent Mission of Italy
UN - Geneva

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**55th session of the Human Rights Council
Interactive Dialogue with the CoI on Ukraine**

19 March 2024

**Delivered by Ambassador Vincenzo Grassi,
Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations in Geneva**

Mr. President,

Italy aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union.

We thank the Commission of Inquiry for its report, which provides new evidence of violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law, and war crimes committed by Russian armed forces, including attacks on civilians, civilian infrastructure and cultural objects, as well as summary executions, torture, sexual and gender-based violence, ill-treatment of prisoners of war and deportations of children.

Italy strongly condemns these atrocities and remains committed to holding those responsible accountable, in line with international law. Therefore we continue to support investigations by the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, the work of the Commission of Inquiry and other accountability initiatives.

We reaffirm Italy's unwavering support for Ukraine and the Ukrainian people, who have been fighting courageously for their freedom and have resisted for over two years Russia's illegal, unjustifiable, and unprovoked full-scale invasion which constitutes a blatant violation of the UN Charter.

A comprehensive, just and lasting peace cannot be achieved without the full respect of Ukraine's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity. Therefore we renew our call on Russia to immediately cease its war of aggression and completely and unconditionally withdraw its military forces from the internationally recognized territory of Ukraine.

I thank you