



Permanent Mission of Italy
UN - Geneva

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56th session of the Human Rights Council
Interactive Dialogue on the oral presentation of the High Commissioner on
Ukraine and interim report of the Secretary General on human rights in Crimea
9-10 July 2024
Delivered by Ambassador Vincenzo Grassi,
Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations in Geneva

Mr. President,

Italy aligns itself with the EU statement.

As reiterated by the G7 Leaders in Apulia last month, Ukraine is defending its freedom, sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity against Russia's brutal and unjustifiable war of aggression. Therefore we continue to condemn in the strongest possible terms Russia's blatant breach of international law, including the *UN Charter*.

We are appalled by the recent missile strike against a children's hospital in Kiev and by the evidence of the latest report of the OHCHR on the devastating impact of Russia's attacks on the civilian population and civilian objects, including energy infrastructure. We are also alarmed by the documented widespread use of torture and ill-treatment, including sexual violence, against Ukrainian prisoners of war and civilian detainees. We call on Russia to release all persons unlawfully detained and safely return all illegally transferred or deported civilians, starting with children.

We remain committed to holding those responsible accountable for their atrocities against the people of Ukraine, in line with international law.

Together with international partners, Italy is determined to continue to provide all necessary support to Ukraine and its people, including for its long-term recovery and reconstruction.

Our ultimate goal remains a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in line with international law and the *UN Charter* and its principles and respect for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

I thank you