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 $60^{\rm th}$  Session of the Human Rights Council Interactive Dialogue on High Commissioner oral update on Ukraine October  $3^{\rm rd}$ , 2025

Statement delivered by Ambassador Vincenzo Grassi, Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations in Geneva

Mr. President

Italy aligns itself with the EU statement and thanks the High Commissioner for his oral update.

We reaffirm Italy's continued and unwavering support for Ukrainian people and Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, while strongly condemning Russia's most recent airstrikes on Kyiv.

We remain deeply concerned by the impact of the conflict on civilians, with a steady increase in casualties throughout 2025. Reports continue to document widespread violations of human rights and international humanitarian law committed by Russian authorities, including unlawful detention, conflict-related sexual violence and forced displacement in the occupied Ukrainian regions. Attacks on strategic and energy infrastructure have worsened the humanitarian crisis, halting households' access to essential services, as well as medical and educational facilities.

We are also alarmed by the devastating impact of Russia's war of aggression on children, who are increasingly victims of violations of their fundamental rights, as well as on other particularly vulnerable people, such as older persons and people with disabilities.

Italy remains committed to promoting accountability for international crimes and human rights abuses arising from this war. We will continue to support every initiative that can advance a just, durable, and comprehensive peace in Ukraine – grounded in the UN Charter and international law.

Thank you.