



**CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY !**

**Statement by Dr. Stanislav Raščan,  
Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs  
of the Republic of Slovenia**

**Reinforced meeting of the Permanent Council of the OSCE  
22 February 2022**

**Slovenia on the situation in and around Ukraine, including the recent non-compliance with OSCE commitments**

*Mr. Chairperson,*

First, I would like to thank you for putting this highly relevant and alarming issue on our Reinforced Permanent Council agenda today.

Slovenia aligns itself with the statement delivered earlier on behalf of the EU, but please allow me to underline some remarks in my national capacity.

Slovenia strongly condemns the decision by President Putin to recognise the non-government controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine as independent entities, as well as decision to send Russian troops into these areas. This are hostile measures and flagrant violations of international law, including UNSCR 2202, as well as obligations contained in Minsk agreements and must not remain without consequences.

We call on other States not to follow Russia's illegal decision to recognise this proclaimed independence.

We urge Russia to reverse the recognition, uphold its commitments, abide by international law and return to the discussions within the Normandy format and the Trilateral Contact Group.

Slovenia reiterates its unwavering support for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders and commends Ukrainian Government's calm leadership in the face of these acts of aggression, entirely and unilaterally escalated by Russia.

*Thank you.*