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Delegation of Canada  
to the OSCE

Délégation du Canada  
auprès de l'OSCE

**JOINT STATEMENT DELIVERED BY COUNSELLOR ESTHER VAN NES  
ON THE REPORT BY THE OSCE  
REPRESENTATIVE ON FREEDOM OF THE MEDIA**

**1478<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

**13 June 2024**

Madam Chair,

Canada aligns with the statement that will be delivered by France on behalf of the Informal Group of Friends for the Safety of Journalists, but I would like to make the following remarks on behalf of Iceland and my own country, Canada.

Dear Teresa,

Iceland and Canada would like to convey our deep appreciation for the work that you have done as RFoM. You have tirelessly and courageously fulfilled your role, constantly reminding participating States of our commitments and obligations and advocating for the safety of journalists and media workers. You have reminded us time and again of the fundamental links between media freedom, democracy and security. While some have accused you of bias, we have seen your staunch objective application of the standards and rules which States themselves have accepted.

We appreciate the efforts that you have put into outreach including your engagement with those holding similar mandates, in other regional bodies and the UN. This sort of cooperation only increases the utility and effectiveness of the OSCE.

We also appreciate how you and your office have consistently brought a gender lens to media freedom issues, such as the important work that has been done on the Safety of Female Journalists Online.

The position of Representative on Freedom of the Media is absolutely crucial to the success of the OSCE.

You have been exemplary in the role. Canada and Iceland look forward to working constructively with the CiO and other participating States in finding a new RFoM who will take an equally energetic and principled approach. They will have big shoes to fill.

Thank you.