



Delegation of Canada
to the OSCE

Délégation du Canada
auprès de l'OSCE

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR VÉRONIQUE PEPIN-HALLÉ
UNDER AGENDA ITEM:**

The Russian Federation's ongoing aggression against Ukraine

1541st MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL

6 November 2025

Mr. Chair,

Russia has argued in this chamber that a multipolar order is emerging as a corrective to the “rules-based order” -- an order, it says, that projects Western dominance and rests on rules it doesn't know who wrote.

As with much of what Russia says in this chamber, this is a distortion intended to mislead, inflame and divide. The rules-based international order is, very simply, the body of international laws and standards developed since World War II, agreed by states to promote peace and security for all, and to reject a “might makes right” world order.

These are rules that Russia helped write, and to which it agreed willingly.

The principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity, non-aggression, and the peaceful settlement of disputes are enshrined in the UN Charter. Russia is not an outsider to this system. Indeed, it has a privileged position within it, evidenced by its permanent status on the UN Security Council.

The rules-based order rests squarely on that Charter. It reflects commitments freely undertaken by sovereign states, including Russia, to make the international system function. The rules-based order includes OSCE principles and commitments – from the Helsinki Final Act to the Charter of Paris and successive arms control agreements, -all negotiated and adopted by all participating States, including Russia. The question, then, is why Russia has chosen to seek to destroy the very system it helped design.

The answer lies in its current political leadership's rejection of constraint, and of the very fundamental principle of international law that borders cannot be redrawn by force.

For Russia's current leadership -- nostalgic for spheres of control -- such limits are intolerable. Nowhere is this clearer than in its war of aggression against Ukraine, the crown jewel of its imperial imagination.

In Moscow's view, as reflected in its actions, neighbours can be independent only if they align with Russia's preferred trajectory. They are "equal," but Russia remains "more equal than others." Independence is tolerated only within lines drawn by the Kremlin.

One might wonder why a proposal so "generous" requires such brutal persuasion!

A rules-based system cannot coexist with the imperial reflex that still defines Russia's politics, because a rules-based system, that is, international law, rejects spheres of control and affirms sovereign equality of all states. Thus, Russia's war on Ukraine is not only a war against its neighbour's independence, but a war against the very idea that all states have an equal right to determine their own course.

Yet, in a striking irony, the multipolar order Russia claims to be building does not show Russia emerging as a pole but rather a satellite, selling its wealth at a discount to sustain a war that has already made a million Russian casualties, to say nothing of the losses of Ukrainian lives.

Mr. Chair,

The rules-based international order endures not because it is perfect, but because it remains the best framework for states and people to attain peace, security and prosperity. We uphold it out of both, principle and necessity. The absence of rules costs far more than their observance, at least for most of us here.

That is why helping Ukraine defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity is imperative. If the borders of a sovereign state can be redrawn by force, then none of our borders are secure. Supporting Ukraine is, in essence, defending the principle that allows each of us to sit here as equals. And we must continue doing so.

Thank you.