



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

1540th MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL

30 October 2025

Last week in this Council, as in so many meetings before, the Russian Federation continued to deny responsibility for the war of aggression it unleashed against its sovereign neighbour, Ukraine. It also denied the consequences of its relentless attacks on civilians and civilian objects.

In both this Council and the Forum for Security Cooperation, Russian denials reached new depths with the baseless claim that the destruction of a Ukrainian kindergarten on October 22nd was a staged event. These are not isolated remarks. They are part of a systematic disinformation campaign — the same machinery that denied Russia's invasions of Crimea, Donetsk, and Luhansk in 2014, and its atrocities in Bucha and Mariupol.

Deny. Deflect. Minimize. Blame others. This is the Russian playbook.

But the truth cannot be silenced. Independent sources continue to document the real situation on the ground.

The UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine reported that at least 214 civilians were killed and nearly 1,000 injured across Ukraine in September 2025 — a devastating toll, especially in frontline communities. Russian attacks on Ukraine's energy infrastructure have intensified, compounding the suffering.

The latest report of the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine examined short-range drone strikes in a 300 km area across Dnipropetrovsk, Kherson, and Mykolaiv oblasts. Russian drone strikes have killed and injured civilians, caused widespread destruction, disrupted essential services, and created a coercive environment that has forced thousands to flee. The Commission concluded that these drone attacks constitute the crimes against humanity of murder and of forcible transfer of population.

Russia's disinformation cannot erase their actions nor obscure their true intentions.

Despite repeated calls for peace, Russia has shown no willingness to agree to an immediate ceasefire. They repeatedly justify their continued aggression by referring to their own supposed security concerns and so-called root causes - but they also reveal again and again what they really want.

They want Ukraine to capitulate; they want “regime-change” to ensure a compliant, undemocratic, pro-Russian regime in Kyiv; and they want to erase the Ukrainian language, culture and national identity.

Let us be clear. Russia’s conduct is antithetical to this organization and its principles.

The Kremlin wants to solve disputes through war; to redraw borders through force; and to interfere in the internal affairs of its neighbours to serve its own interests. It disregards human rights both within its own borders and in the occupied territory of Ukraine, and it flouts international humanitarian law.

Madame la Présidente,

L'Ukraine s'est engagée à respecter un cessez-le-feu inconditionnel. La Russie doit faire de même.

Tout accord négocié doit commencer par le retrait complet des forces russes et garantir la sécurité et la souveraineté à long terme de l'Ukraine.

Ce n'est qu'alors que nous pourrons commencer à rétablir la sécurité dans notre région, non pas sur la base de la coercition, mais sur les fondements solides du droit international et des principes de l'OSCE.

Car une paix juste en Ukraine ne concerne pas seulement l'Ukraine, elle concerne également le respect de la Charte des Nations unies et la défense des principes de l'Acte final d'Helsinki. Elle nous concerne tous.

Je vous remercie.