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Delegation of Canada

**STATEMENT BY
AMBASSADOR VÉRONIQUE PEPIN-HALLÉ, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF CANADA TO THE OSCE, AT THE 1549th (SPECIAL) MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

15 January 2026

The Russian Federation's ongoing aggression against Ukraine

Mr. Chairperson,

We thank the Swiss Chairmanship for bringing us together in this special format. The recent events in Ukraine are worrying and deserving of our attention.

We are gathered here because, on 9 January 2026, Russia claims to have launched its nuclear-capable Oreshnik ballistic missile in the Lviv region as part of wider strikes. Canada considers the deployment of the Oreshnik ballistic missile to be a dangerous escalation and strongly condemns its use on 9 January 2026. This escalation demonstrates once again that Russia is not interested in peace.

In addition to this cynical attack with questionable objectives, Ukraine has been subjected to frequent and continuous Russian drone and missile strikes in several regions since last December, which have made life difficult for the civilian population.

Shortly before Christmas, Russia launched large-scale strikes against Ukraine's energy infrastructure, hitting several power plants and causing widespread power outages in western Ukraine. The timing of this attack was particularly cruel. At least three civilians were killed, including a four-year-old child, and 13 others were injured, while emergency power outages were reported in several regions.

According to the Ukrainian authorities, the Russian strikes that took place last week will have left more than a million people in south-eastern Ukraine without heating and water supply.

On 12 and 13 January 2026, Russia carried out a new wave of massive strikes across Ukraine, cutting off electricity to hundreds of thousands of civilians as winter temperatures plunged to freezing levels. At least four civilians were killed, including first responder Serhiy Smolyak, who lost his life as he rushed to rescue residents from a building that had been hit minutes earlier.

The nature and scale of these strikes, which have been widely documented since 2022, continue to raise serious humanitarian and legal concerns regarding Russia's compliance with international law.

Rather than lecturing us about double standards, the Russian Federation would be well advised to apply the principles of distinction and proportionality under international humanitarian law.

Mr. Chair

Throughout this period, Canada has continued working intensively with international partners to support Ukraine and advance efforts toward a just and lasting peace.

On 27 December 2025, Prime Minister Carney welcomed President Zelenskyy to Halifax for bilateral discussions and announced financial support to help Ukraine's economy withstand ongoing aggression, support reconstruction, and strengthen energy security.

On 30 December 2025, Minister Anand spoke with Ukraine's Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha to emphasize that decisions regarding Ukraine's sovereignty must be made by Ukraine itself.

On 6 January 2026, Prime Minister Carney attended the Coalition of the Willing meeting in Paris, reaffirming Canada's commitment to Ukraine's sovereignty and security.

Canada remains steadfast in its commitment to support Ukraine. We call on the Russian Federation and President Putin to engage seriously in US-led peace efforts and to end its aggression and to respect international law. Continued military escalation not only deepens civilian suffering in Ukraine but also continues to impose heavy economic and social costs on the Russian people.

Canada will continue to work with partners to support Ukraine's defence, recovery, and long-term stability, while advocating for a resolution that restores security to Ukraine and upholds international law. Peace requires genuine engagement and respect for the UN Charter.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.