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Delegation of Canada

**STATEMENT BY
AMBASSADOR VÉRONIQUE PEPIN-HALLÉ, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF CANADA TO THE OSCE, AT THE 1532nd (SPECIAL) MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

9 September 2025

The Russian Federation's ongoing aggression against Ukraine

Mr. Chairperson,

First of all, on behalf of Canada, I should like to express our sincere condolences to our Ukrainian colleagues for the latest loss of life as a result of Russia's attacks. The tragic death of a young mother and her two-month-old son, killed in yet another brutal attack by Russia, is a painful daily reminder of the human cost of this war of aggression.

In a single night, Russia launched more than 800 drones and missiles against Ukraine. Among the damage caused by the Russian Federation is the building housing the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, a symbol of Ukraine's sovereignty and democratic resilience.

Prime Minister Mark Carney visited this very building just a few weeks ago, on the occasion of Ukraine's Independence Day. On that day, alongside Prime Minister Yuliia Svyrydenko, Prime Minister Carney reaffirmed what Canada has always staunchly maintained: our unwavering support for Ukraine and our steadfast opposition to President Putin's relentless war of aggression.

On 28 August, at least 23 civilians, including four children, were killed when Russian bombs fell on Kyiv, damaging diplomatic missions and demonstrating Russia's blatant disregard for civilian life and diplomacy.

These attacks are part of a wider context of violence. On 4 September, a Russian missile struck a humanitarian demining operation, killing two people and injuring eight staff members of the Danish Refugee Council. These were civilians carrying out vital work to remove unexploded ordnance in order to make Ukrainian communities safer.

Let us be clear: Putin is not seeking peace. He is pursuing, with relentless force, the conquest of a sovereign nation and the subjugation of its people.

Russia's continues to wage a war of aggression in violation of international law, and it is conducted with an alarming absence of moral restraint. The recent escalation underscores not only the brutality of this conflict, but also the urgency of a just and lasting peace for Ukraine.

Canada remains fully committed to the Coalition of the Willing and is prepared to contribute direct and scalable military assistance in support of upholding a ceasefire and a lasting peace.

A just and lasting peace for Ukraine must be underpinned by robust and credible security guarantees. The continued attacks highlight the need for such measures.

Mister Chair, the costs of inaction are being paid in incalculable loss of human life. The Ukrainian people deserve to live in peace.

Thank you.