



PERMANENT DELEGATION OF NORWAY
TO THE OSCE

**JOINT STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO THE RUSSIAN
FEDERATION'S ONGOING AGGRESSION AGAINST UKRAINE**

As delivered by *Military Advisor Colonel Bjørn Gaute Herlyng* at the 1139th Forum for Security Cooperation,

Vienna, 10th June 2026

Thank you Mr. Chair,

I have the honor to speak today on behalf of the following countries: *Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Sweden, and my own country Norway.*

On Monday 8 June, a statement regarding Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine was delivered to the UN Security Council by the Finnish minister of foreign affairs, H.E. Elina Valtonen on behalf of the Nordic countries. I am not going to repeat that statement but refer to it and point out a few key issues.

The statement underscored that Russia is responsible for this illegal war, and that Russia's decision to launch its full-scale invasion of Ukraine is one of the biggest strategic mistakes of the 21st century. The war continues to pay a staggering price in human lives and military resources. In May alone, Russia reportedly suffered more than 30,000 casualties on the battlefield. Such disregard for human life stands in stark contrast to the values and human rights we have collectively committed to uphold. It is time for Russia to demonstrate genuine willingness to meaningful negotiation.

As an UN Member, Ukraine has an inherent right to defend itself, in accordance with Article 51 of the Charter. Under constant attack, Ukraine has shown remarkable resilience, innovation and courage. It has strengthened partnerships across Europe and beyond, becoming a leader in defense innovation, all the while upholding its commitments under international law.

No one wants peace more than Ukraine. However, peace cannot be built on aggression, coercion or the subjugation of the Ukrainian people. It can only be built on respect for the UN Charter, for sovereignty, and for the rules that protect all nations, large and small alike. Consequently, we support Ukraine's lawful defence and will continue to do so.

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Last week, President Zelenskyy called for an immediate ceasefire and direct talks between the leaders of Ukraine and Russia. We support this call. A ceasefire must be the first step towards a just, lasting, and sustainable peace.

The path to peace is clear. End this war. Withdraw Russian forces from Ukraine. Respect Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Uphold international law.

That is the choice before Russia today.

Thank you.