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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

1582nd MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL

22 October 2026

Monsieur le président,

L'Ukraine en est maintenant à sa cinquième année d'une guerre d'agression injustifiable, déclenchée unilatéralement, illégalement et sans provocation par la Fédération de Russie.

Le fardeau de cette guerre est porté par les Ukrainiens partout au pays, y compris, tragiquement, par les plus jeunes. Pour une autre génération d'ukrainiens, la Russie est synonyme d'une violence qui frappe jusque dans les moments les plus innocents de l'enfance.Le 19 octobre, Anhelina, âgée de quatorze mois, était assise dans sa poussette aux côtés de sa mère dans un parc lorsque toutes deux ont été tuées par un drone russe.

Permettez-moi donc d'assurer le peuple ukrainien que le Canada l'accompagnera sur la voie de la liberté, jusqu'à ce que celle-ci soit pleinement acquise et durablement assurée.

Notre appui n'a jamais faibli, et il ne faiblira pas. L'avenir de l'Ukraine appartient à son peuple, et la position du Canada à cet égard est sans équivoque.

Mr. Chair,

Ukraine has every reason to want this war to end. Russia does not. And both are acting accordingly.

Ukraine has demonstrated its willingness to negotiate. Moscow, by contrast, continues to calculate that further violence will allow it to dictate through force the terms on which it will end its deadly war of aggression.

The challenge before us is therefore to change Moscow's calculation.

That means continuing support for Ukraine, including military assistance, while constraining the funding that fuels Russia's war of aggression.

We must see Russia's rhetoric of confidence for the Potemkin façade that it is, designed to foster the perception that Moscow holds the stronger hand. To fall captive to that narrative is to allow the Russian Federation to define the limits of how its aggression can end. We need to look beyond Moscow's position to identify existing opportunities to create the conditions for meaningful negotiations.

And the sooner meaningful negotiations take place, the sooner a just and lasting peace can be achieved.

Mr. Chair,

How this war ends matters.

Ukraine should not surrender the very rights that each of us around this table cherishes.

A peace imposed on such terms would be neither just nor lasting. After all that the Ukrainian people have endured at the hands of the Russian Federation, it is reasonable that any peace should offer them more than the prospect of having to endure it all over again.

The Ukrainian people have made clear the future they seek, and Canadians know very well all the reasons to respect and support it.

Finally Mr. Chair,

Canada is concerned about the most recent airspace violations in Romania, Bulgaria and in other European allies, and express our solidarity in confronting these threats. Such incursions are violations of international law.

Between October 10th and 18th, 2026, alone, Romanian authorities reported nine major drone incidents. Direct strikes affecting civilian shipping, including inside or immediately bordering Romania's and Bulgaria's territorial waters and Exclusive Economic Zone this month, have now directly led to the loss of lives. Across parts of Europe, these are not isolated incidents. They are repeated and increasing in frequency and scope

We reaffirm our steadfast support for the security of our Allies impacted by the Russian Federation's destabilizing and escalatory actions, including hybrid threats and other malign activities, and reiterate our commitment to collective defence and transatlantic security through NATO, recalling that NATO is a defensive Alliance.

Thank You. Mr. Chair