The OSCE Secretariat bears no responsibility for the content of this document and circulates it without altering its content. The distribution by OSCE Conference Services of this document is without prejudice to OSCE decisions, as set out in documents agreed by OSCE participating States.

PC.DEL/1083/26
30 October 2026

Original: as delivered

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

1583rd MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL

29 October 2026

Mister Chair,

Temperatures are starting to drop in Vienna and across Europe, and winter is around the corner. Last year, the Russian Federation repeatedly struck Ukraine's civilian infrastructure, including energy infrastructure, during the coldest months of winter. These actions appeared to be a desperate attempt by the Russian Federation to achieve through pressure on the civilian population what had not been possible on the battlefield in over four years of aggression.

As we head into another winter, Canada is committed to supporting Ukraine in repairing and strengthening its energy infrastructure. We are providing over $430 million Canadian dollars in new loan guarantees to the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development to support Ukraine's energy security, including through winter gas purchases and secondary energy generators. Canada is also providing additional funds to the Ukraine Energy Support Fund.

Earlier this month, President Trump announced a temporary ceasefire on energy. Ukraine accepted it immediately. Russia did not, if not in words, in actions as it continued its strikes across Ukraine, including on energy infrastructure. These ongoing strikes are part of a broader pattern of behaviour that appears aimed at causing civilian suffering in Ukraine. As we head into another winter, it is important to be clear eyed about what is at stake, and to recall what Ukraine endured and survived last year.

The UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine released its latest report to the General Assembly on October 26. This report assessed the impact of Russian strikes on energy infrastructure on the civilian population in Ukraine last winter, and it drew stark and disturbing conclusions.

Based on the evidence available, the Committee assessed that Russian commanders ordering attacks on Ukraine were aware that heating facilities being targeted were "indispensable to the civilian population". The report also concluded that "the waves of attacks by Russian authorities against Ukraine's energy infrastructure were carried out with intent and pursuant to a state policy to deprive the civilian population from essential energy supplies and cause suffering". Furthermore, the Commission concluded that "Russian authorities have committed war crimes of intentionally directing attacks against civilian objects and the crimes against humanity of other inhumane acts".

Monsieur le Président,

Il est important que nous gardions à l'esprit les conclusions de ce rapport alors que l'Ukraine s'apprête à affronter un cinquième hiver rigoureux sous le joug de l'agression russe. L'Ukraine a démontré sa volonté de s'engager sincèrement dans tous les efforts visant à instaurer une paix juste et durable, y compris les propositions de cessez-le-feu.

Dans ce contexte, nous saluons l'annonce d'un cessez-le-feu humanitaire temporaire à Oleshky, fragile mais toujours en vigueur et dont le besoin se faisait cruellement sentir. La situation à Oleshky est devenue critique, et nous espérons que la Fédération de Russie respectera les termes de cet accord afin de garantir que les civils touchés reçoivent l'aide vitale dont ils ont besoin et puissent être évacués en toute sécurité, sans instrumentalisation, si cela s'avère être la meilleure option pour eux. Nous saisissons également cette occasion pour rappeler qu'Oleshky et d'autres parties de Kherson, ainsi que Donetsk, Louhansk, la Crimée, et Zaporijia, font partie et continueront de faire partie du territoire ukrainien reconnu internationalement.

En tant que puissance occupante, la Fédération de Russie a des obligations en vertu des Conventions de Genève. Notamment l'article 55 de la Quatrième Convention de Genève, qui stipule qu'elle a le devoir d'assurer l'approvisionnement de la population en denrées alimentaires et en fournitures médicales dans toute la mesure des moyens dont elle dispose – une obligation particulièrement pertinente dans le cas d'Oleshky.

Monsieur le Président,

Le Canada réitère son appel à la Russie pour qu'elle mette fin à son agression, retire ses forces et son matériel militaire du territoire ukrainien reconnu internationalement, et se conforme à nouveau à la Charte des Nations Unies et à l'Acte final d'Helsinki.