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PERMANENT DELEGATION OF NORWAY
TO THE OSCE

STATEMENT ON THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION'S ONGOING AGGRESSION AGAINST UKRAINE

As delivered by Colonel Bjørn Gaute Herlyng at the 1153th Forum for Security Cooperation,
Vienna, 11 November 2026

Thank you, Chair.

Norway aligns itself with the statement delivered by the EU, including the condolences to Poland and Bulgaria. Allow me to add a few remarks in my national capacity.

Mr. Chair,

Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine continues, reportedly with loss of terrain and record losses on the Russian side. The continuing attacks affecting civilians and civilian infrastructure raise grave concerns under international humanitarian law. During the attacks on 2 November, three Russian drones were reportedly directed at a substation crucial for the operation of the Khmelnytskyi Nuclear Power Plant, threatening nuclear safety – with potential consequences well beyond the borders of Ukraine.

Equally appalling was the attack against a school in Komyshuvakha in the Zaporizhzhia region, reportedly being used as a shelter and a humanitarian aid distribution centre for the local population. One of the deadliest attacks of this war. So far more than fifty people are confirmed dead. The number is highly likely to rise as approximately the same number of people are still missing.

The centre had a purpose-built shelter. To be able to destroy it, and the people seeking shelter there, Russia reportedly used guided FAB-3000 bombs in a double tap attack. A FAB-3000 contains around 1.5 tons of explosives and are primarily designed to destroy heavy concrete fortifications and bunkers.

The UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (HRMMU) highlighted in a statement on 3 November that the attack took place just as civilians from the area gathered to receive humanitarian aid.

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"Dozens were killed while civilians gathered to receive humanitarian aid in Komyshuvakha - the timing and location of the humanitarian distribution was well publicized," said Danielle Bell, head of HRMMU. "Either the Russian armed forces knew that there was a humanitarian distribution taking place, or they failed to take the most basic steps to find out what was happening in this village they were planning to attack. In either case, this attack seems to have violated the most fundamental principles of international humanitarian law."

Mr. Chair,

Russia's illegal war continues. Russia's illegal attacks continue. We reiterate our call on Russia to cease all attacks and withdraw their military forces from of the internationally recognised territory of Ukraine.

Ukraine will continue to exercise its inherent right of self-defence under Article 51 of the UN Charter. Norway will continue to support Ukraine. NATO is not at war with Russia; it is a defensive alliance. In response to Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, we continue to strengthen our deterrence and defence to ensure that NATO remains ready to protect and defend every ally.

Thank you.