



Delegation of Canada  
to the OSCE

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auprès de l'OSCE

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR JOCELYN KINNEAR  
ON THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION'S ONGOING AGGRESSION AGAINST UKRAINE  
1429<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

**22 June 2023**

Mr. Chair,

Thank you to Minister Strilets for the detailed and disturbing information on the devastating environmental and human impacts of the explosion of the Kakhovka Dam. We are committed to supporting Ukraine's recovery from this disaster.

We condemn the latest atrocities caused by Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, including the latest waves of missiles and drones against Kyiv, Odesa, and Kryvyi Rih, far from the frontline of the conflict. We mourn the 45 people who have reportedly died in the floods following the destruction of the Kakhovka dam. Reporting that Russian occupation authorities commandeered civilian vessels rather than rescuing those stranded and prevented residents on the left bank from leaving the devastated regions, demonstrates a callous disregard for human life, as does reporting of Russian forces shelling the city of Kherson during the evacuation of civilians. The Government of Russia, according to the UN Humanitarian Coordinator for Ukraine, also continues to decline the UN's request to access areas under its temporary military control. We urge Russia to act in accordance with their obligations under International Humanitarian Law, which includes the occupying power ensuring sufficient hygiene and public health standards, the provision of food and medical care to the population under occupation, and full, unconditional access for humanitarian actors.

Russia's war continues to have significant and wide-ranging consequences on civilians inside and outside Ukraine, including worsening global climate change, energy and food crises. These effects have been felt most acutely by the most vulnerable. The Black Sea Grain Initiative remains crucial in helping to relieve global hunger, and all responsible actors must ensure its continued and unhindered operation. Canada commends Ukraine's ongoing efforts to implement the Black Sea Grain Initiative and contribute to global food security through other projects, such as the Grain from Ukraine initiative.

Canada, together with international organizations and international partners, is committed to reducing the impacts of Russia's barbaric war and to participating in the recovery and reconstruction of Ukraine. We want to thank those, like Germany, the US, the UK, and others, who joined us in making announcements for further humanitarian and development assistance at yesterday's Ukraine Recovery Conference in London. Already now, it is important to lay the ground for an ambitious and long-term engagement that will create opportunities and enable the Ukrainian people to rebuild their country, based on a transparent and inclusive national reconstruction architecture supported by key reforms based on democratic principles. Most urgently, humanitarian assistance provides the people of Ukraine with critical life-saving support, including food, safe drinking water, protection services, education, livelihoods, legal assistance, shelter, and the full range of health care services. The people of Ukraine can count on Canada to continue its political, financial, humanitarian and military support for as long as it takes.

Canada is dedicated to supporting those affected by Russia's invasion of Ukraine and we've introduced special measures to help thousands of Ukrainian nationals and their family members find safety far from the battlefield. Through the Canada-Ukraine authorization for emergency travel, we have received over a million applications from Ukrainian nationals and their families to temporarily settle in Canada, with over 750 000 applications approved to date. Since January of last year, over 234 000 Ukrainians have entered Canada. While we welcome all these refugees wholeheartedly, we lament with them that they have had to flee continued Russian bombardment. These innocent civilians have endured needless and unspeakable violence and fear as Russian forces continue to bomb hospitals, schools, playgrounds and residential areas, and remove Ukrainian children from their homeland to the Russian Federation. No child or adult should ever have to go through these hardships.

Russia can end this war now by unconditionally withdrawing all troops and military equipment from the internationally recognized territory of Ukraine, including Crimea. We call on it to do so immediately, to release all SMM staff and assets, and to abide by its obligations under international law and by its commitments to OSCE principles.