



Delegation of Canada  
to the OSCE

Délégation du Canada  
auprès de l'OSCE

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR JOCELYN KINNEAR  
ON THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION'S ONGOING AGGRESSION AGAINST UKRAINE  
1401<sup>st</sup> MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

**8 December 2022**

Mr. Chair,

During last week's Ministerial Council, we heard appeals for dialogue to resolve the conflict in Ukraine. Dialogue and diplomacy are at the heart of multilateralism. They are the oil in the machinery of the rules based system that has supported peace and security in the post-WWII period.

But calls to dialogue cannot be predicated on the idea that Ukraine should accept the status quo or implications that they should just capitulate and accept the violation of their territorial integrity and attempts to impose limitations on their own sovereign right to define and conduct their relations with other States.

In short, Russia cannot rewrite the first principle of the Helsinki Final Act with, frankly, insincere calls for dialogue. We must remember that this is a conflict borne out of President Putin's imperial ambitions and out of his contempt for solving security concerns through dialogue rather than with military might. At the beginning of this year, the Russian Federation rejected overtures to address President Putin's supposed security concerns, including the Polish Chairperson's Renewed European Security Dialogue. This made clear to all that President Putin's interest in dialogue was only as a distraction while he put together his final preparations for war. He was seeking to revise the European and global security architecture to roll back our Helsinki commitments and somehow provide justification to interfere in the sovereign affairs of another state.

At the time, and again last week at the Ministerial Council, the Russian Federation spoke of the indivisibility of security, the concept that the security of one nation is inseparable from the security of others countries in the region. Russia misuses this concept to suggest that it should somehow have a veto or final say over the sovereignty of its neighbours. In terms of the indivisibility of security, has Russia ever stopped to consider how its war against Ukraine impacts the security of neighbouring and littoral states to its war, such as Georgia, Moldova, Poland and Romania? Have they considered how it impacts those who now fear Russia will further interfere in their own internal politics or violate their territorial integrity under bogus claims around protecting a minority, like in neighbouring Belarus or the Baltic states? It is Russia who has undermined the indivisibility of security: by placing its own ambitions over respect for the UN Charter, the Helsinki Final Act, and international law.

The Kremlin's neo-imperialist ambitions to unilaterally redraw its neighbours' borders and interfere in their internal politics is against the fundamental precepts of all our OSCE commitments. The Kremlin had no right to interfere in Ukraine's democratic processes, nor does it have the right to continue to interfere in Transnistria, Abkhazia, South Ossetia, Crimea, or Donbas.

Mr. Chair,

We believe in dialogue and diplomacy. But dialogue here must begin with Russia demonstrating, through action, that it is ready to leave Ukraine. This dialogue will never be about how Russia gets to keep Ukrainian territory; this dialogue will be about how Russia bring its soldiers back to their barracks, how it removes its military equipment from Ukrainian soil, and how Russia will pay reparations for the wanton destruction of Ukrainian civilian infrastructure. The latest barrage of missiles, aimed at energy infrastructure in Kyiv, Vinnytsia and Odesa regions this week, further demonstrated, if there were any doubts, that Russia's war is not for the "demilitarisation" of Ukraine, but its destruction and depopulation.

We also believe in the indivisibility of security. Russia's war impacts the security of us all, especially Ukrainians, but also Russians and the people of neighbouring countries across the OSCE area. The genesis of our global crisis is the failure of one participating State to abide by the rules and principles to which we have all agreed.

And the solution for our common security is clear: Russia must immediately bring its war against Ukraine to an end, completely and unconditionally withdraw all of its troops and military equipment from the entire territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders, and implement its international obligations. Canada condemns Russia's continued and deliberate targeting of civilian and humanitarian objects during its brutal war of aggression. We deplore Russia's violation of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and will never recognize its sham referenda. The pain and suffering of Ukrainian civilians due to Russia's violation of its Helsinki Final Act and other commitments and its ongoing occupation must end.

Thank you Mr. Chair.