



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**

**1529<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

**24 July 2025**

Mister Chair,

Week after week, we hear the same refrain from the Russian Federation: that its so-called “special military operation” is achieving its objectives.

But the reality is starkly different.

This narrative is sustained not by truth, but by State propaganda. More than three years into this illegal war, Russia is trapped in a grinding international conflict of its own making that sends its youth to die, day after day.

The human cost is staggering. According to the Center for Strategic and International Studies, around 250,000 Russian soldiers have died and total casualties are estimated at nearly one million.

At home, the image of unity is a Potemkin-style façade. It is not built on support, but on fear and deception. Dissent is silenced by the Kremlin through censorship, intimidation, and punishment.

Russia has also undermined its own historic legacy. Its heroic fight against Nazism, earned in blood, is now being twisted to justify aggression. The Russian people are being asked to sacrifice again, but not for the reasons they are told.

Today, Russia has lost the support of countries alongside whom it once defeated Nazism. It has squandered the chance for closer ties, for shared prosperity, for people-to-people connection.

And it has done so by choice.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine is a violation of international law, the UN Charter and a betrayal of the Helsinki Final Act. This cannot be ignored. Canada will continue to pursue accountability at every opportunity.

Despite Russia's unthinkable brutality, Ukraine's resolve remains unbroken. In the face of adversity, Ukraine has demonstrated bold and strategic leadership, rising to the moment not just on the battlefield or in military innovation, but in the global imagination as a symbol of courage and resolve.

Cities like Kharkiv, Kyiv, and Kherson face daily bombardment, but Ukraine stands firm.

Canada supports efforts to stop the bloodshed, to silence the bombs and missiles, and to bring about a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace.

We welcome steps toward diplomacy. Ukraine has again shown its willingness to engage, calling for talks and proposing a prisoner exchange. This is a clear sign of Ukraine's desire for peace, and another demonstration of its willingness to end the war by diplomatic means.

Russia, on the other hand, has said not to expect any movement. Its officials have made their position plain: "Our goals are clear. They have not changed."

And even as both sides met in Istanbul for the latest round of negotiations, Russia continues attacking.

Russia's drones now terrorize civilians across the country night after night. Earlier this month alone, Russia reportedly fired more than 700 drones at Ukraine in a single night. That's more than in some entire months last year.

Between the end of last year and May of this year, Russia is believed to have doubled its missile and drone attacks. In June, Ukrainian forces say over 5,400 drones were launched by Russia.

Reports suggest that cooperation with China has allowed Russia to circumvent sanctions, particularly on electronic components used in drone production. This reveals exactly that Russia's priorities lie not with peace.

Mister Chair,

We must not become desensitized to this level of violence, just because it happens so often. We cannot allow the Kremlin to dictate the new normal.

Ukraine is a fellow participating State. It is the victim of aggression. It deserves peace and it deserves our support.

We call on the Russian Federation to seriously consider the window of opportunity for diplomacy to end this bloodshed that has already taken to many lives.

Thank you.