



Delegation of Canada  
to the OSCE

Délégation du Canada  
auprès de l'OSCE

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR JOCELYN KINNEAR  
AT THE ANNUAL SECURITY REVIEW CONFERENCE  
RIGHT OF REPLY TO THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

**29 June 2022**

Mr. Chair,

The three statements we have heard from the Russian Federation over the course of this ASRC would be astounding if we weren't so inured at this point to hearing nothing but lies and distortions from the Russian delegation. Since 24 Feb, the Russian delegation has completely annihilated any credibility it had in this Council.

Our Russian colleague has claimed that Russia had no choice but to start this war. That is a ridiculous assertion. He claimed that Russia seeks dialogue. That is also a ridiculous assertion. The Polish Chair-in-Office put together, in response to specific questions raised by Russia, an elaborate dialogue mechanism for this council to discuss. On February 8th, we had a high-level conference where all participating states, mostly from capitals, weighed in and demonstrated their willingness to engage in that security dialogue. One participating state said they would not engage in a security dialogue. That was the Russian Federation.

That was on February 8th. And 16 days later, having rejected this dialogue and others, the Russian Federation invaded Ukraine. Those are the simple facts.

NATO did not attack Russia. Ukraine did not attack Russia. Nobody attacked Russia. Russia attacked Ukraine and is continuing to attack Ukraine, including massive attacks against Ukrainian civilians.

Our Russian colleague spoke of states helping to train Ukraine, he said, to "wage a war against Russia". And I suppose you could say that Ukraine is in a war against Russia -- a defensive war, defending its territory from a brutal invasion. But Ukraine was never preparing to attack Russia. For a year Russia built up its troops around Ukraine's borders, including in Belarus. And then, Russia attacked Ukraine. It seems that Ukraine, in preparing to defend itself, was doing some very wise strategic planning.

Our Russian colleague complained that “crude, and brutal language” has been used here by participating states. I would say that the language used is only appropriate. If it is crude and brutal, as you call it, that is because it is describing a crude and brutal war, comprised of crude and brutal attacks on civilians, that result in their crude and brutal deaths.

I agree with the Russian Ambassador that we need to find a way to live as neighbours. But the only way that can happen is if the Russian Federation stops invading its neighbours.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.