



Delegation of Canada
to the OSCE

Délégation du Canada
auprès de l'OSCE

**STATEMENT BY CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES DANIEL BARBARIE
ON THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION'S ONGOING AGRESSION AGAINST UKRAINE
1381st MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

7 July 2022

Mr. Chair,

Russia's unprovoked war of aggression in Ukraine has created a grave humanitarian crisis, with thousands of civilian casualties, and millions of refugees and internally displaced people. Russia's irresponsible and callous behavior also puts hundreds of millions at the brink of acute food insecurity by blocking Ukrainian exports through the Black Sea.

Russia's naval blockade is preventing Ukraine from delivering much needed food to the world's most vulnerable. Because of this naval blockade, Ukraine is only able to export approximately 15% of the volume of the commodities it used to export to countries in the Middle East, Asia, and Africa before the war.

Russia's illegal war of aggression on Ukraine is exacerbating global food insecurity, jeopardizing the health and wellbeing of hundreds of millions. The looming food crisis is the worst the world has faced in decades. It has the potential of deepening many existing conflicts and risks triggering new ones, destabilizing already fragile regions.

Mr. Chair,

Russia's naval blockade is preventing 85% of Ukrainian grain, fertilizers and sunflower oil from reaching the world market.

This is not only affecting the global supply chain, but it is also increasing food prices across the board. With high fuel prices, restricted access to fertilizers and pricy seeds, fewer farmers are able to sow, and yields will dwindle. Because of all these disruptions and uncertainties, many countries have started banning or limiting their exports of grain and fertilizers, further complicating an already dire situation.

To prevent full-blown famine in the world's most vulnerable regions, Canada is providing \$52 million CAD to Ukraine for agricultural solutions and \$250 million in emergency food assistance for the most vulnerable in Sub-Saharan Africa. Last week, the G7 nations committed an additional \$4.5 billion (USD) to protect the most vulnerable from hunger and malnutrition.

Mr. Chair,

Russia is not only blocking Ukrainian exports, it is also destroying agricultural infrastructure, targeting grain silos, preventing farmers from sowing or harvesting their crops by mining their fields, and intercepting and detaining exports by railways.

Russia has declared on multiple occasions that they are ready to help ease the food crisis in return for reduced Western sanctions. They are, in essence, weaponizing food for their military gains and with a reckless disregard for human life. They are using the lives of hundreds of millions as a bargaining chip. These are not the actions of a respectable member of the international community, one that asks for dialogue and peace negotiations. Instead, these are the actions of an irresponsible and ruthless regime that does not hesitate to endanger the lives of millions for its imperialistic ambitions. Such actions, have no place in today's world.

Furthermore, there is mounting evidence that Russia is stealing Ukrainian grain and shipping it for its own benefit, most probably to secure the loyalty of friendly states and to finance its war effort.

The grain is taken from occupied territories via hundreds of trucks to occupied Ukrainian ports every day in Luhansk and Crimea prior to being shipped abroad. Just a few days ago, Turkish customs detained a Russian-flagged cargo ship carrying thousands of tons of grain from occupied Berdyansk in the Black Sea. We salute Turkey's efforts in helping secure Ukraine's resources. We all need to work together to protect Ukraine's resources, and make sure they reach the global market as Ukrainian.

Mr. Chair,

Weaponizing food, plundering, using sexual violence as a weapon of war, and deliberately targeting civilians and civilian objects are not the actions of a regular army of a country bound by international laws and conventions. These behaviours are the actions of a rogue state, a state that is sanctioning lawlessness. This is unacceptable behavior of a participating State of the OSCE, and permanent member of the Security Council and the UN.

Thank you Mr. Chair.