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Delegation of Canada

**STATEMENT BY
AMBASSADOR VÉRONIQUE PEPIN-HALLÉ, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF CANADA TO THE OSCE, AT THE 1550th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

22 January 2026

The Russian Federation's ongoing aggression against Ukraine

Mr. Chairperson,

First of all, we should like to express our sincere condolences following the two tragic train collisions in Spain that claimed the lives of 43 people and left more than 150 injured. Our thoughts are with the victims, their families and all those affected by these terrible events.

In Ukraine, Russia continues to intensify its strikes against the country's energy infrastructure, hitting power plants and other critical facilities with sustained waves of missiles and drones. These strikes have plunged more than a million households in Kyiv into darkness. Elsewhere in Ukraine, including Sumy, Odesa, Dnipropetrovsk, Kharkiv, Chernihiv and other regions, millions of people have been left without electricity, heating and water during one of the harshest winters in recent years.

Even the Ukrainian Parliament has been forced to operate in the pitch dark owing to power cuts, highlighting the scale of the disruptions which are affecting core governance and basic public services. Under constant threat, emergency teams continue to work to restore services. The International Atomic Energy Agency has warned that attacks on nuclear power plant infrastructure are jeopardizing nuclear safety systems, further compounding the risks faced by civilians.

The Ukrainian Energy Minister reports that all the country's major power plants have been damaged by Russian strikes, putting a heavy strain on electricity generation capacity at a time when demand is at its wintertime peak. These actions, undertaken in the midst of a fierce winter, point to a strategy of escalation on the part of Russia, indifferent as it is to the suffering of civilians.

Mister Chair,

Ukraine today faces a form of aggression that combines conventional military force with economic pressure, cyber operations, and disinformation – all part of a coordinated effort to subjugate the Ukrainian state and its people.

As our Prime Minister noted this week in Davos, the world faces a rupture in international order. Great power rivalry risks putting many nations “on the menu”. Ukraine offers a vital lesson in this context. Under sustained assault, Ukraine demonstrates that even overwhelming force can be resisted. It shows how resilience can be built under immense pressure, and how partnerships and alliances can unite countries to impose limits on aggressive power projection. Supporting Ukraine is an investment in collective security and shared resilience for most of us in this room.

Canada remains steadfast in support of Ukraine’s right to self-defense, ensuring it can protect its sovereignty, its people, and its democratic future. This includes continued assistance to strengthen Ukraine’s energy infrastructure and address humanitarian needs in the face of ongoing attacks. Our commitment is now and in the long-term, and we will not be tired down.

Thank you, Mister Chair.