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Delegation of Canada

**STATEMENT BY
AMBASSADOR VÉRONIQUE PEPIN-HALLÉ, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF CANADA TO THE OSCE, AT THE 1545th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

11 December 2025

The Russian Federation's ongoing aggression against Ukraine

Mister Chair,

The past week has once again shown a familiar and devastating pattern in Ukraine: large-scale missile and drone strikes on civilian areas and energy infrastructure. Russia continues its assault with little regard for the human cost, pursuing a campaign that has brought immense loss of life, including to its own side.

We often hear distortion of reality in this hall, and as we try to address them we are accused of refusing to engage in an uneven, untrue dialogue. Instead, let's start with facts that bear repeating.

First, Ukraine did nothing to provoke this war and it has the inherent right to defend itself.

Second, Russia has no legal justification for occupying and attempting to annex any part of Ukrainian territory as defined by internationally accepted borders of 1991.

Third, Russia's war of aggression remains the sole source of instability across our shared security space.

Fourth, Ukraine has demonstrated, at every turn, its willingness to negotiate peace. Russia, the aggressor, has not, instead asking for further concessions, while making none of its own.

And finally, diplomats should operate within a factually-respectful, defined space. Falsehoods spread by some participating States reduce the space and capacity for real dialogue.

Mister Chair,

The operating fundamental principles of this Organisation remain unchanged: respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, human rights, and the rule of international law. These principles are intended to provide a basis for cooperation, offer a predictable framework for partnerships, and underpin credible collective security efforts. When they are upheld, states can work together with confidence; when they are

ignored our outcomes are more fragile. Upholding these principles will not be accomplished through rhetoric but through practical efforts to ensure durable security outcomes that people across our region will accept.

Mr. Chairperson,

Canada continues to support security in Ukraine and in the region. Let there be no doubt that this continent, for which Canadians have sacrificed their lives and to which they continue to contribute, remains a top priority.

At their most recent meeting, Prime Minister Mark Carney and President Volodymyr Zelenskyy discussed the developments in the ongoing peace talks and the leading role played by the United States of America. The Prime Minister underscored the need to keep up the pressure on Russia to negotiate in good faith while emphasizing Ukraine's central role in any diplomatic process. Reaffirming Canada's continued support for Ukraine's defence, he confirmed the recent contribution of 200 million dollars to the joint NATO programme "Prioritized Ukraine Requirements List" (PURL), which will provide Ukraine with the military capabilities necessary to defend itself.

The Prime Minister also reaffirmed Canada's commitment to working with its key partners to advance the peace negotiations. We continue to assist Ukraine by providing unwavering support and maintaining regular and close contact with our Ukrainian partners.

Canada stands firmly side by side with Ukraine.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.