



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

1563rd MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL

7 May 2026

Mister Chair,

Since the beginning of this week, at least 22 civilians have been reported killed across Ukraine because of Russian strikes, with the deadliest strikes hitting Kramatorsk, Zaporizhzhia, and Chernihiv.

Canada condemns strikes on civilians and civilian infrastructure, and our thoughts are with the victims, their families, and all those who continue to suffer daily in Ukraine because of Russia's ongoing aggression.

We stand with and continue to firmly support the people of Ukraine, including those in eastern regions who have endured over a decade of illegal, unprovoked and unjustifiable Russian occupation and war.

The heavy casualty tolls reinforce the devastating human cost of this war and the urgent need for it to end in a just and lasting peace. To that effect, we welcome President Zelenskyy's proposal for a ceasefire. It is regrettable that within hours, Russia launched a massive wave of strikes that continued well-past when the ceasefire was proposed to start.

Mister Chair,

Russia has consistently sought to manufacture ambiguity where international law is clear. It has invoked an array of attempted justifications, from security concerns and historical claims to narratives of protection, in efforts to recast unequivocal legal prohibitions as matters open to interpretation.

Yet the prohibition on the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state is unambiguous in the Charter of the United Nations.

We reiterate our unwavering support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders. These borders include Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia, Kherson, and Crimea.

We affirm Ukraine's inherent right to self-defence, as recognized by Article 51 of the UN Charter.

We reject any suggestions that calling out Russia's aggression, seeking accountability for its actions, or continuously raising this gross violation of international law is escalatory, or contrary to the pursuit of peace. We also reject allegations that international support for Ukraine continues to fuel the war.

The duration of this conflict is determined by Russia's choices, not by Ukraine's exercise of its right to self-defence, and not by the assistance provided by Ukraine's international partners. Russia continues to fuel its aggression by refusing to negotiate peace in good faith, even when diplomatic avenues are available.

Mister Chair,

We are not misled by Russia's attempts to reframe this war. We must call this aggression by its name. This is not a defensive war. The reality boils down to this: Russia unilaterally initiated a large-scale military aggression against a sovereign neighbour, in clear violation of international law. Russia can choose to end it.

Canada's support for Ukraine and its inherent right of self-defence has not wavered; it has deepened. Together with the sustained support of partners, it has saved lives, strengthened Ukraine's ability to defend its people and territory, and helped ensure that Russia pays a real price for its aggression. Where it matters most, solidarity with Ukraine remains firm, practical, and enduring.

And this support will continue, so Ukraine can prevail.

Thank you.