



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**

**1551<sup>st</sup> MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

**29 January 2026**

Monsieur le Président,

La Russie continue d'exercer des pressions sur l'Ukraine, par des frappes incessantes contre les infrastructures énergétiques essentielles. En plein hiver, ces frappes ont pour effet de perturber le chauffage, l'approvisionnement en eau et les services publics essentiels pour des millions de civils.

Alors même que les négociateurs ukrainiens, russes et américains s'apprêtaient à entamer une deuxième journée de pourparlers, ces frappes se poursuivaient, faisant des victimes. Plus récemment, les frappes par drone menées par la Russie contre un train de voyageurs dans la région de Kharkov soulignent encore davantage ce point. Nous condamnons ces frappes par drone.

L'attitude de Moscou souligne clairement que son engagement ne sera pas accompagné de retenue ou d'apaisement.

La Russie peut prétendre au sein de cette organisation que d'autres États savent les efforts visant à trouver une solution pacifique durable. Toutefois aucun pays ne sape mieux les perspectives de paix que la Russie elle-même.

Mister Chair,

For decades, Russia relied on deep integration within energy systems, trade routes, information networks, and security arrangements in its neighbourhood, presenting these interdependencies as mutually beneficial.

In Ukraine, Russia sought to leverage these interdependencies to justify interference and ultimately aggression.

Against this backdrop, Ukraine's response over the past several years has been resolute. Canada and the world are taking note on how Ukraine strengthened its own capacities and capabilities under impossibly challenging conditions. Canada, along with other partners, continues to deepen ties with Ukraine to further support its sovereignty and resilience. It is nothing short of remarkable how Ukraine has invested in interoperability, diversified its energy sources, reinforced cyber defence, and advanced institutional reforms as practical measures to reduce vulnerability to coercion and aggression. All while under constant attack.

Ukrainian actions, and coordinated efforts with its partners, have raised the cost of aggression. We cannot help but realize that the costs of this pursuit have weakened Russia's economic foundations and strained diplomatic relationships.

Mister Chair,

Sovereignty is not only defended in moments of crisis, but strengthened over time through deliberate, practical choices that reduce vulnerability and build long-term resilience.

The lesson from Ukraine is clear: security is reinforced through strong partnerships and coalitions, grounded in concrete cooperation.

In 2024, Canada and Ukraine signed an Agreement on Security Cooperation, encompassing defence and defence-industry collaboration. 27 other countries have signed such agreements, often with a 10-year term, providing long-term support for defence, intelligence sharing, and security.

This invites reflection on how peace-loving nations committed to the UN Charter can deepen cooperation, exchange lessons learned and align practical efforts to strengthen regional and collective security. There is considerable value in continued dialogue and cooperation among those confronting similar risks and challenges.

Canada remains steadfast in support of Ukraine's sovereignty, territorial integrity and fully supports its right to self-defense under the UN Charter.

Thank you.