



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

1543rd MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL

20 November 2025

Mister Chair,

Last week, Russia accused Canada of being too remote from the war in Ukraine and indifferent to the suffering of Ukrainians. Russia makes these claims not because they are credible. It makes them because it can't answer our legitimate concerns about its conduct in Ukraine, so it deflects and distracts.

It is striking for Russia to question the commitment of other states to upholding human rights obligations. This is the same state that initiated an unprovoked and unjustifiable invasion of a sovereign neighbour, unapologetically striking civilian infrastructure, and causing profound human suffering. Just yesterday, a Russian strike hit a residential building in Ternopil, resulting in the deaths of 26 people, including children, and injuring 93 people, 18 of them children. Canada condemns the strike on Ternopil and will continue to work with its international partners to hold Russia accountable for its actions against Ukrainian civilians.

This is sadly only one day in a conflict that has already spanned 1,365 deadly days. The toll of this war on civilians is devastating and represents a flagrant disregard for human life.

Canada's commitment to freedom and human rights is deeply rooted in our history. As is our connection to Europe and European security. Canadians have fought and died on this continent for these values, and we continue to honor that legacy by standing with Ukraine. Our support is grounded in respect for the choices Ukrainians themselves have made, through their votes, their voices, and, tragically, their sacrifices. Ukraine's future belongs to Ukrainians, and Canada stands firmly with them.

Russia has repeatedly sought to delegitimize Ukraine's choices and treat its sovereignty as optional. Yet Ukrainians have made it clear that they reject subjugation.

Monsieur le Président,

La plupart des pays de la région privilégient l'ouverture, le commerce, les partenariats solides et les relations de bon voisinage fondées sur le respect mutuel, et ce, dans le but d'assurer leur prospérité commune. Ils cherchent à investir dans leur population, à renforcer leur économie et à bâtir un avenir riche de promesses.

Le soutien du Canada à l'Ukraine est fondé sur ces principes durables. Dès les premières heures de l'invasion, nous avons fourni une aide militaire et humanitaire, imposé des sanctions à l'agresseur et offert un soutien diplomatique et politique. Notre approche renforce la souveraineté, la sécurité et les choix démocratiques de l'Ukraine.

En revanche, le modèle russe repose sur des décisions dictées par Moscou qui ne servent que ses propres intérêts et n'offrent rien d'attrayant à l'Ukraine ou à tout autre pays de notre région. Puis la Russie continue également de violer de manière foncièrement préoccupantes les normes diplomatiques que nous avons tous établies, ensemble.

En ce sens, la Russie continue de refuser de divulguer des informations sur les trois fonctionnaires de l'OSCE détenus arbitrairement, Dmytro Shabanov, Maksym Petrov et Vadym Golda. Leur détention est illégale et porte atteinte aux principes de cette organisation, et du droit international. Ils doivent être libérés immédiatement, et ce, sans condition.

Merci, Monsieur le Président.