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PC.DEL/463/26

14 May 2026

ENGLISH

Original: as delivered

Delegation of Canada

**STATEMENT BY
AMBASSADOR VÉRONIQUE PEPIN-HALLÉ, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF CANADA TO THE OSCE, AT THE 1564th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

14 May 2026

The Russian Federation's ongoing aggression against Ukraine

We deeply regret that the past few nights in Ukraine have seen massive drone attacks targeting civilians and civilian infrastructure. We call upon the Russian Federation to immediately cease its senseless and brutal attacks against a sovereign State.

Mr. Chairperson,

Since Russia's initial invasion of Ukraine in 2014, thousands of Ukrainian children have been illegally deported or forcibly transferred, and subjected to indoctrination and militarization by the authorities in Russia and in the temporarily occupied Ukrainian territories.

As co-chair of the International Coalition for the Return of Ukrainian Children, Canada is working closely with Ukraine, as well as with partner States and organizations, to put an end to these serious violations of international humanitarian law and human rights.

Launched in 2024, the Coalition now has 49 members. We welcome the Coalition's newest members, in particular those who are also OSCE participating States, notably Switzerland and Cyprus.

Earlier this week, Canada announced fresh sanctions targeting a further 23 individuals and five entities implicated in these violations against Ukrainian children. This announcement was made at the high-level meeting of the International Coalition for the Return of Ukrainian Children, held in Brussels on 11 May. We thank our co-organizers, the European Union and Ukraine, for their partnership.

The return of these children is both a humanitarian imperative and a key element in achieving a just and lasting peace in Ukraine.

Mister Chair,

Canada welcomes continued coordination among partners and invites colleagues to participate in the ministerial conference to be held in Toronto on September 28 and 29.

Building on the 2024 Ministerial Conference on the Human Dimension of Ukraine's 10-Point Peace Formula held in Montréal, the Toronto conference will focus on the return, rehabilitation, and reintegration of deported Ukrainian children, detained civilians and prisoners of war. It will provide an opportunity to take stock of progress under the Montreal Pledge, strengthen coordination among partners and identify practical next steps to support Ukraine's efforts.

Mr. Chair,

Accountability is essential.

This week, Canada was the first country outside Europe to sign the Convention establishing an International Claims Commission for Ukraine.

Canada also announced additional support totalling \$3.4 million to extend support for the Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine through the end of 2027. This support will help sustain vital human rights monitoring, reporting, and advocacy efforts, including with respect to the human impacts of Russian strikes on critical infrastructure and enforced displacement.

Finally, Mr. Chair,

We once again call on the Russian Federation to release immediately and unconditionally Vadym Golda, Maksym Petrov and Dmytro Shabanov.

Their detention is outside acceptable standards of responsible statecraft.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.