

The OSCE Secretariat bears no responsibility for the content of this document and circulates it without altering its content. The distribution by OSCE Conference Services of this document is without prejudice to OSCE decisions, as set out in documents agreed by OSCE participating States.

PC.DEL/734/26
16 July 2026

ENGLISH
Original: as delivered

Delegation of Canada

**STATEMENT BY
AMBASSADOR VÉRONIQUE PEPIN-HALLÉ, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF CANADA TO THE OSCE, AT THE 1569th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

25 June 2026

The Russian Federation's ongoing aggression against Ukraine

Mr. Chairperson,

Canada condemns, in the strongest possible terms, the Russian Federation's illegal, unprovoked and unjustifiable aggression against Ukraine, which has been ongoing since 2014 and constitutes a violation of international law and the Charter of the United Nations, while also contravening the principles set out in the Helsinki Final Act.

We reaffirm our unwavering support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders, and recognize the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the regions of Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson as an integral part of Ukraine.

The Russian Federation bears responsibility for launching this war of aggression and for its devastating consequences. The immense human suffering and civilian casualties resulting from the war, including in Russia itself, are a direct consequence of this unilateral decision.

Mister Chair,

We call upon the Russian Federation to immediately and unconditionally release the unlawfully detained officials of the OSCE, Vadym Golda, Maksym Petrov and Dmytro Shabanov, and request the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office and Secretary General to prioritize their release.

Mister Chair,

We express grave concern about the persisting nuclear safety and security crisis in Ukraine resulting directly from Russia's actions. The best way to ensure the long-term safety of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant is for it to be returned to the competent Ukrainian authorities in line with repeated IAEA Board and General Conference resolutions.

We will continue to impose and strengthen restrictive measures, in coordination with our partners, to increase pressure on the Russian Federation and those enabling its aggression. Last week, we imposed new

sanctions targeting Russia's shadow fleet, energy revenues, defence-industrial complex, and disinformation actors, targeting 162 assets of the Russian war machine.

We reaffirm our steadfast support for the security of our Allies subject to the Russian Federation's destabilizing and escalatory actions, including hybrid threats and other malign activities, and reiterate our commitment to collective defence and transatlantic security through NATO, recalling that NATO is a defensive Alliance

Finally, Mr. Chair,

We call upon the Russian Federation to cease its aggression immediately, to withdraw all its armed forces, proxies and military equipment from the internationally recognized territory of Ukraine, and to engage in good-faith diplomatic efforts consistent with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law.