

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/739/26
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 1572nd MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

9 July 2026

The Russian Federation's ongoing aggression against Ukraine

Mr. Chairperson,

On 7 June, following a meeting with his Ukrainian counterpart, the Prime Minister of Canada announced military aid worth over 900 million dollars as part of a 2.8 billion dollar commitment to support Ukraine's defence.

He also highlighted the decision taken earlier this year to extend Operation UNIFIER – Canada's training and capacity-building mission in Ukraine – until 2029.

The leaders discussed strengthening industrial partnerships in the defence sector. We thank Ukraine for its support for the Defence, Security and Resilience Bank promoted by Canada, and we also welcome the decision by the following countries to back this initiative: Albania, Belgium, Greece, Latvia, Luxembourg, Romania and Türkiye.

Prime Minister Carney reaffirmed Canada's support for Ukraine's reconstruction and highlighted the ongoing efforts to ensure that the perpetrators are held accountable for their actions, notably through sanctions.

Mister Chair,

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, the Charter of the United Nations, and runs counter to the Helsinki Final Act.

We affirm Ukraine's right of self-defence, as enshrined in Article 51 of the UN Charter, and remain committed to supporting Ukraine in exercising this right through appropriate assistance, including military assistance and training through Operation UNIFIER.

The Russian Federation is responsible for starting this war of aggression and for its devastating consequences. The immense human suffering and civilian casualties, including in Russia, are a direct result of this unilateral decision.

We remain committed to ensuring accountability for the crime of aggression and other violations of international law committed by the Russian Federation, and to supporting relevant international investigative and judicial mechanisms in doing so.

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.

Mr. Chair,

We reiterate the following calls 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.

To release all unlawfully detained civilians and to ensure the safe return of thousands of Ukrainian children unlawfully deported or forcibly transferred from Ukraine or within its temporarily occupied territories.

And finally, 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.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.