

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/804/26/Rev.1
3 August 2026

ENGLISH
Original: as delivered

Delegation of Canada

**STATEMENT BY
AMBASSADOR VÉRONIQUE PEPIN-HALLÉ, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF CANADA TO THE OSCE, AT THE 1575th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

30 July 2026

The Russian Federation's ongoing aggression against Ukraine

Mr. Chair,

As this is my first time taking the floor, I would like to express Canada's sincere condolences to all victims of the devastating earthquake that struck Japan earlier this week.

Canada also stands in solidarity with Germany following the tragic incident at Berlin's Christopher Street Day celebrations. Our thoughts are with all those affected.

Mr. Chair,

We continue to see a concerning pattern of escalation in terms of Russia's aggression against Ukraine, and the negative impact it is having on the broader OSCE region.

In the first half of this year, Russia's attacks on Ukraine have resulted in some of the highest civilian casualty rates since 2022. Last night, Russian strikes, including on Kyiv, Lviv, and Krivyi Rih, have reportedly resulted in civilian casualties.

In parallel, Russia's aggression is also having increasingly negative consequences for its neighbours.

Russian strikes over the weekend in Sloviansk injured and killed civilians and destroyed homes and infrastructure, including Latvia's Honorary Consulate. Canada condemns these strikes and offers its condolences to the families of those killed.

During the massive Russian missile and drone strikes on Ukraine last night, there was reportedly violation of Polish airspace.

Canada also stands in solidarity with Romania in the face of the repeated and unacceptable violations of its airspace in recent days.

Canada condemns these reckless airspace violations, which are a direct result of Russia's actions.

We reaffirm our steadfast support for the security of Romania, Latvia, Poland, and for all of our Allies subject to the Russian Federation's destabilizing and escalatory actions.

Mr. Chair,

It is clear that Russia's aggression is having an increasing impact on partners across our region, as we also heard last week from Kazakhstan. In that context Canada welcomes President Tokayev's efforts to encourage diplomatic dialogue to end the war.

In light of these developments, we reiterate our call on Russia to commit to an immediate and unconditional ceasefire, and to sincerely engage in negotiations towards a just and lasting peace.

Ukraine has committed to such a step, which would help move towards a better security situation for our entire region.

Mr. Chairperson,

Last week, I had the privilege of joining you and several other of my fellow ambassadors on a solidarity visit to Ukraine. This visit enabled us to see for ourselves the all too real consequences of Russia's war of aggression, but also the remarkable strength of the Ukrainian people.

What struck me the most on this trip was the determination of the Ukrainian people, who, despite the war, are already planning Ukraine's future.

During this visit, Ukraine demonstrated that true resilience is not just about enduring the war, but also about preparing for the reconstruction that will follow. While Ukraine is currently experiencing the horror inflicted by Russia, Ukrainians are investing in long-term democratic and social resilience, strengthening their institutions, rebuilding their communities, seeking justice and laying the foundations for a lasting peace.

This visit confirmed that the OSCE is playing a significant role in Ukraine and highlighted the value of effective, action-oriented multilateralism. We support the efforts of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office to ensure that the OSCE remains capable of making a difference on the ground in Ukraine, both now and in the future.

Mr. Chairperson,

As far as Canada is concerned, supporting Ukraine means defending its sovereignty, its democratic institutions and the values that we share. I left Ukraine deeply inspired by the courage of its people, impressed by their resilience, and more convinced than ever that our support must remain unwavering.

In closing, I should also like to reiterate the following appeal to the Russian Federation – which I issued alongside my fellow ambassadors in Kyiv last week – calling upon it to immediately and unconditionally release the illegally detained OSCE representatives Vadym Goida, Maksym Petrov and Dmytro Shabanov.