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Delegation of Canada

**STATEMENT BY
AMBASSADOR VÉRONIQUE PEPIN-HALLÉ, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF CANADA TO THE OSCE, AT THE 1577th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

17 September 2026

The Russian Federation's ongoing aggression against Ukraine

Mr. Chairperson,

Last week, the Canadian Prime Minister, Mark Carney, welcomed the Ukrainian President, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, to Canada to mark the start of a new chapter in the already close and warm relationship between Canada and Ukraine.

On this occasion, the leaders signed two declarations laying the foundations for a strategic partnership for generations to come.

- The Canada-Ukraine Declaration for a 100-Year Partnership, which will focus on defence innovation and co-operation, economic growth, trade and reconstruction, and people-to-people ties;
- The Joint Declaration on Enhancement of the Defence and Security Co-operation between Ukraine and Canada.

The leaders committed to finalizing this strategic partnership agreement by December 2026 and announced a series of practical initiatives that are in keeping with this long-term vision, including:

- Approximately 350 million dollars allocated by Canada for the delivery of critical air defence interceptors through the Joint Ukraine Multinational Program – Services, Training and Articles Rapid Timeline (JUMPSTART);
- Nearly 23 million dollars allocated by Canada to help in detecting and preventing hybrid threats.

Prime Minister Carney and President Zelenskyy also emphasized the importance of bolstering Ukraine's energy resilience as another winter approaches, which is likely to be a particularly challenging one for Ukrainian civilians.

To this end, Canada has announced several measures, including loans, funding packages and contributions, to the tune of more than 645 million dollars for the purchase of gas and backup generators, for the reconstruction of critical infrastructure, and other forms of support for the energy sector.

At the same time, a Canada-Ukraine initiative on critical minerals was announced, which will promote joint research, boost Ukraine's economic reconstruction and help to develop its critical mineral production capacity.

However, the partnership between Canada and Ukraine also takes into account the far-reaching human and social repercussions of Russia's aggression. Canada remains mindful of the heavy burden this war is placing on citizens, families and communities across Ukraine.

It is in this spirit that Canada will lead the design of an initiative aimed at supporting Ukrainian veterans and their families, as part of the implementation of a national Ukrainian strategy in this area. Our support will consist of funding of up to 40.1 million dollars.

We call upon all our partners to get involved.

Meanwhile, thousands of Ukrainian children remain separated from their families and communities after having been unlawfully deported or forcibly transferred by Russia.

Accordingly, Canada has announced up to 6 million dollars to support Ukraine's efforts to bring these children home and reintegrate them; and the implementation of new sanctions against eight individuals involved in the violation of Ukrainian children's rights.

I should also like to take this opportunity to remind you of the Second International Conference on Returning Ukrainian Children, Detained Civilians, and Prisoners of War, which will take place in Toronto on 28 and 29 September 2026.

We look forward to extending a Canadian welcome to your Foreign Ministers and your high-ranking representatives.

Mister Chair,

Let me reiterate Canada's condemnation, in the strongest possible terms, of 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.

The Russian Federation is responsible for starting this war of aggression and for its devastating consequences.

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.