



Delegation of Canada
to the OSCE

Délégation du Canada
auprès de l'OSCE

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR VÉRONIQUE PEPIN-HALLÉ
UNDER AGENDA ITEM:**

The Russian Federation's ongoing aggression against Ukraine

1578th MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL

24 September 2026

Mister Chair,

Canada rejects the results of the unlawful elections it held in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine from September 18 to 20, 2026. They were conducted in violation of international law. These actions are an attempt to legitimize Russia's illegal occupation, which we do not recognize and will never recognize.

Canada reaffirms its unwavering support for Ukraine's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity. We will continue to work with our Allies and partners to maintain pressure on Russia, uphold the UN Charter and international law, and support Ukraine in achieving a just and lasting peace.

Mister Chair,

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 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.

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.

Monsieur le Président

Nous réitérons les demandes suivantes à l'égard de la Fédération de Russie :

- De libérer immédiatement et sans condition les fonctionnaires de l'OSCE détenus illégalement, soit Vadym Golda, Maksym Petrov et Dmytro Shabanov, et demandons à la Présidence en exercice et au Secrétaire général de l'OSCE de faire de leur libération une priorité.
- De libérer tous les civils détenus illégalement et d'assurer le retour en toute sécurité des milliers d'enfants ukrainiens déportés illégalement ou transférés de force hors de l'Ukraine ou à l'intérieur de ses territoires temporairement occupés.
- Enfin, de mettre fin immédiatement à son agression, de retirer l'ensemble de ses forces armées, de ses mandataires et de son matériel militaire du territoire de l'Ukraine reconnu internationalement, et de s'engager de bonne foi dans des efforts diplomatiques conformes aux principes de la Charte des Nations Unies et du droit international.

Je vous remercie, Monsieur le Président.