



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

1581st MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL

15 October 2026

Mr. Chair,

We meet this morning after another week of a devastating strikes on civilian energy infrastructure and residential buildings in Ukraine, resulting in a tragic human toll.

As Prime Minister Carney conveyed in his recent call with President Zelenskyy, we offer our condolences for the victims of Russia's latest strikes and reaffirm Canada's unwavering support for Ukraine.

In our statement last week, we drew attention to numerous cases where independent bodies, including the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine, assessed that Russia had demonstrated a quote "pattern of disregard" for the requirement to minimize civilian harm.

The pace and scale at which Russia continues its strikes makes it challenging to have timely, independent assessments of incidents as they happen, but one thing is undeniably clear: Russia's so-called "special military operation" continues killing and maiming civilians and continues to destroy civilian infrastructure in Ukraine at an escalatory and unacceptable scale.

Amid all of this destruction, which stems exclusively from Russia's decision to launch its unprovoked full-scale invasion of Ukraine, it is clear which party is sincere about seeking peace, and which party is intent on waging more devastation to achieve the goals it has not been able to reach in over four years of aggression and occupation of Ukraine's internationally recognized territory.

Earlier this week, President Trump announced a temporary energy ceasefire. Ukraine accepted it immediately. Russia did not. Russia affirms that it will not accept any ceasefires, claiming that they will just allow Ukraine to regroup, or, as Foreign Minister Lavrov stated earlier this week when speaking about President Zelenskyy "I don't think he deserves a respite".

Mr. Chair, let's look at what's at stake here. An energy ceasefire will allow Ukraine to protect and shore up its energy infrastructure in order to ensure that civilians have access to lifesaving heat and other services essential to civilian life in the coming winter. An energy ceasefire for Russia means respite for its oil refineries and its ability to generate funds for the war machine it is unleashing on Ukraine.

Mr. Chair,

Canada supports all efforts to achieve a just and last peace.

Prime Minister Carney spoke with President Trump last weekend and thanked him for his leadership toward securing an energy ceasefire between Ukraine and Russia. He expressed Canada's strong support for this agreement and reiterated President Zelenskyy's call for Russia to uphold it. When they spoke this weekend, my Prime Minister and President Zelenskyy underscored the urgent need for Russia to immediately cease its strikes on Ukraine's civilian energy infrastructure.

Canada reiterates its call on Russia to end its aggression, withdraw its forces and military equipment from Ukraine's internationally recognized territory, and return to compliance with the UN Charter and the Helsinki Final Act.