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STATEMENT ON THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION'S ONGOING AGGRESSION AGAINST UKRAINE

As delivered by Ambassador Ellen Svendsen at the 1584rd Permanent Council, Vienna, 5 November 2026.

Mr Chair,

Norway aligns with the statement delivered by the EU, but please allow me to make a few remarks in my national capacity.

This will be the fifth winter since the full-scale invasion, and for the fifth time Ukraine's power grid remains on the front line of Russia's war.

This week, Russia launched one of its largest attacks on Ukrainian energy infrastructure so far this year. Ten regions. Power plants, substations, heating plants, as well as drones launched against a substation that keeps a nuclear power station supplied.

Last week, a corridor opened into Oleshky. Days later, bombs fell on a school in Komyshuvakha in the Zaporizhzhia region, which was being used as a shelter and a humanitarian aid distribution center for the local population. So far, more than thirty people are confirmed killed in this double tap attack, making it one of the deadliest attacks of this war. First against people gathered to receive aid, and then against rescue services as they arrived.

The attack is part of a broader pattern of intensified Russian attacks against Ukraine. The facts are known to this room. The sequence is what matters.

For five days, Russia demonstrated that aid can reach civilians in occupied Ukraine. Routes can be cleared. Convoys can pass. People can leave.

The question before this Council is therefore not whether access is possible. The question is why it remains an exception.

Norway's largest civilian contribution to Ukraine is energy. Our energy minister was in Kyiv last week with a further allocation of support for the weeks ahead.

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Mr Chair,

Norway stands with Ukraine, for a just and lasting peace in accordance with international law, including the UN Charter.

Peace talks resume next week. Russia must demonstrate through its actions that it is engaging sincerely in ongoing negotiations and is genuinely committed to peace.

Thank you, Mr Chair.