



Delegation of Canada
to the OSCE

Délégation du Canada
auprès de l'OSCE

**STATEMENT BY ESTHER VAN NES, CHARGÉE D'AFFAIRES
UNDER AGENDA ITEM:**

The Russian Federation's ongoing aggression against Ukraine

1533rd MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL

11 September 2025

After three and a half years of aggression, there is little that Russia has spared. If anyone still doubted that Russia's intent is more war, the summer of 2025 should put those doubts to rest.

This summer marked one of the darkest periods since Russia launched its illegal, unprovoked and unjustifiable full-scale aggression against Ukraine. It escalated attacks against Ukraine with relentless bombardment far beyond the front lines. July saw the highest number of civilian casualties in a single month since May 2022 as Russian drones and missiles struck civilian-populated cities and towns across Ukraine. August brought no reprieve.

This month, Russia intensified its ground offensive and continued to escalate attacks which have killed and injured civilians across Ukraine.

Just this Tuesday, as we were meeting in the Special Permanent Council, a Russian strike killed 24 civilians and injured 19 more. Most of the dead were elderly Ukrainians waiting to collect their pensions. This is not a war against an army. It is war against the heart of Ukraine's resilience: its people, and especially its most vulnerable.

Russia's actions are all the more shocking when viewed against the backdrop of diplomatic efforts to end this war. Many around this table are working tirelessly to open the door to dialogue, but Russia has repeatedly slammed that door shut offering instead escalation and provocation.

This was exemplified overnight on September 9, when Russian drones recklessly violated Polish airspace.

Ukraine's resilience in the face of the devastation of this war is extraordinary, but resilience comes with a cost: civilian infrastructure destroyed, mental anguish and trauma, and the loss of family members and loved ones. No one wants peace more than Ukraine.

That is why our response must remain firm. Canada will maintain pressure on Russia to end its aggression through sanctions and other means. This summer, Canada joined the UK and EU to further reduce the price cap on Russian seaborne crude oil from 60 dollars to 47.60 dollars per barrel, cutting into the revenues that fuel Russia's aggression to further pressure them to stop. Canada also remains resolute in our support for Ukraine, and we are prepared to contribute further, including through the Coalition of the Willing.

Mister Chair,

Given yesterday's events in Poland, it is even more apparent that what is urgently needed is not to open more fronts to this war, but to secure an immediate cessation of hostilities that will lay the foundations for a just and lasting peace for Ukraine.

Our region needs peace restored. Russia must respect international law and abide by its OSCE commitments.

Finally, Mr. Chair,

Three OSCE officials, Dymytro Shabanov, Maksym Petrov and Vadym Golda remain arbitrarily detained by the Russian Federation where they are subject to deplorable conditions and lack access to basic, necessary medical care. We continue to call on Russia to release them without delay, and to unconditionally and immediately release all unlawfully detained civilians.

Thank you, Mister Chair.