



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

1537th SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL

9 October 2025

Mr. Chair,

On October 5, once again, Russia launched a large assault on Ukraine, firing over 500 drones and 50 missiles across nine Ukrainian regions, including Lviv, Zaporizhzhia, and Sumy. The strikes killed at least five civilians, including a 15-year-old girl, and injured dozens more.

In Sumy, a Russian drone struck a passenger train at the Shostka railway station, injuring at least 30 people, including passengers and railway staff. A second drone reportedly hit the same area in a double-tap strike as emergency services were responding to the attack, a barbaric tactic Russia developed in Syria and Yemen.

The strike in Sumy struck a maternity hospital; one of more than 81 such facilities reportedly targeted by Russia since 2022. It is impossible to reconcile Moscow's claims of legitimate military action with the relentless assaults on civilians: newborns and pregnant women, pensioners, and children suffering from cancer. This pattern of destruction speaks for itself as a profound violation of international law, to say nothing of the chilling lack of humanity.

Canada condemns Russia's large-scale missile and drone attacks across Ukraine. The OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) has described the strike on Sumy as a blatant violation of international humanitarian law.

Russia's actions in Ukraine continue to demonstrate a disregard for international law and for the fundamental principles of the OSCE.

Mr. Chair,

We regret the continued absence of any credible indication that the Russian Federation is prepared to pursue a peaceful or diplomatic resolution. On the contrary, its actions demonstrate a deliberate choice to prolong and expand the very war it began.

After nearly three years of conflict, Russia's record in Ukraine is defined by widespread violations of international law, immense civilian suffering, and a devastating loss of life -- both in Ukraine and within Russia itself.

A state that once helped to shape post-war peace in Europe now undermines the very order it helped to create. Internationally, Russia has turned away from partnership and cooperation, choosing instead to align itself ever more closely with rogue regimes such as North Korea, Iran, and the Taliban.

In doing so, it has reduced itself, as one prominent Russian critic in exile has observed, to “China’s gas station.”

By persisting in this path, Russia is trapping itself in a perpetuating cycle of war, as its pursuit of so-called greatness and power has only increased its isolation and dependence on other States to fuel its aggression.

Mr. Chair,

Canada stands in firm solidarity with Ukraine. We reaffirm our unwavering support for Ukraine’s sovereignty, territorial integrity, and right to self-defence. Our commitment will continue for as long as Ukraine needs it.

We also reiterate our urgent call for the immediate release of the three Ukrainian OSCE officials—Vadym Golda, Maksym Petrov, and Dmytro Shabanov—civilians, who remain arbitrarily detained by Russia. These individuals were performing duties under an OSCE mandate endorsed by all participating States, including the Russian Federation.

The protection of the OSCE’s personnel must be upheld without exception.

Vadym, Maksym, and Dmytro—you are not forgotten. Canada will continue to call for your release until you are free.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.