



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

1511th MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL

6 March 2025

Mister Chair,

President Putin cannot be trusted to keep his word, as he has demonstrated time and again that he will break any agreements.

Under his leadership, the Russian Federation violates international law, international humanitarian law, global norms, and moral standards in its war of aggression against Ukraine.

His unsuitability as a partner for peace needs no further explanation. He is a lying, murderous dictator who invaded his peaceful neighbour under the pretext of a fabricated threat, in clear violation of international law.

There is no equivalency between Russia and Ukraine; Russia is the aggressor, and Ukraine is the victim of Russia's aggression.

Canada is under no illusion about Russia's so-called desire for peace, just as we are under no illusion about the importance of a strong and secure Ukraine for peace to prevail on this continent, in our region, and the world.

We therefore remain committed, steadfast, and principled in supporting Ukraine's defence. Strengthening security and stability in Ukraine and the Euro-Atlantic region remains a top priority for Canada, including as part of our G7 Presidency this year.

We have announced new sanctions against 10 individuals and 21 entities to help counter Russia's reliance on third-party organizations and countries to advance its political and military objectives in Ukraine.

It is equally important for us to hold Russia accountable for its violations of the UN Charter and international law, including war crimes, crimes against humanity, and the illegal deportation of Ukrainian children. We will continue doing so, including in this forum.

We remain committed to ensuring Ukraine is in a position of strength. Any peaceful end to the war must include Ukraine at the negotiating table. Any peace deal should include robust security guarantees to prevent further aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine, and serve as a deterrent against not only its expansionist ambitions elsewhere in the region, but as a signal to others considering similar actions elsewhere.

Maintaining respect for international law, the UN Charter, and the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity and supporting the order on which it is built, is a matter of utmost necessity, if not survival, for most of us in this room.

Monsieur le Président,

La guerre d'agression brutale de la Russie contre l'Ukraine a eu un impact dévastateur sur les femmes ukrainiennes. Plus de 1,8 million de femmes ont fui leur foyer et près de 6,7 millions ont besoin d'une aide humanitaire.

Près de 3 800 femmes et près de 300 filles ont été tuées, et le nombre réel est probablement beaucoup plus élevé.

Elles sont confrontées à une exposition accrue à la violence sexuelle, aux charges domestiques et à de graves problèmes de santé mentale.

Depuis l'agression, la violence sexuelle a augmenté de 36 %. Les opportunités économiques pour les femmes ont diminué; moins de la moitié des femmes déplacées avaient un emploi, tandis que l'écart de rémunération entre les hommes et les femmes a doublé.

Sans parler des responsabilités familiales non rémunérées, des accouchements dans des abris souterrains et de l'éducation des enfants dans des bunkers.

Nous rendons hommage à leur détermination, à leur courage et à leur résilience.

Enfin, nous tenons à rendre hommage aux femmes fortes et compétentes qui sont en première ligne de la réponse diplomatique à l'agression de la Russie. Viktoria Kuvshynnykova, Olesia Tsymbaliuk, Yana Boiko, Karina Lanchuk, Tetiana Kilnitska et Natalia Kostenko, votre professionnalisme et votre force sont une source d'inspiration. L'Ukraine a de la chance d'avoir de tels leaders.

Merci, Monsieur le Président.