



Delegation of Canada
to the OSCE

Délégation du Canada
auprès de l'OSCE

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR JOCELYN KINNEAR
IN RESPONSE TO THE PROJECT COORDINATOR IN UKRAINE
1379 MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL
June 23rd, 2022**

Mr. Chairperson,

I would like to express Canada's sincere thanks to you and your team for all your efforts to extend the mandate of the Project Coordinator in Ukraine (PCU), and I would like to thank you, Ambassador Villadsen, for your compelling presentation on the invaluable work that your staff has done, and on the current realities you have seen first-hand in Ukraine as a result of Russia's war of aggression. We regret that one isolated participating State, Russia, is obstructing the extension of the mandate of the PCU, which has a successful 23-year-long history of supporting the Government of Ukraine in implementing its OSCE commitments. It is not for an aggressor state to determine whether a field mission provides value, particularly if the host government supports its continuation. It is simply not acceptable that an aggressor state – one that has been ruthless in its mission to destroy Ukraine's institutions, culture, and identity – can block an OSCE field mission. We, like almost all participating States at this table, support the OSCE's continued programming in Ukraine under whatever modalities and framework will allow it to do so, as long as it is welcomed by the Government of Ukraine.

Ambassador Villadsen,

We continue to value the ongoing programming of the PCU in support of the Government of Ukraine in reforming its institutions and in increasing the capacity of its civil servants. The PCU's program has consistently supported Ukraine's commitment to democracy, human rights, and the rule of law. We also commend the PCU's programs that are already addressing the profound challenges created by Russia's war against Ukraine, such as psycho-social rehabilitation of veterans, raising awareness of the risks of human trafficking, and support for environmental rehabilitation, among many others. At the Security Committee, we recently heard from the PCU on the work that it has done to support Ukraine in strengthening its border management, and I would ask you to convey my thanks again to your colleague Mr. Yurtsaba for his excellent presentation.

Mr. Chair,

Once again, Russia has chosen not to use the OSCE's capable offices to engage in genuine efforts for dialogue. Instead, it has chosen an unprovoked, unjustifiable, and brutal war of aggression against Ukraine and its people. It is this invasion of Ukraine by Russia, planned and prepared over many months, and possibly years, which has resulted in the forced closure of the Border Observation Mission, the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, and, we fear, soon the Program Coordinator in Ukraine. This is all done through Russia's flagrant and wanton abuse of what we call the OSCE's consensus principle – a principle that was intended to foster compromise and progress, and that is now being used for regression and degradation by Russia, an aggressor state that is waging active war against the host country. This is immoral and unacceptable. I can only agree with the words of the EU that Russia seems steadfastly committed to dismantling all the tools of the OSCE toolbox.

Let me conclude by expressing Canada's fullest support and appreciation for the PCU's staff, both international and national, and their families, who continue to face the threats of Russian missiles and bombs. On behalf of Canada, I would like to thank all staff, past and present, for their valiant and important efforts over the past twenty-three years – as you said, they represent all that is best about the organization that they have served and the country that they work to support. We believe that your experience and expertise are critical to Ukraine's future.

Thank you Mr. Chair.