



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**

**1512<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

**13 March 2025**

Mister Chair,

It is said that actions speak louder than words.

In this regard, we welcome the news of negotiations between Ukraine and the United States, including a proposed temporary ceasefire and the resumption of U.S. intelligence sharing and security assistance to Ukraine. A ceasefire could be – must be – the first step toward a just and lasting peace. With this agreement, Ukraine has once again shown its desire to end the war as soon as possible, and its commitment to being a constructive partner in the pursuit of lasting peace.

It has been reported that Russia also wants peace. Let us look at Russia's actions in Ukraine, just in the last week.

On 7 March, the day after we last met, the Russian Federation launched a major aerial attack against Ukraine, which president Zelenskyy said was “directed against infrastructure that ensures normal life”. The attack damaged energy and gas infrastructure across different regions in Ukraine.

According to Ukraine's largest private energy company DTEK, this attack damaged its sixth energy facility in Odesa, following four nights in a row of targeting its infrastructure. Two and a half thousand residents were left without electricity.

In Dobropillia [do-bro-PEE-lee-ya], Russia targeted civilian infrastructure, which resulted in the death of 11 people and injury to at least 30, including 5 children. According to Ukraine, after a short pause, Russia then targeted the rescue workers in a double-tap strike.

In Ternopil, Russia reportedly hit gas infrastructure, while in Kharkhiv and Poltava, residential buildings were damaged, and civilians injured.

Russia reportedly launched 119 drones at Ukraine on the night of March 9. President Zelenskyy said that 1,200 guided aerial bombs, almost 870 drones and more than 80 missiles targeted Ukraine last week.

The following day, on 10 March, Russia's airstrikes damaged civilian infrastructure in a village east of the city of Zaporizhzhia, resulting in at least two civilians being injured.

On March 11, at night, Russian troops struck Odesa again, resulting in damage to fuel tanks, a private house, and a warehouse with children's toys. The same day, a Russian missile struck a grain vessel, again in Odesa, carrying 30,000 tons of grain destined for Algeria. The attack killed four people and injured two others.

Russian shelling in the Donetsk region killed two children, aged 11 and 13 years old, on March 11.

Yesterday, a series of explosions in Kryvyi Rih resulted in the death of a civilian who was riding a trolley bus near the site of the attack, and at least nine wounded.

Last night, Ukrainian officials reported massive shelling of Kherson, resulting in the death of a civilian and forcing a drop in gas supply pressure in the area. Another civilian sitting in his car was reportedly attacked by a Russian drone.

Mister Chair,

Are these actions consistent with a desire for peace or a desire for more war?

Let us remember that Russia started this unprovoked, unjustifiable and illegal aggression against Ukraine. Ukraine is only defending itself, as all of us in this room would naturally do. Russia is responsible for the death and destruction that has resulted in Ukraine, and for that matter, in Russia proper.

If Russia wants peace in its neighbourhood, and peace at home, it can end the war *it* started.

Monsieur le Président,

Hier, la ministre Joly a ouvert la réunion des ministres des Affaires étrangères du G7, à Charlevoix, au Québec, qui se tiendra jusqu'à demain. La réunion des ministres des Affaires étrangères du G7 comprendra des discussions sur le soutien continu à l'Ukraine.

Nous continuerons à travailler avec constance et selon les principes du respect du droit international et de la Charte des Nations-Unies en faveur d'une région euro-atlantique forte et stable, y compris en Ukraine et dans le cadre de notre présidence du G7.

Enfin, Monsieur le Président,

Nous prenons note de la récente visite du Secrétaire général à Moscou, au cours de laquelle il a évoqué avec les autorités russes la détention illégale des trois fonctionnaires de l'OSCE Maksym Petrov, Dmytro Shabanov et Vadym Golda. Nous demandons à la Fédération de Russie de répondre à l'appel de l'OSCE en favorisant leur libération immédiate.

Merci.