



Delegation of Canada
to the OSCE

Délégation du Canada
auprès de l'OSCE

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR JOCELYN KINNEAR
ON THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION'S ONGOING AGGRESSION AGAINST UKRAINE
1402nd MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

15 December 2022

Mr. Chair,

The Russian delegation has tried, over the course of 2022, to remove emotions from their conflict narrative in a bid to shield the inhumanity of President Putin's actions. We should not be deterred, however, by accusations of being "emotional", as these emotions stem from a natural and important human empathy for Ukrainians who are defending with their lives against President Putin's brutal imperialist war. A response without emotions would be inhuman and nonsensical.

There have been a number of emotions that many of us have felt in response to events over the past year and I would like to try to reflect on them:

When the bombs started falling on Ukrainian cities and Russian troops poured into its countryside, we were *stunned* that Russia had indeed resorted to the use of force against its neighbour, and we were *frightened* about the extent of damage that was about to be wrought on its people.

While we were *heartened* and *inspired* by Ukrainians' successful defence of Kyiv, we have been *heartbroken* by the number of innocent people killed by Russia's armed forces.

We were *appalled* by the annihilating attacks on Mariupol and by the continued targeting of civilian centres by Russian missiles.

We have been *devastated* by each report of Ukrainian children killed by Russia's "Special Military Operation". And we have been *profoundly disturbed* by the wanton destruction of Ukrainian hospitals and 3500 schools and kindergartens.

We have been *shocked* by Putin's audacity to have his troops attack nuclear power facilities and threaten the use of nuclear weapons. We have been *afraid* of the potential consequences, not just for Ukraine, but for the region and the world.

We were *sickened* by the evidence of atrocities found in Bucha and Irpin. We are *appalled* and *profoundly saddened* by Russia's egregious human rights violations, including torture, as part of its filtration activities

We are *horrified* by Russia's structural use of rape and sexual and gender-based violence as tactics of war and other serious violations of international humanitarian law. But we are *resolute* that Russia will be held responsible for its atrocities and suspected war crimes and we are *dedicated* to ensuring justice for the actions of Putin's regime.

We were *bewildered* by Putin's decision to call a mass mobilization of Russians to be used as cannon fodder in Vagner's ineffective attempts to take Bakhmut, and we felt *revolted* to see Russia use barrier troops to force its *demotivated* troops to stay at the front.

We were *angered* by sham referenda that attempted to fake legitimacy for President Putin's imperial conquest. And we in this Council have grown *frustrated* by Russia's continuous propaganda to distract, deceive, dismiss, and distort the reality of its war against Ukraine's civilian population.

We were *gravely dismayed* that Russia again tried to weaponise grain and food security, and we *abhor* its use of energy as a weapon, and its attempts to freeze Ukrainians and other Europeans through destroying critical energy infrastructure. At the same time, we have been *buoyed* by the warm reception of Ukrainian refugees and the *love* shown towards these strangers in need.

Mr. Chair,

In the context of Putin's abhorrent and profoundly destructive actions, we are *encouraged* by the extent of Russia's isolation from the international community, exemplified by overwhelming majorities in the UN General Assembly, and the harmony of voices in the OSCE Permanent and Ministerial Councils calling on Russia to abide by international law. *Empathy* for Ukraine's unjust plight has prompted tangible support from all corners of the globe: Europe, North America, Morocco, Israel, Azerbaijan, Japan, South Korea, Australia, to name but some. This is not only military, humanitarian and reconstruction support from governments, but also individual charitable donations to the war effort and crowd-funding campaigns to equip Ukrainian forces with what it needs to defend its cities and towns.

We are *inspired* by Ukrainian forces, who have managed to regain over half of the territory taken since 24 February, including the cities of Kharkiv and Kherson. We *admire* Ukrainians' ability to innovate and we are *confident* that they will thwart Russia's further offensives. We are *optimistic* that Ukrainians' will continue to liberate occupied territory and populations over the hard winter months. And we are *relieved* by the realization over the course of the year that the Russian army is beatable and that President Putin's aims will fail.

Mr. Chair,

At the last PC before the Julian and Gregorian Christmases, I am profoundly *saddened*. Saddened thinking of the many Ukrainians who will be celebrating their first Christmas away from home, away from loved ones. Saddened thinking of those whose Christmas will be coloured with the reverberations of the traumas they have experienced this year. And I am saddened thinking of the many Ukrainians whose Christmases have been forever changed by the loss of a father, mother, son, daughter or friend to Russia's indiscriminate attacks. And I am saddened for all the Russians who will face Christmas having lost a son or father due to Putin's unilateral decision to launch this war. I also have *hope* that 2023 will bring an end to the brutality. Because it is past time that those Russian soldiers who are still alive return home to their own families.