



Delegation of Canada
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Délégation du Canada
auprès de l'OSCE

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR JOCELYN KINNEAR
ON THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION'S ONGOING AGGRESSION AGAINST UKRAINE:
INTENSIFIED, INDISCRIMINATE AND ASYMMETRICAL MILITARY ATTACKS ON
UKRAINE'S CIVILIAN POPULATION
1393rd MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

11 October 2022

Mr. Chair,

Thank you for convening this very important Special meeting of the Permanent Council to address Russia's latest, escalatory actions in its brutal war on Ukraine and its sovereign territory. The deliberate and repeated targeting of civilian housing and critical and energy infrastructure, most significantly in Zaporizhzhia, but also in the Dnipro and Lviv regions, represents not only a vicious and deadly assault on an innocent civilian population, but a continued and blatant disregard for international humanitarian law. Mr Chair, this is not warfighting; this is the manifestation of the hatred and selfishness of an increasingly desperate and tyrannical Russian leader who has emerged from his autocratic echo chamber, and now realises that he has made a terrible strategic mistake. A bigger mistake is to think that he and his so called leadership will not be held to account for these heinous acts and the murder of civilians.

Mr. Chair,

The most recent attacks on Kyiv are no less despicable in their nature. Putin is again resorting to cowardly, indiscriminate long-range missile strikes against densely populated civilian areas. It is the civilian population who are increasingly bearing the toll for Putin's ill-conceived, imperialist and utterly selfish war of aggression on Ukraine. Russia targeted a pedestrian bridge in Kyiv yesterday, and a children's playground. The desperation in these is palpable as Russia's beleaguered forces retreat on almost every significant frontline and they face the inevitable outcome of this unjustifiable war on Ukraine. Mr Chair, last week in the FSC, I listened to our Russian colleagues attempt to challenge us within this organisation to adhere to its principles and founding agreements. I called it then and I amplify it now: that such hypocrisy, as incredible as it is, speaks to the totality of Russia's failure to face the inescapable truth of its actions, and the inevitable consequences that must follow.

* Redistribution due to change of distribution status. The text remains unchanged.

Mr. Chair,

Inescapably linked to these recent and escalatory strikes by Russia, is the rhetoric coming from Lukashenko and his puppet government in Minsk, almost certainly at the behest of Moscow. There is absolutely no reality or credibility surrounding any suggestion that Ukraine is considering attacking Belarus. That Lukashenko would make such a ludicrous assertion clearly indicates the real source of this latest effort to escalate Putin's unilateral war in Ukraine. Lukashenko's need for Putin's support to maintain his façade of governance since fraudulently stealing the 2020 election, is as apparent to the world as the need for Lukashenko to heed the real outcome of that election and to resign from office. The alternative is to allow Putin to pressure Belarus into further complicity and accountability for Russia's disastrous war and atrocities committed in Ukraine. And to drag the people of Belarus, against their will, into a war with their peaceful Ukrainian neighbours. There are choices to be made here, Mr Chair. We vehemently urge Aleksandr Lukashenko to refuse to comply with the Kremlin's dictates to join the war against Ukraine. Doing so would make Russia and Belarus two sides of the same coin and they will be held jointly accountable for the despicable acts that we have witnessed in recent days.

Mr. Chair,

I call on Russia to immediately cease its unconscionable attacks on Ukrainian cities and civilians. Russia must cease its violations of the UN Charter, of all the Helsinki principles and of International Humanitarian Law, and remove all its military troops and equipment from all of Ukraine's territory without delay.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.