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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  
1483<sup>rd</sup> MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

**18 July 2024**

Madam Chair,

As this is the first time I take the floor today, I would like to express our shock and condolences at the assassination attempt on former President of the United States and Republican presidential nominee Mr. Donald Trump on July 13 at a campaign rally in Pennsylvania in the United States. This was a senseless act of political violence, and political violence is never acceptable.

I wish to extend our condolences to the family of the victim who was killed, and to wish Mr. Trump and all those who were injured a swift recovery, as my Prime Minister has done. My thoughts and those of Canadians are with our friends and neighbours, the American people.

I will now proceed with my statement under this agenda item.

Madam Chair, Madame Chair,

Leading up to Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, Russian officials repeatedly dismissed any plans for such an action as groundless. On February 24, 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine – again.

Subsequently, Russia consistently denied being the aggressor – in stark contrast to the facts.

In the early days of the full-scale invasion, Russia bombed a maternity hospital in Mariupol. Without presenting any credible evidence, Russia claimed the hospital had been converted into a military position. Yet, the victims were civilians including heavily pregnant women. Russia denied responsibility, alleging the scene was staged and the women were actors.

A week later, Russia again feigned innocence when it bombed the Mariupol Regional Drama Theatre where hundreds of civilians sought refuge. Not even the inscription in Russian of “children” visible from a satellite would prevent their deaths. Russia denied responsibility and pointed the finger at Ukrainian troops.

Following their retreat of Russian forces from Bucha in March 2022, Russian forces left behind streets strewn with bodies. Russia denied responsibility, dismissing the corpses as fake and the scene as staged.

Then, Russian missiles hit a bustling train station in Kramatorsk, killing over 60 and injuring 150 civilians who were trying to flee hostilities. Russia first claimed a successful strike on a military target, then denied responsibility as the truth emerged, and labeled the incident a hoax.

Following the retreat of Russian forces from Izyum, Ukrainian authorities uncovered mass graves containing hundreds of bodies, including women and children. Like in Bucha, some showed signs of torture. Russia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs denied responsibility and dismissed this as another staged event.

Russia claims it does not target civilian infrastructure in Ukraine, arguing more and more that damage to civilian infrastructure is due to Ukrainian air defence systems. Yet, the ICC issued arrest warrants for four Russian military officials, including the highest levels, for just that.

Most recently, a Russian missile struck Ukraine's largest children's hospital where pediatric cancer patients were being treated. Again, Russian officials denied responsibility, arguing it was damaged due to faulty Ukrainian air defence systems and labeled it a Bucha and Mariupol hospital-style provocation.

How many times will Russia use the same, predictable excuses and still believe it is convincing?

Madam Chair,

The examples I have mentioned are just some of many. They all illustrate a pattern of denialism and Russia's lack of trustworthiness.

However, because Russia's aggression against Ukraine is one of the most extensively documented wars, Russia will be held accountable, even if it takes years and generations.

Canada, as many others in this room, will continue investing our resources and collective efforts in justice and accountability for Ukraine, as well as to combat Russia's torrent of lies and disinformation.

Thank you, Madam Chair.