



Delegation of Canada  
to the OSCE

Délégation du Canada  
auprès de l'OSCE

**STATEMENT BY CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES MARIE-JOSÉE RHÉAUME  
ON THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION'S AGGRESSION AGAINST UKRAINE  
1396<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

**27 October 2022**

Mr. Chair,

Despite global condemnation, Russia continues its campaign of terror against civilians. Targeting civilian objects and infrastructure, including Ukraine's energy and electrical grid, Russia is trying to freeze Ukrainian women and men into submission over the winter. Tragically, President Putin believes that he can bomb the civilian population of Ukraine into submission. He is, however, once again, miscalculating the resolve of a proud people in their fight for their homeland, democracy and freedom.

The Putin regime is also continuing its campaign of disinformation and deception, attempting to justify the escalation of its premeditated invasion of Ukraine. The latest are baseless accusations that Ukraine is preparing to use a dirty bomb. On its own territory. Canada firmly rejects Russia's unfounded claims, which are part of a deliberate pattern by Russia to sow disinformation, as a pretext to escalate its aggression against Ukraine. We must remember that this is the regime that has advanced numerous unfounded claims accusing Ukraine of the very actions and atrocities that their forces are systematically carrying out.

Unfortunately, as with the threats to use non-conventional weapons, the Putin regime has no qualms with the war against Ukraine impacting the lives of countless others thousands of kilometers from the front. We have also seen this already through the interruption of gas supplies to Western Europe and the resulting energy crisis. We continue to see this in Russia's callous disregard for nuclear safety which threatens those far beyond the borders of Ukraine.

Recently, Russia has been deliberately blocking the full implementation of the Black Sea Grain Initiative putting global food security further at risk, again. On October 23, the sixth WFP-chartered ship departed Ukraine with 40,000 tonnes of wheat as humanitarian aid for Yemen, adding to the 8.3 million tonnes of grain and other foodstock exported from Ukraine under the initiative. This grain stabilizes global food prices and feeds thousands around the world, yet there are a reported 165 vessels waiting in queue around Istanbul due to politically-motivated delays by Russian inspectors. The Kremlin is also demanding new benefits in order to renew the initiative, further threatening global food security and heightening inflation.

Mr. Chair,

Canada condemns Russia's continued and deliberate targeting of civilian and humanitarian targets. We will continue to provide financial, humanitarian, military, diplomatic and legal support and will stand firmly with Ukraine for as long as it takes. Understanding the challenges of a cold climate, we are committed to supporting Ukraine in meeting its winter preparedness needs. We call on Russia to release the three members of the SMM still illegally detained, to abide by its OSCE and other commitments, to end escalatory measures, and to immediately remove all Russian troops from all of Ukraine.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.