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auprès de l'OSCE

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR JOCELYN KINNEAR
ON THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION'S ONGOING AGGRESSION AGAINST UKRAINE
1418th SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

12 April 2023

Madam Chair,

I would like to thank Ms Daria Herasymchuk, Advisor - Presidential Commissioner for Children's Rights, for making the time to speak to us today, and for sharing with us the devastating impact on Ukrainian children of Russia's war, as well as the important work the Ukrainian government and partners are doing to counter this. The physical, mental, social, emotional and psychological impacts of abductions and deportations are real, and there must be accountability for them. We look forward to the findings of the Moscow Mechanism report next month in this regard, and stand ready to review any recommendations.

Madam Chair,

We are horrified at reports today of videos circulating on Russian social media, one apparently depicting the commission of war crimes. Such abominable acts must be investigated and will not go unpunished.

Madam Chair,

Over the past 14 months, Russia has waged a relentless war against Ukraine, and Russian forces have resorted to all-out attacks on civilian centres, hospitals, power plants, and shopping malls. Waves upon waves of airstrikes featuring missiles and kamikaze drones have deprived millions of Ukrainians of heating, water, and electricity, in an attempt to subjugate the Ukrainian people to Moscow's will. But they have not succeeded, and they will not succeed.

Madam Chair,

Russia has not, and will not, succeed because Ukrainians are fighting to defend their land and their people in accordance with their inherent right to self-defence under Article 51 of the UN Charter. And as Minister Joly pointed out at the special Permanent Council on 24 February, Ukraine's international partners and allies – including Canada and so many others around this table today – are as united as ever in supporting Ukrainians in their struggle to achieve peace and secure a free and democratic future. "Ukraine is not alone."

Prime Minister Trudeau welcomed Prime Minister Shmyhal to Toronto yesterday. Prime Minister Shmyhal's visit was another opportunity to extend Canada and Ukraine's deep and long-standing friendship and partnership, and my Prime Minister reiterated once again that Canada will stand with Ukraine for as long as it takes. Prime Minister Trudeau announced that Canada will provide further military support to Ukraine, as well as a 2.4 billion dollar loan to support essential services such as pension payments, fuel purchases and the repair of critical infrastructure damaged by Russia's missile strikes. This will bring Canada's total commitment to Ukraine since February 2022 to over eight billion dollars.

Our two Prime Ministers also met with businesses and investors, and signed a joint declaration on the modernization of the Canada-Ukraine Free Trade Agreement. Strengthening trade ties will also help support Ukraine's economic recovery and its long-term security, stability and economic development. As one concrete example, Cameco, one of the largest global producers of uranium fuel based in Canada, recently reached an agreement to provide sufficient volumes of uranium to meet Ukraine's full nuclear fuel needs until 2035. This agreement will help Ukraine maintain its energy independence, which is so important to us all.

As my Prime Minister said, Canada stands with Ukraine, and we will continue to do so for as long as it takes.

In closing, Madam Chair, we reiterate our call for Russia to end its war of aggression by unconditionally withdrawing all troops and military equipment from the internationally recognized territory of Ukraine. We call on Russia to release all SMM staff and assets, and to abide by its obligations under international law and by its commitments to OSCE principles.