



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  
1390<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

**22 September 2022**

Mr. Chair,

Yesterday, President Putin, the man behind Russia's premeditated aggression against Ukraine, announced a series of measures to escalate the war: a war of the Kremlin's choosing, based on completely false pretexts. An imperialist, colonialist attempt to conquer its sovereign neighbour. Indeed, there would be no war if Russia, enabled by Belarus, had not invaded Ukraine. There would be no war if Russia had respected and adhered to the founding documents that underpin the very organisation that we represent here; moreover, there would be no war if Russia upheld its commitments under international law.

Putin is now seeking to escalate its war of aggression through so-called "partial" mobilisation. He is planning to send more troops to brutalise the Ukrainian population, destroy lives and infrastructure, and displace whole communities. Just as the troops who have been committing such acts over the past seven months, these troops will also face accountability down the road for any atrocities or war crimes they commit. Indeed, Mr. Chair, we expect to have still more to say about accountability as more information becomes available following the appalling news of the mass graves found in Izyum.

Throughout this war, Russia's troops have been met by the determination and professionalism of the Ukrainian Armed Forces and the brave resilience of the Ukrainian people. Acting in self-defence, they draw strength from the legitimacy of their struggle, defending their land, their families, and their culture. In full conformity with international law, we will continue to support Ukraine to uphold its fundamental right to self-defence.

Meanwhile, Russia is planning to send more soldiers many of whom will undoubtedly question the legitimacy of this war of aggression. In the words of a recently defected professional Russian soldier "the truth is we invaded Ukraine, and the Ukrainians did not invite us" [...] "we had no moral right to attack another country, especially the people closest to us".

Mr. Chair,

As part of its escalatory measures, Putin is also planning so-called “referenda”, coordinated by Russia’s armed forces illegally occupying Ukrainian territory. Canada, like most countries around this table, has condemned these sham “referenda”. We will never recognize these so-called “referenda” or any illegal occupation or attempted annexation of Ukraine’s territory.

Canada joins the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office and Secretary General in condemning the sentencing of members of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission in Ukraine. Maxim Petrov and Dmytro Shabanov have been sentenced to 13 years in prison as a result of so-called “legal proceedings” in territories controlled by Russia. Canada calls for their immediate and unconditional release, together with their colleague who is also illegally detained. The unlawful detention of three members of the SMM, a mission whose mandate the Russian Federation had agreed to and supported, is another demonstration of how far Russia has drifted from its OSCE obligations and commitments.

Canada strongly condemns this war of aggression by Russia against Ukraine. We condemn Russia’s violation of Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity. We condemn Russia’s attempts to replace democratically elected Ukrainian local authorities with illegitimate ones, and to illegally annex Ukraine’s territory through sham referenda.

Mr. Chair,

Let us be clear once again: in contrast to the outrageous claims made this week by Vladimir Putin, no one is threatening or has threatened Russia’s sovereignty, security or territorial integrity. It is *Russia* that is violently attacking *Ukraine’s* sovereignty, security and territorial integrity, and indeed the security of all Europe. There is certainly one country sitting at this table who, to quote Putin, “continue[s] to aggressively force their will and pseudo-values on other countries and nations”. That country is the Russian Federation, through its invasion and unilateral war of aggression against Ukraine, and through its ongoing destabilisation and infringements against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova.

We call on Russia to abide by its OSCE and other commitments, and we reaffirm our unwavering commitment to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders, including Crimea, Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia – all of Ukraine’s territory. We call for an end to Russian escalatory measures, and for the immediate removal of all Russian troops from Ukraine.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.