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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
1398th MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

10 November 2022

Mr. Chair,

Russia's repeated, illegal airstrikes against Ukraine's critical civilian infrastructure continues, bringing hardship to civilians and immense suffering to the most vulnerable sectors of the Ukrainian population. At this point, President Putin's explicit aim in his war of aggression appears to be to cause maximum harm to Ukrainian civilians.

President Putin's disregard for the safety and security of civilians is not limited to those he targets in Ukraine; it is not even limited to those forced to live under Russian occupation in the Ukrainian regions of Crimea, Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson, and Zaporizhzhia. The Putin regime also continues to violate the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the population of the Russian Federation. His disregard for his own citizens is callous and self-serving. Through his mobilization of troops, Putin is sending those from ethnic minority areas of his country to their deaths. An investigation by iStories and the Conflict Intelligence Team confirmed that the mobilisation disproportionately affected Russia's poorer regions. For instance, in Krasnoyarsk Krai, a region in Siberia with an average monthly income of approximately 40 000 roubles or €650, 5.5% of reservists were mobilised in the draft's first two weeks. By contrast, in Moscow, the richest Russian region, the figure was under 1% - less than a fifth of the proportion in Krasnoyarsk Krai. We have heard credible reports that Putin's officers and mercenaries are risking the lives of new conscripts to test out the location of Ukrainian firing positions. These individuals are being used as human decoys and, with guns at their backs, they are prevented by barrier troops from retreating. Russia's own troops threaten the lives of their comrades-in-arms to force them to fight: untrained, unequipped, sacrificed by their leadership in an illegal and unjustifiable war.

Mr. Chair,

Under these circumstances, it is no wonder that so many have already chosen to flee the Russian Federation. According to Yuridicheskaya Gazeta, millions of Russians have left the country since February 24th. Some are fleeing the deteriorating economic situation resulting from sanctions and the departure of multinational corporations, which were triggered by the Russian Federation's gross violations of international law. Others are fleeing from military mobilization. These individuals

know that their own leaders do not care about the safety and security of Russian citizens. They know that their own leaders do not care about the lives of those being mobilized without proper training and equipment and being sent forward into high-intensity firefights in which they have little chance of surviving. According to independent media, mobilised conscripts recently started a riot over the lack of food, water and uniforms in Kazan. One recent report from Voronezh detailed the annihilation of an entire Russian battalion of newly mobilized conscripts – of 570 soldiers sent to the front near Makiivka only 41 survived. Another is an account from Russia’s Pacific Fleet 155th Guards Naval Infantry Brigade, which suffered 300 casualties as well as the loss of half their vehicles in just four days of combat.

Mr. Chair,

We will not turn a blind eye to Russia’s mistreatment of its own population and to the Putin regime’s egregious violations of the basic human rights and fundamental freedoms of those under its control. We will not turn a blind eye to their continued war of aggression against a neighbouring state. Rather, each attack by Russian forces against Ukrainian civilians strengthens the resolve of those who believe in international law, human rights, the OSCE commitments, and the ability of people to live in peace. Each attack reminds us of the importance of our assistance to Ukraine to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity. The continuation of this meaningless conflict only leads to more pain and suffering, more ill-equipped Russian draftees sent to their deaths, more domestic opposition to Putin’s continuing autocratic rule, and more suffering of Ukrainian civilians and soldiers. It is time to end the slaughter before winter results in tens of thousands more needless deaths on the frontlines of this barbaric war. We call upon the Russian Federation, again, to end this war and withdraw all of its forces from Ukraine’s internationally recognized territory.