



Delegation of Canada
to the OSCE

Délégation du Canada
auprès de l'OSCE

**STATEMENT BY FIRST SECRETARY RICK STEENWEG
ON THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION'S ONGOING AGGRESSION AGAINST UKRAINE
1432nd MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

13 July 2023

Mr. Chair,

Last week we marked 500 days since the start of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine; 500 days of Russia targeting civilians, like during last night's drone and missile attacks on Kyiv; 500 days of Russia's reckless nuclear rhetoric; and 500 days of devastating consequences of Russia's unjustifiable war of aggression on the people of Ukraine. On those tortured, tormented, and torn from their loved ones. In response, Ukrainians have demonstrated time and again their firm defence of our shared values and principles, including those of the OSCE. They continue to demonstrate how they fully deserve the world's continuing support.

And for 500 days, Mr. Chair, the international community has rallied in support of Ukraine. In March 2022, last October, and, again, in February of this year, UN Member States voted overwhelmingly to condemn Russia's invasion of Ukraine. States around the world continue to support Ukraine's economy and public services, as well as provide humanitarian support in response to Russian targeting of civilian infrastructure and increased needs for food, shelter, and hygiene. Countries have generously opened up their borders, their schools, and their hospitals to Ukrainians fleeing the violence. And citizens have opened up their homes and wallets. International legal mechanisms have been engaged to hold perpetrators of serious international crimes to account and civil society has heeded the call by collecting evidence of atrocities as well as donations for those in need.

On the military side, Ukrainians continue to courageously defend their homeland and fight to liberate their fellow citizens. And the international community continues to support their valiant efforts, with the knowledge they are defending Ukrainian security and our shared values. Yesterday, NATO agreed to a substantial package of expanded political and practical support, including establishing the NATO-Ukraine Council to advance political dialogue, engagement, and cooperation. But, while NATO Allies have been some of most generous in donating defensive military equipment to Ukraine, this type of assistance also comes from OSCE Mediterranean and Asian Partners like Australia, Japan, and the Republic of Korea. Some of these are half the globe away from the war.

Canada and its partners and allies continue to stand with Ukraine. We will continue to provide Ukraine with the financial, military, and humanitarian support it needs, for as long as it takes, and we will ensure that those responsible for attacks on civilians and other egregious crimes are held accountable. Canada supports Ukraine's initiative for a just and sustainable peace based on Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Russia's war must end.

We call upon the Russian Federation to cease its continued passportization attempts and to immediately, completely and unconditionally withdraw all its military forces and equipment from the internationally recognized territory of Ukraine, including Crimea. We also call on Russia to demonstrate its commitment to the OSCE by agreeing to UB 2023, to support food security by extending the Black Sea Grain Initiative for its full term, and to cease its blocking of OSCE meetings and field missions.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.