



PERMANENT DELEGATION OF NORWAY
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STATEMENT ON THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION'S ONGOING AGGRESSION AGAINST UKRAINE

As delivered by Ambassador Ellen Svendsen at the 1568th Permanent Council,

Vienna, 11th June 2026

Mr. Chair

Norway aligns with the statement of the European Union but allow me to make a few remarks in my national capacity.

First, Russia's decision to launch its full-scale invasion of Ukraine was one of the biggest strategic mistakes of the 21st century. It was also a blatant violation of international law and the very principles upon which the OSCE was founded. More than four years later, Russia has failed to achieve its objectives. No quick gains, no strategic wins.

Instead, it continues to pay a staggering price in human lives and military resources. In the month of May alone, Russia itself reportedly suffered more than 30,000 casualties on the battlefield. Such disregard for human life stands in stark contrast to the values and human rights we have collectively committed to uphold. Russia's desperation continues to inflict immense harm, and it is time for them to come to the negotiation table. It is time to choose peace. Russia's war machine will not and cannot outlive Ukrainian resilience. As a nation under constant attack, Ukraine has demonstrated extraordinary resilience, innovation and courage. It has strengthened partnerships across Europe and beyond, becoming a leader in defence innovation, all the while upholding its commitments under international law.

Second, Norway supports President Zelenskyy's continued calls for an end to the war through negotiations, with Ukraine consistently demonstrating genuine engagement for a just and lasting peace. Meanwhile, Russia neglects the calls for peace and continues to escalate and to threaten. We encourage Russia to signal their willingness for peace, by genuinely engaging with the proposed talks, ensuring and upholding a ceasefire during future peace negotiations, releasing all illegally detained, including the three OSCE staff, Vadim Golda, Maxim Petrov and Dmytro Shabanov, returning the deported children to Ukraine and withdrawing Russian forces from Ukraine.

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Third, any serious peace negotiations must have Ukraine and their terms at the center. Nothing else would be deemed legitimate, nor sustainable. Norway's support for Ukraine remains steadfast until a just and lasting peace has been achieved. We will not bow down to threats and will not withdraw our staff from Kyiv and Ukraine. The one who should leave Ukraine, is Russia.

Thank you.