



## **STATEMENT ON THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION'S ONGOING WAR OF AGGRESSION AGAINST UKRAINE**

As delivered by Ambassador Anne-Kirsti Karlsen at the Permanent Council,  
Vienna, 16 May 2024

Madame Chair,

Norway fully aligns with the statement delivered by the European Union but would like to give the following remarks in our national capacity.

Norway strongly condemns the Russian Federation's ongoing aggression against Ukraine, and the recent advances towards Kharkiv in particular. Russia's cruel targeting of residential areas and critical infrastructure has necessitated the evacuation of more than 8 000 people from nearby villages, as their homes have become a battle zone. We commend Ukraine for its brave and just fight against the aggressor.

Norway stands with Ukraine. We join allies in offering Ukraine a timely, effective, and comprehensive defense of its territory and its population.

Ukraine must quickly get more weapons and ammunition. In its revised national budget, the Norwegian government has proposed to increase military support for Ukraine by NOK 6 billion, bringing the total military support in 2024 to NOK 13.5 billion. This includes up to NOK 4 billion for measures to ensure that Ukraine quickly gain access to more air defenses.

Additionally, Norway increases the civilian support for Ukraine by NOK 1 billion, bringing Norway's planned support to Ukraine in 2024 to 22 billion kroner.

Furthermore, we are committed to President Zelenskiy's Peace Formula as co-chairs of working group 3 on energy security and working group 4 on civilian hostages, prisoners of war, and deported children.

Madame Chair,

This last week's egregious development is the continuation of Russia's clear violation of Ukraine's territorial sovereignty. We condemn the Russian Federation's blatant disregard

The OSCE Secretariat bears no responsibility for the content of this document and circulates it without altering its content. The distribution by OSCE Conference Services of this document is without prejudice to OSCE decisions, as set out in documents agreed by OSCE participating States.

of its commitments under international law and the Helsinki Final Act, as well as the humanitarian principles on which these commitments are based.

In this room last week, the Russian Federation attempted to deter its opponents by threatening to use nuclear weapons. These threats constitute highly irresponsible behavior, and we can assure the Russian delegation that we do not waver in our support of Ukraine's fight for freedom and independence.

Madame Chair,

The Russian Federation started this war and can choose to end it. We call on Russia to end its aggression and completely and immediately withdraw from Ukraine's internationally recognized territory.

I thank you.