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United States Mission to the OSCE
U.S. Statement for the
Forum for Security Cooperation:
General Statements –
Russia’s War of Aggression Against Ukraine

As delivered by Deputy Arms Control Delegate Spencer Fields
July 5, 2023

Thank you, Madam Chair,

Reflecting on the events of June 23-24, so much that was beneath the surface has now come to light from Russia’s own people and leaders in terms of questioning Russia’s so-called justifications for its war of choice against Ukraine, in terms of questioning Russia’s own conduct of the war, and in terms of questioning what good this war has actually done for Russia. The truth is that this war has done nothing good for Russia or Russians. Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine had imposed tremendous costs on Russia across virtually every front – economic, military, diplomatic, and geopolitical.

Nevertheless, I would like to echo the words of some of my colleagues in saying that we must not allow this spectacle in Russia to distract us from the reality of Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine, its murderous attacks there, and our efforts to help Ukraine defend its sovereignty and independence. On June 28, Russia’s missiles rained down on Kramatorsk, hitting a shopping area and a restaurant killing at least 12 people and injuring more than 60 others. Two of those killed were 14 year-old twin sisters, who had simply gone out for pizza.

Indeed, our focus must remain on promoting accountability for Russia and its atrocities, such as that in Kramatorsk, and supporting Ukraine for as long as it takes. We again call on Russia to end this war immediately and promptly withdraw all its forces from the internationally recognized borders of Ukraine, which, as our Russian colleagues seem to have willfully forgotten, includes the Ukrainian provinces of Kherson, Zaporizhzhia, Luhansk, Donesk, and Crimea. These provinces belong to Ukraine alone, and we will never recognize them as a part of Russia.

Thank you, Madam Chair.