



PERMANENT DELEGATION OF NORWAY
TO THE OSCE

Norwegian Statement on the Opening of the Danish FSC Chairpersonship
As delivered by Ambassador Ellen Svendsen at the Forum for Security Cooperation
Vienna, 11 September 2024

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr. Chair, Dear Colleagues

I join others in extending a warm welcome to Denmark and to Ambassador Grønbech-Jensen as the new Chairperson of the Forum for Security Co-operation. I also thank Foreign Minister Rasmus Løkke Rasmussen for his clear message of commitment to the FSC. Let me also welcome Spain to the FSC Troika, thank Cyprus and commend our thanks to Croatia for their steady leadership in the previous demanding trimester.

We strongly support the priorities Denmark has outlined for this trimester and your commitment to addressing the critical issues facing the OSCE region on a weekly basis. Following the tradition of previous Chairpersonships, we welcome that the war in Ukraine will remain a central focus of the discussions. Russia's ongoing aggression against Ukraine, in violation of international law and fundamental OSCE principles, must remain a key priority for this forum.

As we near the 30th anniversary of the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, we should reaffirm its significance and work toward its full implementation.

The brutal impact of this war on civilians, particular on children, has been tragic. While addressing human security in the FSC remains crucial, we emphasize the interconnection of the OSCE's three Dimensions.

The OSCE plays a crucial role in documenting violations of international humanitarian and human rights law through ODIHR reports and the Moscow Mechanism, thereby contributing to accountability mechanisms that have, or may in the future have, jurisdiction. However, to fully address the complexities of conflict, we must also understand and respond to its gendered dynamics.

We are witnessing a rise in gender-based violence among civilian populations — each of which directly impacts the security environment in which we operate. Conflict is not gender neutral, and therefore our planning, guidance, and assistance must be gender responsive to effectively address these challenges and to promote lasting security.

I wish you, Ambassador Grønbech-Jensen, the best of luck with your chairmanship, and please know that Norway stands ready to offer its full support.

Let me also in closing recall the horrendous terrorist attacks on the United States of America 23 years ago today. May this dark day serve as a reminder of the importance of security, peace and cooperation.

Thank you.