



## United States Mission to the OSCE

# **Response to the Presentation by the Chairs of the Three Committees: The Security Committee, the Economic and Environmental Committee and the Human Dimension Committee**

As delivered by Acting Deputy Chief of Mission Tracey Newell  
to the Permanent Council, Vienna  
April 18, 2024

Ambassador Raunig, Ambassador Callan, thank you for once again chairing your respective committees. And Ambassador Burian, congratulations on Slovakia taking over as Security Committee chair. You have our gratitude for taking up this important role, as do Ambassador Stoian and Romania for their excellent work leading the Committee in 2023.

Colleagues, none of us needs reminding of the collective challenges we face as Russia's full-scale war against Ukraine continues for a third year. Russia's unbridled hostility towards another participating State is an affront to the principles of this organization. Russia's obstructionism makes your leadership – and Malta's Chairpersonship -- even more challenging, but please know the United States and many other participating States support you in defending and advancing the OSCE's principles and values.

Ambassador Burian, the Security Committee is a valuable forum to address the non-military security effects of Russia's war, both on Ukraine and its immediate neighbors, and across the OSCE region. I welcome your already clear condemnation of Russia's aggression and support you in keeping the conversation in the Security Committee focused on actions that degrade our common security. We support your exploring what role the OSCE can and should play in post-conflict rehabilitation in Ukraine as we look to support Kyiv beyond Russia's war.

The Economic and Environmental Committee has often been where participating States can find common ground. Moreover, many security matters, such as border control, have an important economic component, giving us more ways to manage complex security problems. The fact that so many participating States can agree on Second Dimension principles underscores how vital economic and environmental cooperation is to enhancing security and stability across the OSCE region. Ambassador Raunig, I hope that good governance including countering corruption and preventing climate change, which are priorities for the United States, will continue to feature prominently in your work. The Environmental and Economic Committee must also continue prioritizing the task of addressing the economic and environmental harm inflicted by Russia's aggression against Ukraine. We fully support the OSCE's initiatives in this area, including in particular the extrabudgetary project focused on assessing environmental impacts of the war against Ukraine and considering options for remediation.

Ambassador Callan, the Human Dimension remains under constant attack. In many parts of the OSCE region, civil society and independent media are targeted for repression, the rule of law is being undermined, the number of persons unjustly detained or imprisoned is growing, and we are seeing dangerous surges of intolerance. This is why we must not only sustain, but also advance, our support and defense of human rights, fundamental freedoms, and democratic principles of government. The United States will continue to hold participating States accountable for implementing their Third Dimension commitments, utilizing all available OSCE tools. We must not allow Russia or Belarus, or any other participating State, to carry out internal repression or external aggression or to commit atrocities with impunity. The Human Dimension Committee's emphasis on Ukraine and support for Ukraine's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and the right of its citizens to choose their future freely makes clear that the OSCE will not waver in holding Russia to account for its brutal war and in upholding the foundational principles of the Helsinki Final Act and its obligations under international law.

Ambassadors, colleagues, once again, my sincere thanks to each of you and your teams for your valuable work this year. You have the full support of the United States, and our team looks forward to continuing our collaboration throughout 2024.

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