



United States Mission to the OSCE
U.S. Statement for the
Forum for Security Cooperation:
Security Dialogue on
“Capacity Development in Humanitarian Mine Action”

As delivered by Deputy Arms Control Delegate Spencer Fields
May 17, 2023

Thank you, Madam Chair,

And thank you to our distinguished panel of experts for sharing their very informative insights with us today regarding capacity development for humanitarian mine action. I would especially like to thank my colleague, Jerry Guilbert, for his remote participation from Washington, D.C. on this panel and for highlighting the importance the United States places on building capacity for humanitarian mine action in Ukraine, the OSCE region, and around the world. I also would be remiss if I also did not share my sincere thanks to the Chair for moving this Security Dialogue to the FSC’s afternoon session in order to accommodate the six-hour time difference for our U.S. panelist.

Given that you have just heard from one of our most seasoned experts on the subject of humanitarian mine action from the Department of State’s Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement, I will add little but to underscore the United States’ commitment to helping the Government of Ukraine address the urgent humanitarian challenges posed by the explosive remnants of war that have been created by Russia’s brutal war of aggression. Russia’s reckless contamination of massive swaths of Ukraine since 2014 continues unabated with landmines, unexploded ordnance, and improvised explosive devices that continue to block civilian access to farmland, impede reconstruction efforts, prevent displaced people from returning to their homes, and kill or maim Ukrainian civilians, including children.

The threat from mines and unexploded ordnance unfortunately will persist for Ukraine’s citizens long after the guns fall silent and Russia’s rusted war machine has disintegrated or has been withdrawn to its own borders. The United States remains committed to standing with Ukraine for as long as it takes in its fight against Russia’s aggression. And we will continue to stand with Ukraine after

its inevitable victory and help it clear its sovereign territory of explosive hazards to make the countryside safe for all of Ukraine's citizens and to restore the bountiful prosperity of Ukraine.

Thank you, Madam Chair.