



United States Mission to the OSCE
U.S. Statement for the
Forum for Security Cooperation:
General Statements

As delivered by Deputy Arms Control Delegate Spencer Fields
December 7, 2022

Thank you, Mr. Chair, and Good Morning Excellencies, Colleagues,

Nine months into Russia's renewed invasion against Ukraine, there is no need for us to mince words – Russia is the sole obstacle to peace in Ukraine. The Kremlin continues to demonstrate its unwillingness to engage seriously in peace negotiations. Instead, it is attacking critical infrastructure, leaving millions of Ukrainian citizens without heat, electricity, water, and communications in the dead of winter. Russia invaded Ukraine without justification; it is the aggressor. Russia, and Russia alone, can end this war today and put a stop to the needless suffering it is directly and deliberately inflicting on the Ukrainian people.

In light of Russia's unwillingness to relent in its costly, pointless, and destructive violence against Ukraine, we, together with our Allies and partners, have imposed extensive sanctions and export controls on Russia, and we are increasing these measures. On December 5, the U.S. Department of the Treasury, along with our EU, G7, and Australian partners, implemented a price cap for crude oil from Russia. This cap aims to remove Russia's ability to profit from the risk premium that its war of aggression against Ukraine has imposed on the global energy market. These measures, and others like them, will help to degrade the Kremlin's ability to carry out its imperial project in Ukraine.

The United States is also continuing its assistance to Ukraine for its self-defense. As recently as November 23, Secretary Blinken directed the drawdown of another \$400 million in arms and equipment from U.S. Department of Defense inventories for Ukraine. This includes much-needed munitions for advanced surface-to-air defense systems and counter-UAS capabilities to shield against Russia's missiles and UAVs, which have destroyed civilian electricity infrastructure across the country, viciously disabling equipment responsible for providing power, heat, water, and communications to the Ukrainian people. To repair the critical infrastructure Russia continues to damage and destroy and to help Ukrainians persevere through the winter, the United States announced on

November 29 plans to provide up to \$53 million to support the rapid acquisition and delivery of critical electricity grid equipment, such as distribution transformers, circuit breakers, surge arresters, disconnectors, vehicles, and other key equipment. The United States continues to work with our Allies and partners to rally the international community to bring critical energy equipment, security assistance, and financial support to Ukraine in this time of great need.

Mr. Chair,

Russia's relentless and irresponsible attacks on Ukraine's electricity grid also have cut off external power to Ukraine's nuclear power plants, forcing reactors at the plants to go into emergency shutdown. Reliable offsite power is essential to the safe operation of Ukraine's nuclear facilities, and the loss of offsite power could lead to a nuclear accident, potentially including a release of radiation which, of course, would not stop at Ukraine's borders. Russia is fully aware of the catastrophic danger to Ukrainian nuclear power plants posed by continued strikes damaging Ukraine's energy grid infrastructure. The international community will hold Russia accountable for any nuclear accident that occurs within Ukraine as a result of Russia's military activities.

In the same vein, we are firmly committed to holding Russia's forces to account for the atrocities they have committed throughout this war that Russia initiated. The laws of war, respect for which is included as a commitment under the OSCE's political military code of conduct, are supposed to apply to all nations equally. The sheer scale of criminality exhibited by Russia's forces is enormous. On those occasions when Ukraine's forces are accused of violations, Ukraine commits to promptly and responsibly investigating these incidents. When Russia's forces are implicated again and again... nothing happens. Ukraine has allowed international organizations access to prisoners of war, Russia has not. Each passing day there are new reports of torture, rape, and execution-style killings by Russia's armed forces and its proxies in parts of Ukraine that Russia's forces have controlled, such as Kherson. The United States will continue to do everything we can to support those who are compiling evidence to investigate and prosecute those responsible for atrocities. We will hold them to account, no matter how long that takes. The people of Ukraine demand and deserve justice.

Mr. Chair,

Two weeks ago in this Forum, we heard claims from Russia's delegation that opposition to Russia's lawlessness and brutality was a minority opinion held by "a small group of countries." For the record, we would like to recall that the UN General Assembly voted 93-24 in April to expel Russia from the Human Rights Council due to its barbarity. The UN General Assembly also voted 143-5 to deny any recognition of Russia's illegal attempts to annex sovereign Ukrainian territory. And most recently, the UN General Assembly voted 94-14 for a resolution recognizing that Russia must be held to account for internationally wrongful acts arising from its invasion of Ukraine and must pay reparations for the damage it has caused. Again, the votes were 93 to 24, 143 to 5, and 94 to 14 – we need only look at those stark numbers to see how isolated Russia has become through its own actions.

The United States, like most other countries, is appalled by Russia's continued use of cowardly and cruel violence against the defenseless to try to achieve what its military could not win on the battlefield against Ukraine's armed forces who staunchly and bravely defend their homeland. These attacks are unacceptable and represent a shameful continuation in Russia's already brutal, unjustifiable war against Ukraine.

We echo President Zelenskyy's call for Russia to end its war, and we stand firmly united with Ukraine as it continues to defend itself against Russia's aggression.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

