



United States Mission to the OSCE

U.S. Statement for the Forum for Security Co-operation: Opening Statement

As delivered by Chargé d'Affaires Katherine Brucker
September 11, 2024

Thank you, Mr. Chair, dear Christian.

On behalf of the United States, I am honored to extend a warm welcome to Denmark as the incoming Chair of the Forum for Security Co-operation. We wish you success in your tenure.

September 11th is a difficult day for the United States as we remember the terrorist attacks that took place 23 years ago. Terrorists killed nearly 3,000 people – including more than 2,600 of our citizens – and targeted important points in our country's financial, military, and civilian infrastructure. Although these attacks took place on our soil, they were an attack against us all and against our common values.

9/11 was also an international tragedy. Citizens from 90 countries were murdered that day, including citizens from 30 other participating States. I was in Vienna at the time, having just arrived for my first assignment at the OSCE. I saw our organization act quickly, notably through a series of decisions on counter-terrorism to strengthen our legal architecture, guard against manipulation of our financial systems, and enshrine travel document security. As we continue our efforts to promote our common interest in mutual security – security for our physical safety, security for our countries, and security for our individual rights – we remember the lives cut short, honor those who rushed into harm's way to help others, and recall our resolve to prevent this type of attack from ever happening again.

Mr. Chair,

Despite our best efforts, the OSCE region is beset by conflict and violence. The greatest threat by far is Russia's brutal war against Ukraine. Russia's war of aggression has threatened not only the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine – it has attacked and undermined the principles and commitments that form the very foundation of our security within the OSCE. It has damaged the trust among participating States needed for cooperation to prevent the horrible and needless losses of life resulting from terrorist attacks and to address the global challenges that threaten us all.

So, Mr. Chair, we have much work to do. The United States remains steadfast in its support for Ukraine and its fight to preserve its sovereignty and independence. We are also convinced that the FSC can serve as a vital platform for dialogue and cooperation.

I, therefore, applaud Denmark's decision to take us "back to basics" this trimester to reexamine the Helsinki Final Act, the Code of Conduct, and UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security – all of which embody the many values that unite us. These are values that enhance transparency, build trust, and promote stability in this region.

We look forward to a productive and collaborative tenure under Denmark's guidance and reiterate the United States' strongest support for your prerogative as Chair to ensure the good order and smooth running of this Forum.

In the Troika, you have the deep experience of Croatia, which adeptly dealt with challenges from one participating State at every step of its Chairpersonship, and an ally in Spain as well. We bid Cyprus farewell from the Troika and congratulate you, Andreas, and your team for a job well done.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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