



**United States Mission to the OSCE**  
**On Illegitimate Russian Elections in  
Occupied Crimea**

As delivered by Acting Deputy Chief of Mission Michele Siders  
to the Permanent Council, Vienna  
September 28, 2017

The United States does not recognize the legitimacy or the outcome of the elections that took place in Russian-occupied Crimea on September 10.

Our position on Crimea remains clear: the peninsula remains an integral part of Ukraine. Crimea-related sanctions will remain until Russia returns control of Crimea to Ukraine.

We call on Russia to end its occupation of Crimea. Russia must also end its practices of political prosecution, forced disappearance, abuse, and police harassment of Crimean Tatars, ethnic Ukrainians, and others who oppose Russia's purported annexation of Ukrainian territory.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

###