



United States Mission to the OSCE

Statement on the 2025 Unified Budget Proposal

As delivered by Chargé d’Affaires Katherine Brucker
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
October 3, 2024

The United States appreciates Malta’s tireless efforts, and yours personally, Natasha, to achieve consensus on the 2024 Unified Budget. Malta’s exceptional leadership and commitment to dialogue have been pivotal, though, as we all know all too well, success in adopting the 2024 Unified Budget remains elusive. I also, too, want to thank Kate for her presentation of the 2025 Budget and its attention to the needs of our OSCE employees.

Our failure to adopt a Unified Budget has plunged our organization into a dire financial situation. As Heads of Mission, Heads of Institutions, and the Secretariat have reminded us in stark terms on many occasions, we are failing our mandate and the dedicated employees working so hard to support our work. As a result, the Chair has been forced to pass stopgap funding decisions to address financial deficits on a case-by-case basis. This is time consuming, inefficient, and cumbersome. With no Unified Budget since 2021, it is time to set differences aside, negotiate in good faith, and adopt a Unified Budget that adequately funds the OSCE.

What is particularly perverse is that we in this room, through our failure, are externalizing the misery. It is only fair that we should feel the pain too. I, for one, would support burden sharing measures. We can save money by turning off the heating and cooling in the Neuer Saal and other meeting rooms. We can pull the water. We can stop putting toilet paper and towels in the toilets. We should feel the pain. We are getting away with not funding this organization and none of us is feeling any of the difficulty of our decision.

The OSCE truly belongs to its participating States. It is essential that all engage in constructive negotiations and compromise to adopt a budget. This will let us focus on the important work of conflict prevention, security cooperation, upholding democracy and human rights, and deepening economic and environmental cooperation. Each of us has a role to play, and through diplomacy and collaboration, we can adopt a budget that reflects our shared priorities and responsibilities and adequately funds the organization

We welcome the ambitious new Unified Budget Proposal of the incoming Chair in Office, Finland. Finland has accurately captured the OSCE needs, and its draft budget will give us the resources we need to meet our commitments to promote security and stability across the region.

Madam Chair, let us recommit to working together, to putting aside our parochial interests, and ensure our organization can do the important work we have all agreed it should do.

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