



## **United States Mission to the OSCE**

### **Session 3: Democratic Institutions Right of Reply**

As delivered by Charge d 'Affairs Harry Kamian  
at the 2017 OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting  
Warsaw, September 12, 2017

In light of the observations made in this session, I'd like to use this right of reply to make two points. First, as an open democracy, we are honored to have the OSCE and other election observers witness our elections, and note with pride the group's conclusion that the elections "were highly competitive and demonstrated commitment to fundamental freedoms of expression, assembly, and association". Second, it is important for us to reiterate that the U.S. continues to reject as illegitimate the sham Crimean referendum perpetuated by Russia in 2014. The United States continues to fully support Ukraine's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity within its internationally-recognized borders. We do not, nor will we ever, recognize Russia's purported annexation of Crimea.

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