



Delegation of Canada
to the OSCE

Délégation du Canada
auprès de l'OSCE

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR JOCELYN KINNEAR
IN RESPONSE TO THE PRESENTATION OF
THE 2023 OSCE PROGRAMME OUTLINE
1377 MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL
9 JUNE 2022**

Mr. Chairperson,

I would like to thank the Secretary General for her presentation of the 2023 Programme Outline, which lays out a strategic and comprehensive vision for the organization. We must acknowledge, however, the stark warnings that she has presented.

Madam Secretary General,

You have made a compelling case for the continued importance and relevance of the OSCE and its work. And you rightly judge that Russia's war against Ukraine is not a sign that the OSCE has failed, but instead reflects that Russia has chosen force over dialogue and co-operation. In response to this gross violation, the efforts of the OSCE are ever more important to pursuing the OSCE founding principles of security and cooperation. In this regard, we commend you and your team, as well as the Polish Chairpersonship, for rising to the challenge of the current environment. Your Program Outline clearly demonstrates the value that this Organization can provide in responding to the consequences of Russian aggression.

The OSCE must continue to be a constructive presence in Ukraine as it faces an onslaught of indiscriminate attacks, but also as it looks to rebuild from this brutal invasion. The OSCE must be there to support humanitarian mine action in response to Russian actions, to support counter-trafficking efforts to protect those who have fled, and to offer psycho-social support and protection to those facing indiscriminate Russian attacks on civilian populations. The effective resourcing of OSCE support to Ukraine is Canada's top priority.

As you observe, and as the esteemed Chair has also underscored, the 2023 Programme Outline is being presented without the 2022 budget having been approved. We implore all participating States to put the interests of the organization as a whole before political considerations, and to approve the 2022 Unified Budget without further delay. Threats to human rights, fundamental freedoms, and democratic institutions of citizens throughout the OSCE region reinforce the importance of adequately funding the OSCE's autonomous institutions, in both UB 2022 and 2023, as well as all of its field missions, wherever they operate. This is no time to shirk our responsibilities: we all benefit from a focused, adequately resourced, and efficient OSCE.

Thank you.