



United States Mission to the OSCE
U.S. Statement for the
Forum for Security Cooperation:
General Statements

As delivered by Deputy Arms Control Delegate Spencer Fields
November 16, 2022

Thank you, Mr. Chair, and Good Morning Excellencies, Colleagues,

At the outset, we express our deepest condolences for the loss of life in Eastern Poland yesterday evening. As President Biden told President Duda last night, the United States offers its full support for and assistance with Poland's investigation into the explosion, which took place near the border with Ukraine, and reaffirm our ironclad commitment to NATO. The United States will continue to defend every inch of NATO territory. Every Inch.

We also offer condolences to our Ally Türkiye for the deadly terrorist attack in Istanbul on November 13. It is a stark reminder that terrorism continues to threaten peace and stability in the OSCE region.

Mr. Chair,

We cannot forget that these horrible tragedies, which have affected our Allies, come in the midst of Russia's ongoing atrocities in Ukraine. At the same time as the tragedy in Poland, Russia launched yet another missile barrage on Ukraine's civilian infrastructure, which killed at least one civilian and injured at least six more. As National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan said, "It is not lost on us that, as world leaders meet at the G-20 in Bali to discuss the issues of significant importance to the lives and livelihoods of people around the world, Russia again threatens those lives and destroys Ukraine's critical infrastructure."

In the past several weeks, President Putin's abject failures on the battlefield have elicited a military strategy focused on terrorizing the civilian population with dedicated, escalatory attacks on civilian infrastructure that provide the people of Ukraine -- women, children, and elderly people -- with heat, water, and electricity as winter fast approaches. Russia has now damaged some 40 percent of Ukraine's energy infrastructure, including thermal energy plants that provide many homes, schools, and hospitals with heat in the wintertime, when temperatures can drop to minus 20 degrees Celsius. Putin seems to have decided that if he cannot seize

Ukraine by force, he will try to freeze it into submission. This is just the latest horrific action that Putin is taking against the people of Ukraine. As we discussed in last week's Security Dialogue, Russia's targeting of civilian objects is a war crime and contravenes the Code of Conduct, and we will continue to work tirelessly to hold Russia and every individual accountable for all war crimes committed.

Russia's brutal and unprovoked war against Ukraine continues to unleash the largest humanitarian disaster in Europe since World War II. After almost 9 months of war, nearly 7.8 million people from Ukraine are refugees and are being hosted in more than 40 other countries, mostly in Europe, with this number steadily increasing in recent weeks, according to the UN. Over 6.5 million more Ukrainians -- including nearly half a million people within the last thirty days -- have been displaced from their homes due to the war. That's a little over one third of the population who cannot go home. And according to UN estimates, 17.7 million -- nearly half of Ukraine's population of 44 million -- are in need of vital humanitarian assistance.

Mr. Chair,

We welcome the liberation of Kherson on November 11, which is a testament to the skill and bravery of the Ukrainian Armed Forces and the Ukrainian people, and to the strong support Ukraine has from countries around the world to defend its sovereign territory in accordance with international law. President Biden is continuously demonstrating our commitment to support Ukraine "for as long as it takes" by providing robust security, humanitarian, and financial assistance. For example, on November 8, during her trip to Kyiv, U.S. Ambassador to the UN Linda Thomas-Greenfield announced an additional \$25 million to help Ukrainians survive the coming winter. Her visit focused on three key priorities: (1) holding Russia to account for the atrocities its forces have committed; (2) addressing the unprecedented global food security crisis; and (3) ensuring Ukraine can prepare for the winter. And since February 24, the United States has provided more than \$1.5 billion in humanitarian assistance to support the displaced, including refugees, and other vulnerable populations and communities inside Ukraine and in the region. In addition, on November 4, after U.S. National Security Adviser Sullivan visited Kyiv, we announced our 25th tranche of additional military assistance to Ukraine since September 2021, valued at up to \$400 million.

Meanwhile, the Kremlin continues to escalate this war. Moscow has demonstrated its unwillingness to seriously engage in negotiations since even before it launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February, including lying to this Forum about its military invasion and flaunting its Vienna Document commitments on risk reduction and transparency. We have said it before, and we will say it again: actions speak louder than words. If the Kremlin wants to demonstrate a serious commitment to de-escalation, Russia could start by committing to renew the Black Sea Grain Initiative that expires on November 19. If Russia is ready for negotiation, it should stop dropping its bombs and firing its missiles and withdraw its forces from Ukraine. If Russia were truly interested in peace, it would reverse its illegal annexation of 20 percent of Ukraine's territory -- including some of Ukraine's richest farmland and most significant industrial areas -- in what amounts to an attempted colonial land grab. Furthermore, Belarus must end its complicity in Russia's war of aggression and recognize that it too, will be held accountable.

As President Zelenskyy said on November 4: "We are ready for peace, for a fair and just peace, the formula of which we have voiced many times. The world knows our position. This is respect for the UN Charter, respect for our territorial integrity, respect for our people." Indeed, a just peace would respect the UN Charter's principles of territorial integrity and sovereignty, safeguard Ukraine's ability to defend itself in the future, ensure Ukraine's recovery and reconstruction, and provide accountability for Russia's atrocities during the war, including Belarus' complicity. We do not know when this war will be over, but we know this: Ukraine will emerge victorious. And the United States will continue to stand united with Ukraine for as long as it takes. We salute the Armed Forces of Ukraine and all its citizens who continue to inspire the world with tremendous skill and profound courage.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.