



**United States Mission to the OSCE**  
**U.S. Statement for the**  
**Forum for Security Cooperation:**  
**General Statements –**  
**Russia’s War of Aggression Against Ukraine**

As delivered by Chief Arms Control Delegate Daniel Wartko  
December 6, 2023

Thank you, Madam Chair,

As Ukraine’s forces wage a tough counteroffensive, and as winter descends, the United States is helping Ukraine take advantage of every single day. On November 20th, the United States announced a new package of military assistance – \$100 million worth of weapons and equipment authorized under directed drawdowns for Ukraine.

We are sending Ukraine additional man portable air defense systems, additional artillery, and rocket artillery (or HIMARS) munitions as well as anti-tank munitions. This stream of critical munitions will continue and grow for as long as Russia occupies Ukrainian territory.

Secretary Blinken underscored at the Ministerial Council in Skopje that “Russia’s war against Ukraine is an affront to the principles upon which the OSCE is based.” While Russia attempts to sow seeds of doubt through its disinformation campaigns, we know that Ukraine can win its fight to push Russian forces back across the internationally recognized border. Ukraine has the advantage of fighting in its own country, on its own terrain. Its forces draw strength from defending their own people, homes, lands, and freedom just as they have been doing since Russia launched its full-scale invasion.

Ukraine has already liberated more than 50 percent of the territory Russian forces occupied following the full-scale invasion in February 2022. With the sustained support of the United States, its Allies, and partners, Ukraine’s forces will be able to continue to contest the Russian occupation of its territory.

Madam Chair,

As the second winter of this “three-day war” approaches, it is also useful to take stock of Russian forces.

The Russian army that invaded Ukraine in February 2022 has been decimated. The number of Russian casualties well exceeds the entire size of the original invasion force. The original Russian forces were not nearly as capable as some feared, or as Russia hoped. Still, the new forces are even worse, consisting of demoralized conscripts and convicts, frequently marched to their deaths in droves just to gain a few meters of territory.

And this week, we’ve seen President Putin officially recognize that Russia’s forces are inadequate as he ordered up an additional 170,000 troops for the meat grinder.

It increasingly appears that for Russia, human life – both in Ukraine and in Russia – is cheap. While Russia empties its prisons and villages of young men and sends them to their deaths in waves in Ukraine, there will be families who will want to know where all the young men have gone. They will have no other answer than that Vladimir Putin chose this war, and these men paid the ultimate price for his failed imperialist ambitions.

Thank you, Madam Chair.