



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

### **U.S. Statement for the Forum for Security Cooperation: General Statements**

As prepared for delivery by Arms Control Counselor Daniel Wartko  
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Mister Chair,

Since Russia's three-day war began, almost two years ago, the dialogue in this forum has been quite negative. This is completely understandable, as brutal and unprovoked wars, killing of civilians, and destruction of cities should generate a hostile response. And in our response, we have clearly described what we do not want to happen, what must be fought against, and what must be prevented or reversed.

But today, in the spirit of the new year, I would like to emphasize our positive agenda – what it is that we want to see happen, what it is that we know is worth fighting for, and what we will collectively achieve.

- The United States reaffirms the inherent right of states, as reflected in the UN Charter, of individual and collective self-defense.
- The United States fully supports the sovereign right of all participating States to belong or not to belong to any treaty of alliance (or to maintain neutrality), and that they have the right to change their status in this respect. This is a right that all participating States committed to respect in the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security.
- The United States is determined to act in solidarity with other participating States when OSCE norms and commitments are contravened and to facilitate a concerted response to any resulting security challenges.
- The United States supports its friends and Allies in the face of attack.

- And specifically, the United States fully supports Ukraine's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity, within its internationally recognized borders and consistent with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter.
- We will see Ukraine emerge from this war as a fully intact, independent nation able to deter and defend itself against future aggression and as a state living in peace with its neighbors.

Mr. Chair,

This is an inherently positive agenda. It supports principles that every single participating State in the OSCE has already acknowledged, such as a state's inherent right to self-defense.

And furthermore, supporting these principles does not come at the expense of any state, because every participating State has already pledged to uphold them, including in the UN Charter, the Helsinki Final Act, and the Code of Conduct, among others. These principles could be seen in a negative or accusatory light only by a participating State that was violating its own obligations and commitments.

And lastly, this positive and peaceful agenda could be accomplished today, without the loss of a single additional life, if Russia would simply withdraw from the internationally recognized territory of Ukraine.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.