



Delegation of Canada
to the OSCE

Délégation du Canada
auprès de l'OSCE

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR JOCELYN KINNEAR
IN RESPONSE TO MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF NORTH MACEDONIA
1387th MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL
1 September 2022**

Mr. Chairperson,

I join others in warmly welcoming Foreign Minister Osmani for presenting the priorities for North Macedonia's incoming 2023 Chairpersonship-in-Office. Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine has shaken the foundations of the European security order. Given the impact of Russia's war on Ukraine, on the OSCE region and beyond, including on economic security, food security, human security and hard security, the political leadership role of the OSCE Chairpersonship is not only more challenging than ever, but also all the more needed – exactly as you observed earlier of the organization itself.

Minister,

The very concept of comprehensive security, at the core of this organization, is under attack by Russia's actions – not only at the rhetorical level, but also very concretely on the ground. It is clear that you are also seized of this fact. As Russia has broken the fundamental principles of our organization set out in the Helsinki Final Act and continues to challenge and undermine these principles, we sincerely welcome your intention to provide political leadership across all three dimensions of the OSCE – their complementary and mutually reinforcing nature is critical to true and comprehensive security and the basis of our organization. As our EU colleague alluded to earlier, we have all seen this year how internal repressions can lay the ground for external aggression.

In addition to Russia's war in Ukraine, ongoing conflicts in Nagorno-Karabakh, Georgia and Moldova, as well as tensions related to authoritarianism, sectarian violence, and national minorities in these and other regions, will continue to require the expertise and toolbox of the OSCE executive structures, autonomous institutions and field missions. We welcome North Macedonia's strong support for the mandates of these structures and institutions, and your commitment to a people-centered approach as the guiding principle of your Chairpersonship in 2023.

We share North Macedonia's views on the necessity of increased engagement related to the respect of fundamental human rights and the need to uphold and implement these principles through existing human rights mechanisms. The fulfillment of our commitments and obligations regarding democracy, human rights, fundamental freedoms and equality for all is unconditional. It is also central to the OSCE's pursuit of comprehensive security.

Minister,

Once again, this year's budget has yet to be adopted more than halfway through the year. This delay threatens the OSCE's capacity to operate as required. We continue to urge those states who block the budget to join consensus immediately, and we will continue to support both the future and incumbent chairs in passing their respective budgets promptly. Let me assure you, Minister, that you will have Canada's full support in working to achieve consensus on the OSCE budget.

Minister,

Canada's strong support for gender equality and for the promotion of women's and girls' empowerment is well known. We believe this is an extremely important area of work across all three of the OSCE's dimensions. The Chairpersonship is uniquely placed to both model and promote gender mainstreaming and we trust that you will continue the work of your predecessors in this regard, to ensure the promotion of gender equality in all of the OSCE's projects and programming. Your comments this morning on this priority are very welcome. Canada believes that during a time when our societies are increasingly diverse, inclusion and non-discrimination must be actively championed by all participating States and by the Chairpersonship.

Minister Osmani,

We would like to thank you for taking on the critical CiO role in challenging times. We are very pleased to be assuming the FSC Chair during the fall of North Macedonia's Chairpersonship, and have already had excellent collaboration with your team in this regard. We very much look forward to working with you and your team to strengthen our organization's support of the principles and commitments at its foundation, and their implementation by all participating States.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.