



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

### **Response to the Report by the OSCE Project Coordinator in Uzbekistan**

As delivered by Chargé d'Affaires Katherine Brucker  
to the Permanent Council, Vienna  
May 15, 2025

Ambassador Karttunen, thank you for your report and for your leadership as the OSCE Project Coordinator in Uzbekistan.

Your team's work to prevent radicalization to violence, build cybersecurity capacity, and strengthen anti-terrorism frameworks directly support our common and U.S. national security objectives. We welcome your office's support for good governance, judicial reform, legal education and training of defense lawyers in line with international standards, torture prevention, anti-corruption, and anti-trafficking efforts — core areas for building long-term rule of law and regional stability.

We applaud Uzbekistan's strong cooperation on cross-border security and enforcement. In coordination with U.S. authorities, the Government of Uzbekistan arranged a charter flight to repatriate more than 130 individuals from Uzbekistan and neighboring countries who lacked lawful immigration status. This operation, fully funded by the Government of Uzbekistan, reflects a serious commitment to regional enforcement of border security. As U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Noem noted, we appreciate President Mirziyoyev's leadership in supporting these efforts, and we look forward to continued collaboration to enhance our mutual security.

We were pleased to announce at the May 9th Economic and Environmental Committee meeting our interest in strengthening the second dimension and will look to the Central Asian region—including Uzbekistan—as a key partner in this effort. Promoting economic opportunity and good governance is critical to regional development and stability.

Unfortunately, as you noted Ambassador Karttunen, the OSCE Project Coordinator in Uzbekistan – like all other field missions, the Secretariat, and the independent institutions – faces significant operational difficulties due to severe financial constraints. The inability of participating States to adopt the Unified Budget has placed undue strain on all field missions' abilities to effectively carry out their mandates, affecting everything from staffing and resources to program implementation. We urge all participating States to join consensus to adopt a Unified Budget as soon as possible and to put the organization on stable footing.

Ambassador, we deeply appreciate the professionalism and dedication of you and your team. Please know that you have our strong support.

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