



United States Mission to the OSCE

**Response to the Report by the Head of the OSCE
Center in Ashgabat, Ambassador Bill Leaf**

As delivered by Chargé d’Affaires Katherine Brucker
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
October 2, 2025

Ambassador Leaf, dear Bill, welcome to the Permanent Council for your first report as Head of the OSCE Center in Ashgabat. We are pleased with the Center’s focus on working with Turkmenistan to strengthen border security, financial integrity, critical infrastructure protection, and national capacities to control small arms and light weapons.

Your Office’s work to secure Turkmenistan’s border and counter transnational crime, through strengthening passenger information systems, building the capacity of law enforcement canine units, and addressing emerging challenges such as technology-facilitated human trafficking, are exactly the kinds of concrete impact that are essential as we all work to ensure the OSCE maximizes its effectiveness. These examples illustrate what the United States means when we say the OSCE must reform to advance our collective security.

I would like to take a moment to address our urgent and collective need to ensure the OSCE can meet not only the needs of today, but also of tomorrow. We are, in some areas, living beyond our means, and in others not adequately funding those activities that make this organization unique. The OSCE has many special qualities that distinguish itself from other entities. This is where we should focus. We need to work together to make the tough decisions.

Ambassador Leaf, the United States looks forward to working with you as you demonstrate the value of the OSCE and advance our collective security with the government of Turkmenistan. Please extend our thanks to your terrific team for their excellent work.

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