



United States Mission to the OSCE

Response to the Report by the Director of the Conflict Prevention Center

As delivered by Chargé d'Affaires Katherine Brucker
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
July 4, 2024

Dear Kate, we warmly welcome you to the Permanent Council. The United States appreciates your unvarnished and honest assessment of the obstacles facing the Conflict Prevention Center, as well as your proactive approach to addressing them. Your tenure in office already illustrates that you are absolutely the right choice to direct the CPC.

Russia's malicious activities, from its brutal aggression against Ukraine to its efforts to sow instability across the OSCE region, are a challenge facing all of us.

Despite Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine and attempts to undermine the OSCE, the CPC carries out invaluable work in support of regional security.

We appreciate your clearly spelling out how the lack of a budget undermines your ability to implement the CPC's mandate to advance comprehensive security – which is the core business of the OSCE.

We are alarmed that the CPC might need to reduce its vital support to conflict prevention mechanisms such as the OSCE's 24/7 situation and communications room for lack of funds. Russia's considerable arrears contribute significantly to that dismal state of affairs. If Russia does indeed value the work it has joined consensus to mandate, it must pay its over 16 million euros in arrears dating back to 2022.

We urge participating States to approve the 2024 Unified Budget. It will facilitate the necessary work of the CPC, the OSCE field missions, and all of the organization's executive structures. The long-term impact of this financial uncertainty is already apparent in recruitment and retention difficulties, and the entirely unnecessary hardships imposed on CPC staff. Contributions by all participating States to the OSCE are an investment in the Organization's ability to conduct early warning, early action, dialogue facilitation, mediation support, and post-conflict rehabilitation, not only now, but also in an uncertain future.

Director Fearon, the United States strongly backs your work to facilitate the Support Program for Ukraine so that it is agile and responsive to Ukraine's needs. The United States

echoes your call for Russia to immediately and unconditionally release the unjustly detained SMM staff.

Additionally, we welcome – and support financially – the Center’s innovative work on the OSCE Geographic Information System pilot project and the coordination of the repository of the *Response to the Implications of Afghanistan for the OSCE Region*.

The work of the field missions in Central Asia, the Western Balkans, and Moldova deserves our collective championing. We commend you and your staff, Kate, for your tireless work and strong commitment to conducting the CPC’s core activities under extremely challenging conditions.

You and the staff of the CPC have the full support of the United States.

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