



United States Mission to the OSCE
Plenary Statement
32nd OSCE Ministerial Council
Vienna, Austria, December 4, 2025

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The OSCE, and before it the CSCE, were established to advance peace amongst member states and provide a forum for cooperation among nations that disagree. At a moment when President Trump is working to restore peace in Europe, that mission matters more than ever.

The United States remains engaged in OSCE because we believe that, if properly reformed, this organization can still play a meaningful role. But reform is necessary, both to ensuring the OSCE can fulfill its mission of furthering security in Europe, and to continued United States participation and engagement.

For years, the OSCE has been adrift. A glance at the OSCE's own website makes the problem plain: page after page of priorities, yet far fewer are directed toward preventing the wars and instability the OSCE exists to address. Instead, much of its public-facing work reads like a catalogue of ideological projects that many of our societies have rejected or reversed, from opposing common sense asylum reform, to misguided efforts to eliminate fossil fuels. With so many lines of effort, it is almost inevitable that few will be done well.

Meanwhile, as the bloodiest conflict since the Second World War approaches its fourth year – a conflict between two founding OSCE members that despite its efforts the organization could not prevent.

If the OSCE cannot provide value in the one area where it should matter most – engaging Russia in serious conflict management – then why should the United States continue to participate?

The answer is because the United States believes the OSCE can change and be effective.

I want to be clear.

We require change. No symbolic gestures or rhetorical commitments.

Real, serious change. What does that mean? First, President Trump has made clear that International Organizations need to find efficiencies. Just as we have significantly cut U.S. funding to the United Nations, so too must the OSCE revert to its core functions. Focus and narrowing organizational scope means tighter resourcing. To that end, the United States will expect a reduction of **at least fifteen million euros** in the annual budget by December 2026.

This is not austerity for its own sake. A tightened budget demands prioritization; it exacts managerial discipline to realize results.

Practically, we expect resources to be spent not on hosting conferences or writing reports, but on missions that support stability and peace. Those with the ability to contribute will need to do their part. The OSCE should also establish a reasonable minimum contribution level that would apply to all participating States.

Second, these financial reforms must be matched by structural ones. The OSCE has rightly stood up for human rights and freedoms for generations. That is not the same as dictating national social policy. The OSCE must stop treating transformation of domestic political life as one of its core functions. The important work of monitoring—whether of borders, elections, or reforms—can only be effective with the full cooperation of the states involved. This is a forum created to prevent wars; it is not an international ombudsman.

Third, the OSCE must also stop sidelining the very actors whose presence is essential for peace. A conflict involving Russia can only be managed by engaging Russia. That is a practical reality, and not an endorsement of any government's conduct. The OSCE could calm crises because all parties were represented and it sought to resolve conflicts.

Only after these conditions are met can the OSCE fulfill its core mission. Providing a venue where states with divergent visions of society can still meet, negotiate, and manage their differences. A venue that enables participating states to pursue work on pressing security issues like conventional arms control and border security, and counter threats like terrorism, money laundering, and trafficking. An OSCE that, when President Trump succeeds in ending the war between Russia and Ukraine, is ready to help secure a peace.

The United States will work to drive the OSCE to reform. But this cannot be an open-ended project with tepid intent; this must be serious and urgent. If the OSCE continues on its current path, the United States will continue to assess our participation and support.

The United States invites all delegates to join us in shaping an OSCE worthy of its origins in Helsinki and prepared for the responsibilities of this century. An OSCE once again ready to contribute to peace, stability, and prosperity.

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