



United States Mission to the OSCE

U.S. Statement for the Forum for Security Co-operation: General Statement

As delivered by Acting Deputy Chief of Mission Dave Haugen
February 18, 2026

Thank you, Madam Chair,

Last week, Vice President Vance made a historic visit to Armenia and Azerbaijan. President Trump, President Aliyev, and Prime Minister Pashinyan have accomplished something truly visionary for the region. The Trump Route for International Peace and Prosperity will create opportunities for prosperity and economic interdependence between Armenia and Azerbaijan, helping to ensure lasting peace. This is a remarkable moment for the region—one that can serve both as an inspiration and a catalyst for resolving other conflicts dominating our work in this forum.

Next week marks four years since the largest crisis in the OSCE region erupted, resulting in a staggering loss of life. Under President Trump's leadership, the United States continues to advance the prospects of a negotiated end to the terrible Russia-Ukraine conflict. Following trilateral talks in Abu Dhabi, United States Special Envoy Steve Witkoff announced a major prisoner exchange involving 314 captives. This is an important step forward, but difficult work remains. This war must end. The killing must end.

This institution must be ready for that eventuality. The OSCE must be poised to promote opportunities for resilient peace throughout the region. To succeed in this

important endeavor, it must first enact common-sense fiscal discipline. Reform through cost containment and modernization of the OSCE remains our top priority. Once implemented, these reforms will make the OSCE more effective at promoting peace for all participating States.

Thank you, Madam Chair.