



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
May 6, 2026

Thank you, Mister Chair,

The Russia-Ukraine war has seen the development and deployment of new weapons and strategies that materially change the way war is fought. Moreover, as the conflict continues, there is increased military activity, from airspace incursions to incidents at sea. Visual evidence and casualty statistics from the Russia-Ukraine war show that conventional armed forces remain central to modern warfare. The Vienna Document was designed to account for these military forces and continues to serve that purpose.

Colleagues, in this environment of low trust, we must use every tool available to this organization to curb the risk of escalation. Full implementation of our current risk-reduction commitments – which were established specifically for such low trust environments – should be a priority for us all. Discussing military activities in this forum and leveraging our confidence- and security-building measures will only strengthen our commitment to the core mandate of the OSCE. This means having real conversations with all sides about the future of warfare and weapons even during times of crisis and mitigating the risk of incidents that are happening today.

We as an organization have made significant progress by adopting a Unified Budget for 2026. As we move forward, we should be prepared to address the most important issues of the political-military dimension of the OSCE. The FSC has a mandate to modernize the Vienna Document. When the time is right, this will include discussing what emerging technologies may need to be incorporated in the future. This is a practical security issue that the OSCE is well positioned to address. In this context, we appreciate Norway's efforts within the Structured Dialogue to raise these issues which directly affect shared security concerns. The United States stands ready to discuss existing and emerging challenges as well as current and future risk reduction measures in the OSCE region with the goal of advancing peace.

Thank you, Mister Chair.