



United States Mission to the OSCE
U.S. Statement for the
Forum for Security Co-operation:
Security Dialogue: Thirty years of the Agreement on
Sub-regional Arms Control (Art. IV Annex 1-B of the
Dayton Accords)

As delivered by Acting Deputy Chief of Mission
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Thank you, Madam Chair.

Thirty years ago, the Dayton Peace Accords ended a devastating war in the Balkans. But Dayton did more than stop the fighting; it led to enforceable limits on heavy weapons and a robust system for transparency and verification. These practical measures brought much-needed predictability to a region where uncertainty had fueled conflict. The lesson is clear: lasting stability depends on effective and enforceable mechanisms that reduce the risk of renewed confrontation.

Madam Chair,

Today, the Euro-Atlantic region faces war once again. The United States believes that conflicts must be resolved in ways that restore stability and inhibit future aggression. After hostilities end, structured transparency and verifiable commitments can help rebuild trust and reduce the risk of miscalculation.

The OSCE was founded to reduce military risk and manage tensions. Arms control is central to this mission, and its continued relevance depends on our willingness to adapt. The United States supports reforms to keep the OSCE effective, including modernizing the Vienna Document so our risk reduction tools meet today's challenges. Arms control that is verifiable and enforceable, is a proven way to manage risks and build stability. The experience of Dayton shows that such mechanisms can transform fragile peace into lasting stability—a lesson that remains highly relevant here today.

Madam Chair,

Dayton demonstrates that even after conflict, adversaries can establish verifiable and enforceable agreements to stabilize regions and prevent renewed violence.

As we face today's challenges, we must apply that lesson with determination. The United States stands ready to work with all participating States to strengthen and enhance the OSCE conventional arms control architecture.

Thank you, Madam Chair.