



## **United States Mission to the OSCE**

### **On the Security Situation in the OSCE Area**

As delivered by Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Sonata Coulter to the OSCE's Annual Security Review Conference, Vienna  
June 17, 2026

This meeting reflects the opportunity and purpose of OSCE: bringing together states with differing views to address tough security issues and find solutions. The United States believes a reformed OSCE can play a meaningful role in promoting peace, preventing wars, and increasing prosperity. There are pressing security needs across the OSCE region.

The Russia-Ukraine war entered its fifth year this February, bringing ever more potent technology and devastating loss of life. The United States remains committed to a diplomatic solution to bring the war to a durable end. President Trump's message has been consistent: diplomacy and negotiations are the only path to a lasting peace between Russia and Ukraine.

The United States urges Russia and Ukraine to negotiate in good faith to end this violence – out of duty to protect and preserve the lives of your citizens. We underscore the need for an immediate and comprehensive ceasefire as means toward a durable, negotiated end to the war.

And when it does stop, the OSCE should be prepared to play a useful role, if called upon, to sustain peace through election support, ceasefire monitoring, or other activities.

President Trump's focus is peace – negotiated, sustainable peace. At last year's historic August 8 summit, President Trump brought together Armenia and Azerbaijan to end a decades-long conflict that has killed, wounded, and displaced hundreds of thousands of people. I congratulate Armenia and Azerbaijan as they move steadily forward, advancing their cooperation and the opportunity for the people of the region to reach their full potential. The August 8 summit launched the Trump Route for International Peace and Prosperity, and I encourage all OSCE participating States to consider how we can best support the region in realizing the full benefits a durable peace can bring.

I also welcome the resumption of the 1+1 meetings between Chisinau's and Tiraspol's chief negotiators. We support the OSCE Mission to Moldova's facilitation of this process, which exemplifies how the Organization can bring together parties with divergent views to solve practical problems – like water rights, energy security, vehicle registration, and language instruction. We call on all parties to the conflict to fulfill their commitments and seek a peaceful resolution that respects Moldova's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

In Georgia, where Russia continues to occupy 20 percent of Georgian territory, the United States calls upon Russia to immediately fulfill its obligation under the 2008 ceasefire agreement to withdraw its troops to pre-conflict positions. We support OSCE's role in

facilitating the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism meeting and the Geneva International Discussions.

Throughout its distinguished history, the OSCE has served as a first responder where military, economic, or human tensions threaten peace – via field operations and as a venue for negotiations. I would propose, however, that today’s challenges are more complex and dynamic than those of 1975. I think of AI-enabled hybrid activities... of new military technologies that are hard to detect and defeat – or verify... of societies that rely on exposed power grids to sustain individual human communication lifelines as well critical infrastructure.

OSCE cannot do it all. In an era of scarce resources, reform requires that we make hard choices: the United States believes OSCE must focus on its core mandate and prioritize work in areas where it has unique advantages. The need to prioritize applies to all three OSCE dimensions; in this review meeting we rightly focus on the first, the politico-military dimension.

The first dimension is built on conflict prevention, conflict resolution, and peace support. Core work in this dimension must also include conventional arms control and confidence- and security-building measures, including risk reduction and management tools; cybersecurity; and border security issues.

We believe military transparency, cooperation, and communication are valuable and help build predictable, stable relationships. We need to revitalize conventional arms control and confidence- and security-building measures, including the Vienna Document. These measures are most important in times of mistrust. We want to see all participating States adhere to their Vienna Document commitments, and urge those States not connected to the OSCE communications network to do so as a first step.

Events in cyberspace transcend borders, leave room for ambiguity, and can have serious consequences for citizens. OSCE is a global leader in the practical and meaningful adoption of cyber confidence building measures, which aim to reduce the risk of accidental escalation or conflict in the cyber domain. We encourage OSCE to build on its cybersecurity work, leveraging the Cyber Confidence Building Measures and the OSCE communications network to strengthen participating States’ defense against cyber threats.

OSCE has decades of experience in border security, in addition to its flagship Border Management Staff College. The OSCE should expand its border security work to better combat illegal immigration, transnational organized crime, terrorism, smuggling, and trafficking.

These are first-dimension areas where the OSCE has unique added value and can deliver concrete results. This is what reform means in practice – refocusing the OSCE’s work on areas that directly contribute to our security, prosperity, and stability. The United States is committed to working with all participating States to create a modern and nimble OSCE that carries forward the vision of the Helsinki Final Act and is prepared to address the security challenges of today and tomorrow.

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