



United States Mission to the OSCE

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

For delivery by Acting Deputy Chief of Mission Dave Haugen
July 1, 2026

Mister Chair,

This week, the United States marks a singular moment in its history: 250 years of independence, 250 years of the American experiment in democratic self-governance and human liberty. Our 250th birthday is a reminder to me and my fellow Americans of what is worth defending – and advancing – at home and abroad. In the Helsinki Final Act’s guiding principles, I see reflections of the principles that have inspired and challenged generations of proud Americans to build and protect our country and contribute to a better world. Principles like respect for unalienable rights and for the independence of states. We believe that sovereign states, adhering to shared principles and acting with mutual respect, can secure a more peaceful future for us all.

It is that conviction that brings the United States to this table. As we celebrate our 250th year of independence and seek to return to our founding spirit, the OSCE after 50 years must focus on reforming itself to advance effectively the aspirations of its founders in two neglected dimensions – the military and the economic. We do not want to engage in multilateral security forums merely out of habit. We engage because transparent, reciprocal cooperation among sovereign states remains one of the most effective tools we have to prevent conflict before it starts.

The OSCE's core mandate, established at Helsinki, is to promote peace, stability, and prosperity among its participating States. Since 1975, it has deployed field missions and facilitated negotiations. But it has expanded its focus into areas not connected to that core mandate. That must change; that is why reform is essential.

Reform is not optional. Reform means discipline and honesty. The United States believes the OSCE must concentrate its energy where it has a genuine role to play. Otherwise, the organization will cease to have value to the United States and other participating States. In the politico-military dimension, that means conventional arms control, cybersecurity, and border security. These are areas where the OSCE must focus. Everything else turns into endless meetings and speeches without any result.

Mister Chair,

As the United States celebrates 250 years of freedom, this milestone reminds us that the American experiment – our pursuit of a more perfect union – is a living story, continually shaped by the hard work of generations. We will remain committed to an OSCE that is leaner, more focused, and more effective – an organization equal to the complex new challenges of this century.

Thank you, Mister Chair.

