



## United States Mission to the OSCE

### **Response to the Report by the Director of the Conflict Prevention Center**

As delivery by Ambassador Darrell Owens  
to the Permanent Council, Vienna  
July 2, 2026

Addressing this Council for the first time as Permanent Representative of the United States is a true honor. I would like to thank our Swiss Chair for the warm welcome.

Director Fearon, I look forward to meeting you and our Secretariat colleagues. Thank you for joining this session of the Permanent Council. Your mandate, to prevent conflict and promote peace, is at the core of this organization.

The United States helped establish the OSCE during the Cold War as a forum where nations with profoundly different political systems could engage in dialogue, reduce tensions, and promote stability across the Euro-Atlantic region.

The Helsinki Final Act articulated a vision of comprehensive security that remains relevant today. It recognized that military stability, economic cooperation, and respect for human rights are interconnected and essential to a lasting peace.

For decades, the OSCE has played a valuable role in addressing these principles. It has served as a forum for arms control negotiations, confidence-building measures, and dialogue among nations that often see the world very differently. It has also supported partner nations through field operations focused on strengthening democratic institutions, border security, and economic transparency and stability.

Today, the importance of that mission is as clear as ever.

The Russia-Ukraine war has fundamentally challenged the European security architecture. At the same time, the OSCE remains one of the few institutions where states with differing perspectives can still engage directly on these security issues.

Accordingly, the organization must remain focused on its core mission. Over time, the OSCE's scope has broadened significantly, and it is important to reform, refocus, and refine to ensure it can effectively meet today's security challenges.

We come here today with a clear purpose: to translate shared commitments into meaningful action. Our responsibility is not simply to meet – but to act! To strengthen security, uphold

fundamental freedoms, have open and helpful dialogue, and pursue practical solutions to the challenges ahead.

The United States is ready to engage with confidence, speak candidly, and work with partners to advance the principles that have long contributed to peace, stability, and prosperity across the entire OSCE region.

Mister Chair, let me be direct about our priorities.

In a resource-constrained environment, reform requires we make hard choices: we want to see reforms that refocus the OSCE's work on current security issues central to the OSCE's core mandates and make the organization nimbler and field-focused; and a focus on the OSCE historic core mission of providing a venue where nations with strongly divergent visions of society can still meet, negotiate, manage differences, and achieve practical results across the three dimensions of security. The United States intends to use this organization to its full potential.

On fiscal discipline, the 2026 budget adoption was a genuine milestone – but is a beginning, not an end. We need a 2027 budget adopted on time, in 2026, that protects the fiscal discipline and cost containment gains we made this year. On scales of contribution, we look forward to working and engaging the Chair's Informal Working Group this month.

Mister Chair,

As we look to July 4 this week the United States marks a singular moment in its history: 250 years of independence, 250 years of the American experiment in self-governance and liberty. Freedom 250 is not merely a celebration. It is a reminder of what is worth defending: the sovereignty of nations, the dignity of citizens, and the principle that free peoples can and should secure a more peaceful world. It is that conviction that brings the United States to the table today.

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