



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

### **Response to the Address of Incoming Swiss Chair-in-Office Ignazio Cassis**

As prepared for delivery by Chargé d'Affaires Katherine Brucker  
to the Permanent Council, Vienna  
September 18, 2025

Thank you, Mister Chair.

Federal Councilor and incoming Chair-in-Office Ignazio Cassis, welcome to the Permanent Council. We value your commitment to injecting fresh energy into the priorities you outlined.

The United States fully supports Switzerland's goal of securing a durable peace between Ukraine and Russia. OSCE could play an important role in supporting long-term peace in a post-conflict Ukraine, and we are encouraged by your proactive and creative approach to leveraging the unique strengths of OSCE in this effort.

The end of the Minsk Process reflects the start of a new era of peace in the South Caucasus. As President Trump said at the signing of the Joint Declaration between the leaders of Armenia and Azerbaijan at the White House, "We've finally succeeded in making peace." Future action must reinforce this move toward stability and prosperity in the region.

Perhaps most importantly, we welcome Switzerland's determination to reform OSCE. OSCE *must* find ways to ensure its processes, procedures, and protocols keep it relevant to the challenges of our times. We welcome the initiative of the incoming Chair, participating States, and OSCE institutions and structures to make OSCE fit for purpose in an increasingly complex and fast-changing security environment. This includes adopting a fiscally disciplined Unified Budget and enacting reforms that enable OSCE to address the most pressing threats to our collective security, including illegal immigration, transnational crime, and malign Chinese activities. These are present dangers that require collective action, and we need to show that this organization can and will address them.

We share Switzerland's conviction that upholding fundamental freedoms of expression, peaceful assembly, association, and religion or belief is inseparable from lasting peace and security. We encourage OSCE to promote and defend free speech and religious freedom across the entire region. In this regard, we suggest that OSCE look at the internal censorship and de-platforming of various political parties across Europe. There is an alarming trend of censorship throughout many OSCE participating States. We will also encourage ODIHR to rescind its inflammatory, biased, and inaccurate report about the 2020 U.S. elections. We further encourage OSCE to confront surging anti-Christian bias, antisemitism, and repression of members of religious groups for peacefully professing and practicing their faith.

Federal Councilor Cassis, the United States looks forward to working closely with Switzerland in the months ahead and throughout your Chairmanship.

Thank you, Mister Chair.