



United States Mission to the OSCE **U.S. Statement on the** **Adoption of the FSC Agenda**

As delivered by Arms Control Counselor Daniel Wartko
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Thank you, Mr. Chair.

To the students visiting today: Welcome! You have come at an interesting time because sometimes diplomacy is not as straightforward as you might read about in history books.

What you're witnessing today is one State, the Russian Federation, refusing to agree to an agenda that includes only two items: (1) General Statements and (2) Any Other Business. That's it.

But there is another thing that you might not notice because it's absent, so I'll point it out to you: Russia has no support in the forum — it is completely alone in its objection to dialogue. There is not one single other participating State in this forum that agrees with the Russian Federation or even sympathizes with its position. Russia has through its destructive and obstructive actions completely isolated itself, and then it complains that the Chair, or that NATO, or the United States, or “The West” is conspiring against them. This is nonsense. This is Russia's responsibility alone.

Mr. Chair,

The United States would also like to express its very strong support for your leadership of this Forum, and for your reasonable position on this situation.

We support openness, dialogue, and a healthy debate. We understand why the Russian Federation is afraid of openness, why it's afraid of dialogue, and why it is afraid of debate, and we understand why the Russian delegate has scurried from this room as quickly as he could after finishing his statement. Because who could sit in that chair and defend that position in any debate?

Mr. Chair,

We look forward to the informal consultations and again, express our strong support for your role as a Chair.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.