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United States Mission to the OSCE
U.S. Statement for the
Forum for Security Co-operation:
General Statements

As delivered by Arms Control Advisor John Miller
February 19, 2025

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Russia's ambassador to the OSCE held an interview with RIA Novosti on February 8 wherein he said that Moscow's diplomatic goal in the OSCE is to "promote a unifying, non-confrontational agenda." He went on to say that the Russian delegation "continues to effectively convey its reasoned position." We have seen what that supposed reasoned position looks like here in the Forum for Security and Cooperation. It means Russia:

- Uses a political slur when referring to another participating State's leadership as quote "Ukrainian Nazis."
- Blocks basic agendas when Russia does not get its way.
- Ignores its commitments in the Helsinki Final Act and the rest of the founding documents of the OSCE by invading its neighbor.

As we approach the three-year mark of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, we are reminded of its objective at the start of its war: to conduct a lightning strike to subdue Ukraine as a step in rebuilding the Russian empire. Now, it is clear this war was a strategic error for Moscow. Today, Russia has an opportunity to adopt a truly reasoned position. It needs to negotiate.

If Russia chooses to continue this war, the United States is prepared to look at further sanctions and other measures that will only serve to hurt Russia's interests. If Russia chooses peace, the United States stands ready to lead negotiations toward a fair and enduring settlement that ensures Ukraine's sovereignty and national integrity.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.