



United States Mission to the OSCE
U.S. Statement for the
Forum for Security Cooperation:
Agenda Item 2: General Statements

As delivered by Chief Arms Control Delegate Daniel Wartko
September 14, 2022

Good Morning Mr. Chair, Colleagues,

Almost seven months have now passed since the Russian Federation began its brutal and unprovoked further war of aggression against Ukraine. During these nearly seven months of war, Russia's military forces have killed or wounded thousands of unarmed civilians, including nearly 1,000 children, reduced historic cities to rubble, and forced some 13 million Ukrainian citizens to flee their homes. The United States is especially concerned about the impact of this war on innocent children, which was visibly demonstrated during Secretary Blinken's recent visit to a Ukrainian children's hospital, where he met some of the youngest victims of Russia's aggression. We will address this topic further in this afternoon's security dialogue. Russia's leaders appeared to expect that their military tactics would break the spirit of the Ukrainian people and that of their friends and partners. However, they have only succeeded in uniting us in our determination that Ukraine will emerge from this war sovereign, independent, democratic, and even stronger than before. Let me be very clear, the United States stands united with Ukraine. That was true yesterday, that is true today, and that will be true tomorrow.

The United States has committed more than \$14.7 billion in security assistance to Ukraine since Russia's further aggression in February. This figure includes \$2.8 billion announced just last week by Secretary Blinken in Kyiv. This most recent package will provide Ukraine with weapons and equipment it needs to defend its people and its independence. We are providing Ukraine with the necessary means to defeat Russian aggression, protect its people, and maintain its sovereignty. This security assistance is empowering Ukraine to achieve real results on the ground as its counter-offensive gains momentum. In the last week alone, we have witnessed Ukrainian forces eject Russian forces from the city of Izyum with incredible speed. And while Ukraine can continue to rely on support

from over 40 nations, Russia finds itself reduced to asking international pariahs, such as Iran, Syria, and North Korea, for support and equipment.

To save itself from the consequences of its own actions, Russia needs to return to the goals and principles upon which this organization was founded. Moscow must de-escalate and stop its unprovoked war against Ukraine. Russia should institute a ceasefire, withdraw its troops from Ukraine's territory, and negotiate with Ukraine in good faith. There is no reason for Russia to compound its ongoing tactical and strategic failures with further military action. The only things this war has brought Russia is the deaths of its citizens, significant damage to its economy, and immeasurable damage to its international reputation.

Mr. Chair,

In stark contrast to the propaganda we've heard from Russia, the Kremlin alone bears responsibility for the erosion of the security environment in the OSCE area and the effectiveness of Europe's conventional arms control framework. Russia also has within its power to return the framework to its former strength by first halting its war of aggression against Ukraine and then returning to a constructive role within this forum. This would enable us to collectively return to technical dialogue, to Vienna Document negotiations, and to other CSBMs.

The United States also notes that Belarus's actions continue to contravene this Forum's mandate to ensure security cooperation by encouraging "responsible and cooperative norms of behavior on politico-military aspects of security." Belarus is complicit in Russia's assault on Ukraine, and it must halt its facilitation of the war against Ukraine and reject Russia's use of Belarusian territory as a base for its military operations.

Mr. Chair,

For decades, cooperative security in Europe has been premised on adherence to the principles and commitments enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act, principles that underpin our arms control CSBMs and the European security architecture as a whole. The United States remains committed to these principles and commitments and will continue to stand with our Allies and partners to ensure they are upheld and protected, even as others want only to ignore and contravene them.

A final note: Reported Azerbaijani strikes on Armenian territory resulting in casualties in Armenian villages and towns are unacceptable and must stop immediately. The United States calls for an immediate de-escalation of hostilities and a return to talks aimed at a lasting, peaceful resolution to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and the normalization of relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

I ask that this statement be attached to the Journal of the Day.

Thank You, Mr. Chair.