



United States Mission to the OSCE

Response to the Address by OSCE Parliamentary Assembly President Pia Kauma

As delivered by Chargé d'Affaires Katherine Brucker
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
January 30, 2025

President Kauma, welcome back to the Permanent Council.

The United States welcomes the Parliamentary Assembly's – and your personal – support to advance our shared principles as we look ahead to the 50th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act. Parliaments have a crucial role to play in participating States' implementation of OSCE commitments.

We are pleased that the Parliamentary Assembly (PA) continues to hold Russia accountable for its war of aggression against Ukraine. Many PA resolutions since 2014 have stressed Russia's clear contravention of all of its commitments under the Helsinki Final Act. As you noted in November, Ukraine and its people are suffering immense hardship "with hundreds of thousands of lives lost, millions fled and displaced, and a dramatic impact on the civilian population," including human tragedy and widespread suffering "that are having far-reaching consequences including within the OSCE." We applaud the work of the Parliamentary Support Team, as well as the Parliamentary Assembly's efforts for the release of OSCE officials Vadym Golda, Maxim Petrov and Dmytro Shabanov. We look forward to the results of the PA visit to Ukraine early next month.

The United States was pleased to welcome the Parliamentary Assembly for the OSCE observation of our elections last November. We share your disappointment that the OSCE could not observe elections in Belarus due to the lack of a timely invitation from Belarus authorities, once again, denying transparency and a full and impartial assessment of the elections process.

We share the concerns expressed in the OSCE report on the October 2024 elections in Georgia and agree that now is not the time for an official visit by the Parliamentary Assembly.

Madam President, lastly, we support the Assembly's ongoing collaboration with the OSCE institutions, including on election observation. We also look forward to the Parliamentary Assembly Winter Meeting here in Vienna next month.

###