



Permanent Mission of Finland to the OSCE



Permanent Mission of the
Republic of North Macedonia to the OSCE, UN and
other International Organizations in Vienna

End of Year Statement by the OSCE Troika 30th December 2024

1. We, the OSCE Troika members - Malta, North Macedonia and Finland - recognise that the 31st Ministerial Council was held at a critical juncture. Russia's ongoing aggression against Ukraine continues to erode European security and undermine the shared system of norms and values on which our predecessors built their vision of international peace, security, and prosperity. Against this backdrop, we reassert our steadfast commitment to the preservation and enhancement of the OSCE as a platform for dialogue and an essential contributor to the security and stability of the entire OSCE region.
2. As we approach the 50th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act, we call for a return to full compliance with the OSCE's principles and commitments, to which we have all freely agreed. Our resolve to stand by these shared multilateral values must not be allowed to falter when it is needed most. In the face of mounting challenges to our shared security, it is incumbent upon all participating States to persevere on the multilateral path with courage, integrity, and conviction.
3. We condemn Russia's ongoing war against Ukraine. We call on Russia to cease its aggression and demand the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Russia's armed forces and military equipment from the entire territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders, including the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol. Relations between OSCE participating States are based on respecting the rights inherent in sovereignty, refraining from the use of force, and respecting the inviolability of frontiers and the territorial integrity of States. These core pillars must never be undermined.
4. We mourn the innocent lives lost in Russia's war against Ukraine and condemn all actions aimed at inflicting death, devastation, and trauma on civilians, including attacks on critical infrastructure and other civilian targets. Recognising the increased vulnerability of women, children, the elderly, and people with disabilities in times of conflict, we reiterate our deep concern about reports of conflict-related sexual violence, and about the wellbeing of Ukrainian children who are victims of forcible transfer and deportation and re-education.
5. Recalling our shared commitments under international human rights and humanitarian law, we call on the Russian Federation to release all persons illegally detained in the context of the war against Ukraine. We demand the immediate release of three OSCE officials - Vadym Golda, Maxim Petrov and Dmytro Shabanov - who remain detained in Donetsk and Luhansk in violation of the principles and commitments made by all the participating States of our Organization.

6. We condemn the executions and the use of torture and other inhumane treatment against Ukrainian Prisoners of War by the Russian Armed Forces. This runs counter to the protections and provisions outlined in international law and reaffirmed in the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security. We further encourage the accelerated exchange of Prisoners of War.
7. We are deeply concerned by the wider adverse impacts of the war against Ukraine on food security, nuclear security and safety, energy security, cultural heritage, and the environment. These have consequences in Ukraine and for our whole region and beyond.
8. We call on Belarus to stop enabling Russia's war against Ukraine. We are also deeply concerned by the recent deployment of troops from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to Russia and the escalation it represents.
9. We commend the courage and resilience of the Ukrainian people and stand firm in our support for a just and lasting peace based on full respect for Ukraine's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. We underline that the immediate cessation of attacks is imperative to creating conditions for a just and durable resolution to this war. We reaffirm our support for all diplomatic efforts, including the Peace Formula presented by President Zelenskyy, aimed at achieving and implementing a peaceful settlement that is fully compliant with the UN Charter and the Helsinki Final Act. All such efforts and talks must be underpinned by the pursuit of justice for Ukraine and accountability for crimes committed.
10. We reassert our commitment to continued OSCE support to Ukraine for the duration of the war and in eventual post-war recovery, including through evidence-gathering and accountability mechanisms. As demonstrated by the work of the OSCE's Support Programme for Ukraine, OSCE tools and expertise remain of vital importance in mitigating the impact of the war and in realising our shared vision of a peaceful and prosperous future for Ukraine. We thank the former Special Representative - Project Coordinator in Ukraine, Ambassador Marcel Peško, for his important work and affirm our support for the new Special Representative, Ambassador Petr Mareš.
11. We remain committed to all OSCE efforts to enhance the security of all participating States for the benefit of our people. We reaffirm the centrality of the OSCE conflict cycle toolbox in facilitating a broad spectrum of conflict prevention and resolution efforts across the wider OSCE region.
12. We welcome ongoing negotiations between Armenia and Azerbaijan toward a final peace settlement and emphasize that inclusive dialogue is the sole path for resolving disagreements and disputes. We strongly reject the use of force in addressing differences and urge all parties to engage sincerely in negotiations to build the agreements that are necessary for lasting peace and stability in the region. The OSCE stands ready to support the implementation of confidence-building measures among all parties.
13. We reiterate our strong support to Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity. We note the significance of the Geneva International Discussions and support the continued emphasis on the delivery of tangible results for conflict-affected communities, which was in focus in 2024. We remain committed to sustaining established efforts and initiatives, including the work of the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanisms.

14. We commend the resilience demonstrated by the Republic of Moldova in light of Russia's war against Ukraine and recognise the impact of the war on the Transdniestrian Settlement Process. We commend the sides on their commitment to a peaceful settlement and welcome the progress made in 2024. We encourage further and continued engagement to resolve outstanding issues with the support of the OSCE Mission to Moldova and the Chairpersonship's Special Representative. We also call for a return to the established practice of regular 12-month mandate extensions, which is in the best interests of the Republic of Moldova, the Transdniestrian Settlement Process, and the OSCE.
15. We highlight the vital work of the OSCE's Field Operations, which are the lifeblood of this Organization. Together with OSCE staff working across the OSCE region, they continue to facilitate important progress on our shared priorities by supporting ongoing domestic reform processes and reinforcing engagement with OSCE principles and commitments, including in South Eastern Europe and in Central Asia. We encourage host authorities to make full use of OSCE tools and expertise. We urgently call on all participating States to foster the necessary political will to ensure prompt and adequate financial and human resources for OSCE field operations, ensuring that mandates can be fully implemented.
16. We emphasise that the OSCE's comprehensive approach to security underpins its work across the entire OSCE region. In this regard, we underscore the importance of ensuring integrity and constructive exchanges in all three dimensions of security.
17. We underline the continued importance of preserving the OSCE's role as a space for dialogue in the politico-military dimension of security in the context of current security challenges and instability. We stress the importance of ongoing implementation of the OSCE Arms Control and Confidence and Security Building Measures, including through adherence to the Code of Conduct, as we mark its 30th anniversary. We call on the OSCE and participating States to continue to address new and existing threats, including those stemming from emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, in order to strengthen resilience and enhance security.
18. We note the importance of discussions on economic and environmental security challenges across the OSCE region, including those stemming from Russia's war against Ukraine, where the OSCE has a vital role in monitoring environmental consequences of the war, paving the way for future accountability efforts. Recognising the salience of the threat of climate change, we call for climate mainstreaming and for deeper co-operation and result-based climate diplomacy, especially through capacity-building efforts in areas such as risk assessment, resilience building, and disaster response. We will also support continued joint action on economic and environmental issues, good governance, and sustainable development, including through digitalisation.
19. We note continued threats to human rights, democracy and the rule of law across the OSCE region, including violent actions against peaceful protests and the silencing of political opponents, human rights defenders, and critical journalists, which constitute violations of our shared human dimension commitments. We call on all participating States to recommit to respecting human rights, fundamental freedoms, democracy, and the rule of law as essential foundations for peace and security. We commend the indispensable work of the OSCE's institutions—the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), the High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM), and the Representative on Freedom of the Media (RFoM)—and reaffirm our strongest support for their mandates. We also reaffirm the role played by the OSCE as a vital platform for dialogue with

civil society, whose involvement is crucial in promoting transparency and holding governments accountable.

20. We reassert our continued commitment to inclusivity, promoting gender equality and to ensuring that the perspectives of women and youth are mainstreamed in all our work across the three dimensions of security. In the year marking the 20th anniversary of the OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality, we call for continued efforts to support women's full and meaningful participation in all spheres of society and public life. This is not just our moral duty – it is also crucial for the creation of more peaceful, sustainable, and inclusive societies.
21. We remain convinced of the added value of the OSCE's dialogue with Mediterranean and Asian Partners for Co-operation in the context of the interconnectedness of global challenges and the need to enhance mutual trust and stability for the OSCE and neighbouring regions. We will continue to support efforts to incorporate their perspectives and expertise in OSCE work and to increase the visibility of the results of their activities.
22. Malta, North Macedonia and Finland underscore their shared belief in dialogue as the engine of multilateralism. A return to the OSCE's fundamental principles and commitments will be essential to fully reinstate this dialogue, to fulfil the OSCE's potential contribution to the multilateral system, and to restore peace and security in our region and beyond.
23. To weather challenges present and future, the OSCE must remain a space where shared principles and commitments are adhered to, reinforced, and translated into tangible action. The endurance of its value depends on the strength of the two pillars of its functionality: effective leadership and sufficient resources. In this regard, we welcome the successful appointment of Mr. Feridun H. Sinirlioğlu as Secretary General of the OSCE, Ms. Maria Telalian as Director of the ODIHR, Mr. Christophe Kamp as OSCE HCNM, and Mr. Jan Braathu as OSCE RFoM on 6 December 2024. We further welcome the decision confirming Switzerland as the 2026 OSCE Chairpersonship, effective today, 30 December 2024. We commend Switzerland for showing strong leadership and stepping forward to assume this role.
24. The appointment of the new Secretary General and Heads of Institution and the decision on the Swiss 2026 Chairpersonship are necessary but not sufficient for the full restoration of the OSCE's functionality, agility, and central role in the European security architecture. We deeply regret that, despite extensive good faith efforts, consensus could not be reached on the approval of the 2024 Unified Budget, and we underscore the increasingly urgent need to find solutions to ensure the OSCE's financial sustainability. In light of this continued impasse, we reiterate that the principle of consensus, which is woven into all the decision-making structures of this Organization, must be used constructively, as a source of strength and resilience.
25. As members of the OSCE Troika, our focus remains on the road ahead. We stress that guaranteeing the OSCE's continued functionality is a shared responsibility and a long-term commitment for which current and future Chairpersonships will continue to rely on the political will of all 57 participating States. As we prepare to guide the OSCE to Finland's stewardship for 2025, we reaffirm that it is our shared and abiding obligation to ensure the OSCE's continued role in securing a free, democratic and peaceful world for future generations.