



United States Mission to the OSCE
U.S. Statement for the
Forum for Security Cooperation:
General Statements –
Russia’s War of Aggression Against Ukraine

As delivered by Arms Control Advisor Kent Siebeneck
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Thank you, Mr. Chair,

Several participating States in this Forum are celebrating their national anniversaries this month, including the United States. Our commemorations collectively acknowledge our independence, including our right as states to chart our own freely chosen path in the world consistent with international law. Therefore, even as we joyously mark our independence, we also recognize we have solemn obligations to the international community, not least obligations to respect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of individuals and the sovereignty and territorial integrity of states.

Respect for human rights **within** states and for sovereignty and territorial integrity **among** states are guiding principles of the Helsinki Final Act of the OSCE, and they remain the foundation of lasting security in this region. Yet Russia has acted in blatant contempt of these principles by launching and prosecuting its war of aggression against Ukraine and by brutally occupying and purporting to annex parts of Ukraine’s sovereign territory.

Mr. Chair,

The Russian Federation delegation recently addressed this body crying crocodile tears over civilian casualties, castigating participating States for aiding Ukraine’s defense. The Russian delegation made these cynical statements, while Russia’s forces continued to send wave after wave of missiles into Ukraine, hitting cities and civilian infrastructure.

Last week, we all witnessed the horrific attack by Russia devastating the National Children’s Specialized Hospital in Kyiv. Russia’s war of choice continues

to bring daily tragedy to the Ukrainian people, including through the death of children. The hospital was treating more than 600 children when Russia struck it with the missile. In addition to dozens of casualties, many families can now no longer access critical medical care for their loved ones.

The mounting atrocities and abuses that Russia's forces and other Russian officials and their proxies have committed in Ukraine send a chilling message to all sovereign states around the world that Putin's Kremlin has no compunction about violating international law and has zero regard for human life. Time and again we have seen Russia take actions that harm and even kill the most vulnerable in society and those who care for them – Ukrainian civilians have endured years of needless horror for the sake of Putin's territorial ambitions. While professing to want peace, the Kremlin continues its malign campaigns of destabilization, death, and destruction -- all to advance its revanchist goals.

The Russian representative also said that Euro-Atlantic Security needs to be created anew. What is Russia's vision of a new Euro-Atlantic Security? A world of "Rule by Force," where Russia is free to invade and occupy its neighbors' sovereign territory? A world where civilian lives -- children's lives -- are an acceptable cost of territorial conquest? A world where the subjugation of another state – forcing it to give up its sovereignty, political independence, and territory -- is the price for peace.

Peaceful nations stand resolute and united in the face of Russia's attempts to impose its will on other states through aggression and threats. We reject Russia's vision to redraw Euro-Atlantic security just to accommodate Putin's expansionist designs. Democratic, sovereign Ukraine will prevail, and the United States will continue to stand with Ukraine until it achieves the just and lasting peace its courageous people deserve.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.