



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

As delivered by Arms Control Counselor Daniel Wartko  
May 3, 2023

Thank you, Madam Chair.

I worry sometimes that we have become numb to statistics, and I would like to thank our Ukrainian colleague for reminding me of the human cost of some of the things that we talk about. She just informed us that 23 civilians were killed in their sleep, in their homes, by a Russian missile strike. In April, 324 civilians were killed in Ukraine. Now when there is a tragic train crash in Greece that killed 57 or the earthquakes in Türkiye, we all remembered to offer our condolences for innocent lives lost ... for people who could have been us, just living their daily existence. This is happening every day in Ukraine. Russia is doing this every day in Ukraine. We should not forget the human cost of this.

And as Ukraine continues its brave and heroic resistance to Russia's brutal and illegal invasion, and as Russia continues to degrade itself through its inept and criminal conduct of its war, I would like to brief the members of this forum on some recent steps the United States has taken to support Ukraine's effort to defend itself.

When President Biden said that the United States would "stand united with Ukraine for as long as it takes," he meant it. The United States has worked closely with Ukraine and a broad range of international partners to consider jointly Ukraine's self-defense needs. And I would like to provide you with an update on U.S. assistance to Ukraine during the past two months:

On March 20, the United States announced its 34th military assistance package for Ukraine valued at \$350 million, that includes support from existing Department of Defense stocks, including HIMARS ammunition and mine-clearing equipment.

On April 4, the United States announced another \$500 million military assistance package from DoD stocks, including air defense, additional HIMARS, and heavy transport equipment.

Also on April 4, we announced \$2.1 billion in further support through the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative (USAI) to purchase: new stocks of air defense systems; ammunition for artillery, air defense, and small arms; and more transport equipment, training, and funds for maintenance and sustainment.

And on April 19, the United States announced an additional \$325 million military assistance package of arms and equipment drawn from U.S. Department of Defense inventories. Altogether, this is a total of more than \$3.2 billion in additional support for Ukraine's defense in March and April alone.

Madam Chair,

We fully understand that Russia does not like this support for Ukraine from the United States or any other country.

In fact, Russia recently accused the United States and other participating States in this forum of violating agreements or arrangements on arms transfers by providing such military equipment to Ukraine to defend itself against Russia's invasion.

I would like to recall the OSCE's *Principles Governing Conventional Arms Transfers*, specifically Chapter II, paragraph 4(a)(v), which states, "each participating State will, in considering proposed transfers, take into account: [*inter alia*] the requirements of the recipient country to enable it to exercise its right to individual or collective self-defense in accordance with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations." Russia itself committed to these principles in 1993, when it joined consensus on its adoption, the record of which can be found in FSC/Journal No. 49.

Ukraine is exercising its right of self-defense consistent with Article 51 of the UN Charter, defending its sovereignty and democracy against Russia's illegal invasion, and the United States and our allies and partners are acting in full accordance with their international commitments and obligations when providing

conventional arms to Ukraine. To take this a step further, we maintain that it is in keeping with the principles and commitments set out in paragraph 5 of the *OSCE Code of Conduct*, which states, “Participating States are determined to act in solidarity if [OSCE] norms and commitments are violated and to facilitate concerted responses to security challenges that they may face as a result. They will consult promptly...with a participating State seeking assistance in realizing its...self-defense. They will consider jointly the nature of the threat and actions that may be required in defense of their common values.”

Thank you, Madam Chair.