



United States Mission to the OSCE

The Russian Federation's Ongoing Aggression Against Ukraine

As delivered by Chargé d'Affaires Katherine Brucker
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
July 25, 2024

As we commemorate the 49th anniversary of the signing of the Helsinki Final Act on August 1st, we should reflect on the principles it enshrines— respect for sovereignty, human rights and fundamental freedoms, territorial integrity, and refraining from the threat or use of force against another participating State. Adherence to these principles undergirds peace, prosperity, and cooperation throughout the OSCE region.

Ukraine's refusal to capitulate to Russia's aggression is a profound demonstration of its commitment to the principles of the Helsinki Final Act. By defending itself, Ukraine is upholding the ten foundational principles we all agreed to. Ukraine's battle is a defense of international law and the rules-based international system. Ukraine's battle is a defense of our foundational values.

These values include:

- Respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief;
- Sovereign equality and respect for rights inherent in sovereignty;
- Commitment to a peaceful settlement of disputes; and
- Rejection of the use of military force for territorial gain.

The world has witnessed and continues to document the grave consequences of a participating State abandoning these values and contravening its international legal obligations and OSCE commitments. These consequences include:

- A staggering cost of human lives, documented in ODIHR's fifth interim report, released on July 22. There is mounting evidence of violations of international law by members of Russian forces and other Russian officials;
- The commission of war crimes and other atrocities, against the people of Ukraine, which we've condemned in this room and documented in multiple Moscow Mechanism Experts Mission reports;
- According to the OSCE's own assessment, Russia's brutal land grab has caused significant environmental damage, including widespread pollution of

bodies of water, degradation of land, and destruction of critical wildlife habitats.

- Finally, beyond Ukraine, the Kremlin's unconscionable aggression has exacerbated global food insecurity.

Ukraine is defending our principles and our values against these threats. Ukraine's success is our success. We will not accept Russia's blatant disregard for its own commitments, including all ten Helsinki Final Act principles, and we will not tolerate its violations of the UN Charter. As an OSCE participating State firmly committed to these principles and to the peace and prosperity of this region and all of its people, the United States stands with Ukraine.

Slava Ukraini!

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