



## **United States Mission to the OSCE**

# **Security Dialogue on Helsinki Decalogue, “Common Commitments on Security and Cooperation in Europe”**

As delivered by Chargé d'Affaires Katherine Brucker  
to the Forum for Security Cooperation and Permanent Council,  
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The 1975 Helsinki Final Act permanently transformed the traditional political landscape of Europe and Eurasia by establishing ten guiding principles—the Decalogue—that codified basic norms of behavior to ensure comprehensive security and order in the OSCE region. The United States fully stands by these commitments, including respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of states, the inviolability of frontiers, refraining from the threat or use of force, the peaceful settlement of disputes, and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

We do not view these principles as decorative ornaments or idealistic aspirations that we or our descendants might someday achieve. These are bedrock principles that are essential to our collective security and have been in place for nearly 50 years. Failing to uphold these commitments threatens not only the security of one or two other participating States, but also the security throughout the entire OSCE region and beyond.

And here in Europe, the Russian Federation is now contravening all ten of the Helsinki Final Act principles.

The Kremlin's abandonment of our shared principles is most evident in its war of aggression in Ukraine. Vladimir Putin continues to offer disingenuous calls for peace under false pretenses with demands that Ukraine surrender its sovereignty, its democracy, its cultural identity, and its ability to decide its own future. Moscow's recent escalation of the conflict by involving up to 12,000 troops from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has expanded the conflict.

Rather than upholding foundational Helsinki principles, Moscow seeks to erase them by imposing its will on other sovereign states' security measures. Article 1 of the Helsinki Final Act says that participating States “have the right to ... be a party to bilateral or multilateral treaties including the right to be or not to be a party to treaties of alliance.” Yet Putin recently said, “If there is no neutrality, it is difficult to imagine the existence of any good-neighborly relations between Russia and Ukraine.” His comments blatantly trample on our shared principles.

Russia's transgressions of the Helsinki Final Act go beyond Ukraine. Russia has repeatedly violated the territorial integrity of other participating States, and it continues to

station forces on the territory of neighbors without their consent. This is contrary to international law and Russia's political commitments. Russia never fulfilled its 1999 Istanbul Summit commitments to withdraw its forces, munitions, and equipment from Moldova and Georgia. Furthermore, Russia has not implemented its obligations under the 2008 ceasefire agreement with Georgia and continues to illegally occupy 20 percent of that country.

A total of six Moscow Mechanism reports have found Russia in contravention of its Helsinki commitments in the human dimension. The September 2022 report on *Russia's Legal and Administrative Practice in Light of Its OSCE Human Dimension Commitments* revealed a clear link between Russia's internal repression of human rights and fundamental freedoms and its external aggression.

Distinguished Chairs,

The United States is committed to the Decalogue. It is our touchstone. All of us have a stake in defending those principles, and none of us will permit Russia to impose a new security architecture to validate its attempt to redraw borders by force and to establish antiquated, neo-imperial spheres of influence.

Nearly 50 years ago, the leaders of our countries came together to lay the foundation for a peaceful, rules-based order in this region. If we wish to return to the cooperative path that was conceived of in 1975 in the Helsinki Final Act, **all** participating States must demonstrate the political will to fully implement their Helsinki commitments. To do that, Russia must end its war against Ukraine, cease its occupation of Georgian territory, and remove its forces from all countries where they are present without host country consent.

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