



United States Mission to the OSCE

Reinforced Permanent Council on the Anniversary of Russia-Ukraine War

As delivered by Chargé d’Affaires, a.i., Kate Rebholz
to the Reinforced Permanent Council, Vienna
February 24, 2026

I want to thank Switzerland, as Chair-in-Office, as well as Foreign Minister Cassis personally, for convening this important meeting.

The United States again calls on the Russian Federation and Ukraine to end this war, in which hundreds of thousands of people have needlessly suffered.

This war has destroyed cities, displaced families, and destabilized the region. Russia should immediately stop its attacks on Ukraine’s civilians and energy infrastructure. Russia’s drones and missiles are depriving civilian families in Ukraine of light and warmth in the depths of winter.

Diplomacy and negotiations are the only path to a lasting peace between Russia and Ukraine. Disingenuous and incendiary rhetoric are not part of that path. While Russia’s drones and missiles strike Ukraine’s power grid, Russia continues to use this forum to make peace more difficult.

Participating States created the OSCE to reduce tensions, increase transparency, and prevent conflict. The OSCE has tools, field missions, and expertise that can support implementation of a durable settlement consistent with Helsinki Final Act principles and to ensure a strong and sovereign Ukraine.

If we are serious about peace, we must also be serious about reform. An OSCE that is focused, efficient, and oriented toward concrete outcomes can support confidence-building measures and post-conflict stabilization. Our task is urgent. An inefficient and unfocused organization cannot deliver security and will not meet the demands of today, let alone those of the future.

Let us use this organization now for its intended purpose – maintaining international peace and security across our region. We urge all participating States to recommit themselves to a peaceful and lasting resolution to this war and to take concrete steps to achieve it.

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