



United States Mission to the OSCE

U.S. Statement for the Forum for Security Co-operation: Right of Reply

As delivered by Acting Deputy Chief of Mission Dave Haugen
March 4, 2026

Thank you, Madam Chair,

I would like to exercise my right of reply in response to a statement by Belarus at last week's FSC regarding the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty and nuclear weapons deployments.

The United States withdrew from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty in 2019 because Russia failed to return to full and verified compliance through the destruction of its noncompliant missile system—a system currently deployed and used against Ukraine. The United States remains committed to effective, verifiable, and enforceable arms control that advances U.S., allied, and partner security—with partners that comply with their obligations.

Regarding Belarus's claims about U.S. deployments: the Aegis Ashore system in Poland supports a missile defense system. Belarus's characterization of this system as an offensive cruise missile platform is factually incorrect.

Furthermore, U.S. nuclear weapons deployments fully comply with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Deployments in Europe support NATO's collective defense and pose no threat to Belarus.

We are working diligently toward a settlement between Russia and Ukraine to restore peace in Europe. We encourage Belarus to work with us in pursuing this shared goal.

Thank you, Madam Chair.