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**STATEMENT BY
AMBASSADOR FATÈNE BENHABYLÈS-FOETH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF FRANCE TO THE OSCE, AT THE
1144th PLENARY MEETING OF THE OSCE FORUM FOR
SECURITY CO-OPERATION**

29 July 2026

Closing session under the Georgian Chairmanship

Director General Karaulashvili,
Mr. Secretary General,
Mr. Chairperson,
Dear colleagues,

Before leaving the Troika, I wish to say a few words in that capacity.

First of all, I should like to thank and congratulate Georgia, which has steered the work of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) over the past few months with precision and professionalism, making its Chairmanship a success.

Against an international backdrop marked by ever-increasing tensions, in particular on the European continent owing to Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, we remain convinced of the importance of the OSCE's role: established more than fifty years ago during times that were themselves not free of tensions, this Organization – our Organization – offers a unique framework in the form of the FSC. This Forum enables us, on the one hand, to reaffirm the politico-military rules and principles to which we, the participating States, have all subscribed in accordance with the Helsinki Final Act and with a series of commitments, including those laid down in the code of conduct that was at the heart of the Security Dialogues organized under the Georgian Chairmanship. On the other hand, our Forum must serve to maintain the channels of communication aimed at containing escalation – verbal escalation and, of course, escalation on the ground.

Secondly, we note with satisfaction that the work carried out under the Georgian FSC Chairmanship has made it possible to keep the Forum functioning and to continue addressing the disastrous consequences of the war that Russia is waging against Ukraine. This war has numerous ramifications for our collective security, and Russia is flouting the fundamental rights and rules enshrined in international humanitarian law and in the Code of Conduct on Politico Military Aspects of Security.

The focus that your Chairmanship has placed, through the themes chosen for your three Security Dialogues, on the implementation of the obligations arising from the Code of Conduct struck us as particularly relevant, and we should like to thank you for the high calibre of the experts you invited, whose contributions fostered substantive discussions with the participating States, whether we were (a) exploring the strengthening of compliance with the obligations under the Code of Conduct; (b) looking into the impact of armed conflicts on women and girls; or (c) describing conflict-related human rights violations and conflict related violations of international humanitarian law.

These obligations are binding on us all; we must abide by them. I should like to take this opportunity to formally call upon Russia to grant the International Committee of the Red Cross access to prisoners and make it possible for the Committee to notify relatives who have been left without news of their loved ones.

In closing, I wish the United Kingdom every success as it takes over the Chairmanship of the Forum in the final trimester of 2026. France is delighted to have been able to contribute, alongside Finland, Georgia and the United Kingdom, to the work of the FSC as part of the Troika. We now hand over to Greece and assure the incoming Chairmanships that they can count on our support as a “rank-and-file” participating State.

Mr. Chairperson, allow me to add a few words about current developments.

France condemns in the strongest possible terms the strike on Latvia’s Honorary Consulate in Sloviansk, along with the repeated violations of Romania’s sovereign airspace, including near Bucharest. Instead of fuelling the escalation of the war even further, it is time for Russia to finally heed our calls to bring the fighting to an end in order to return to the path of direct negotiations with Ukraine, with a view to achieving a just and lasting peace on our continent. We support this approach and will continue to do so.

Mr. Chairperson, I would be grateful if you could kindly attach this statement to the journal of the day.

Thank you.