The OSCE Secretariat bears no responsibility for the content of this document and circulates it without altering its content. The distribution by OSCE Conference Services of this document is without prejudice to OSCE decisions, as set out in documents agreed by OSCE participating States.

FSC.DEL/429/26
12 November 2026

ENGLISH only

United States Mission to the OSCE

U.S. Statement for the Forum for Security Co-operation: General Statement

As delivered by Chief Arms Control Delegate David Haugen
November 11, 2026

Thank you, Mister Chair.

Let me begin by expressing our condolences to our Polish and Bulgarian allies following the horrific events that recently took place. Today, at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, nations across Europe pause to mark the Armistice that ended the fighting of the First World War. In the United States, we observe Veterans Day and honor all who have served in our Armed Forces. As President Trump has said, freedom is not free.

Mister Chair,

The generation that fought that war called it "the war to end all wars." Within twenty-one years, Europe was again at war. Those who serve know the cost of war better than anyone. We honor them best by working to prevent the next one.

As we stated in this forum on September 30, miscalculation, not intent alone, has driven many of the gravest security incidents of the past century, with the Great War being one of the clearest examples. Three weeks ago, we added that communication matters most in a crisis. Today, we offer three priorities to put those thoughts into practice:

First, keep the channels open. As Secretary Rubio said last month, President Trump's "preference in any challenge around the world is to try to solve it diplomatically and peacefully, if possible." That requires talking, including with those with whom we disagree. The OSCE and its associated fora, arrangements, tools, and networks exist for precisely this purpose. We call on all participating States to use them, and to answer when others do. Military threats and coercive rhetoric have no place in this forum and only increase the risk of misunderstanding and escalation.

Second, uphold the commitments we have made. Confidence- and security-building measures work only when States implement them fully and in good faith. We call on every participating State to meet its commitments without exception.

Third, prepare for peace. Ending the war between Russia and Ukraine remains a top priority for President Trump. The United States supports efforts to achieve a negotiated, just, and durable peace that safeguards Ukraine's sovereignty, independence, and long-term security. This war will end only through a negotiated settlement, and the killing must stop. We must start thinking now about what tools and arrangements will be needed to support a durable peace when the shooting finally stops.

Mister Chair,

The choice of dialogue over violence remains open to us today. The work we do in this forum—building transparency, reducing risks, and maintaining dialogue—is

how we make that choice real. Let us honor our veterans not only with remembrance, but with the hard work of keeping the peace they fought to secure.

Thank you, Mister Chair.