



United States Mission to the OSCE

Response to the Report by Coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

As delivered by Chargé d'Affaires Katherine Brucker
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
October 31, 2024

Ambassador Dzhusupov, welcome back to the Permanent Council and thank you for your detailed report. The United States values your and your team's dedication to working with governments and civil society to advance economic and environmental security initiatives. We are especially pleased that you are deliberately and systematically involving women and youth. This is exactly what we should be doing across all of our activities.

At this week's Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting, I underlined the severe environmental harm done to Ukraine by Russia's ongoing war, as detailed in the OCEEA project, "Assessment of environmental impacts of the war against Ukraine and options for remediation." This environmental devastation demonstrates why Russia's war must remain a priority for the Economic and Environmental Dimension. The ongoing sector-specific analysis of this project is laying the groundwork for Ukraine's long-term recovery and remediation.

Another U.S.-supported project aims to enhance accountability in Ukraine by training officials, journalists, and business leaders to use government data to bolster transparency and good governance. This program has improved the quality and use of digital government data while fostering new anti-corruption initiatives, thus strengthening Ukraine's institutions and governance. This will help Ukraine build a resilient post-war society.

The OCEEA project with the U.S. Argonne National Laboratory to mitigate climate threats to energy infrastructure in the OSCE region is an example of how your leadership, Ambassador, has strengthened the OSCE's ability to combat climate-related security risks. Through this initiative, the OSCE is raising awareness about this overlooked security risk while also providing practical tools to participating States. Together with your team's project to address climate security threats, these initiatives showcase the value of multilateral cooperation in tackling climate challenges across the OSCE region.

I also want to underscore my government's support for the fight against corruption in the OSCE region. U.S.-backed projects to strengthen regulatory structures for cryptocurrencies and other virtual assets have helped combat corruption and illicit activities. The project on asset recovery is enhancing cross-border and regional collaboration to identify, seize, confiscate, manage, and reuse illicitly gained assets. Doing so ensures that corruption does not undermine governance and economic stability.

Ambassador Dzhusupov, we are grateful for your outreach to U.S. Ambassadors on your travels across the region. Strengthening coordination among participating States and regional partners will enhance the OSCE's ability to address shared economic and environmental challenges and foster long-term resilience.

Finally, I want to thank you for reminding us how much you have had to restrict your activities because of our failure to adopt a Unified Budget. We once again urge all participating States to join consensus on the Unified Budget. We can, and should, in the coming weeks adopt both the 2024 and the 2025 Unified Budgets. Both are equally important.

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