



United States Mission to the OSCE

Response to the Report by the Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

As delivered by Chargé d'Affaires Katherine Brucker
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
March 13, 2025

Director Telalian, dear Maria, welcome to the Permanent Council. I want to both congratulate you and to thank you for assuming leadership of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights during what continues to be a critical and challenging time for our organization. We see your passion for the issues and your very active engagement already. We appreciate your and ODIHR's important work advancing human rights and fundamental freedoms and the comprehensive report you have presented. Individual rights, including freedoms of expression, association, peaceful assembly, and religion or belief are fundamental to security and to promoting peace in this region and across the globe.

I would like to highlight just a few priority areas for the United States. As we discussed during the CiO's Conference on Addressing Antisemitism in the OSCE Region last month, antisemitism remains a threat across the OSCE region. We welcome ODIHR's work in this regard, including its long-standing actions to combat antisemitism, and work to address anti-Christian bias and hate crimes.

The dramatic rise in antisemitism worldwide does not just endanger Jews and Jewish communities but also creates an environment that undermines the structures and values that undergird societal peace and national security for all of us.

Director Telalian, the United States is committed to working with you to address the pernicious scourge of antisemitism. We call on all participating States to embrace the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's legally non-binding Working Definition of Antisemitism and to endorse the Global Guidelines for Countering Antisemitism.

The United States also supports ODIHR's work on election observation across the OSCE region and recognizes the strength of its methodology. We value observers' thorough, professional, and impartial assessments.

Before closing, I want to thank you for reminding us of the imperative to adopt a Unified Budget that adequately funds ODIHR and the rest of the OSCE. We reiterate our call for all participating States to engage constructively and with determination to adopt a credible budget promptly.

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