



United States Mission to the OSCE

Response to the Report of the Director of the Conflict Prevention Center

As delivered by Chargé d'Affaires, a.i, Katherine Brucker
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
July 17, 2025

Director Fearon, dear Kate, many thanks for your comprehensive report detailing the Conflict Prevention Center's support to dialogue, transparency, and risk reduction in the OSCE region.

President Trump has said that we measure our success not only by the battles we win but also by the wars that we end — and perhaps most importantly, the wars we never get into. Avoiding conflict is at the heart of the OSCE's work, and that of the CPC in particular.

The success of the OSCE must be measured by tangible impacts in the field, not by statements in this room. To that end, CPC programs to stop small arms and light weapons trafficking, enhance explosives detection and deactivation, and reduce illicit stockpiles in Central Asia, the Western Balkans, and Ukraine are useful work that we hope to see linked to positive outcomes.

In an era of limited resources, prioritization of policy objectives and thorough vetting of projects is essential to avoid a scattershot approach and ensure that the organization as a whole is effective in advancing its goals. We look forward to working with the CPC to identify additional efficiencies and provide guidance on prioritization within the mandate so that the OSCE budgets and operates within its resources. That said, we thank you for the graphic - literal and figurative - presentation of the CPC's funding shortfall and the pertinent question you put to this Council regarding tough choices we will have to make regarding your work if we continue to fail to adopt a budget.

Before closing, I just want to thank you, Kate, and your incredible team at the CPC for your great work over the past year under very difficult circumstances and tough budget constraints. We are lucky to have you in your position.

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