



United States Mission to the OSCE
U.S. Statement for the
Forum for Security Co-operation:
Right of Reply - General Statements

As delivered by Acting Arms Control Counselor Spencer Fields
April 2, 2025

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

The United States appreciates Spain's leadership as Chair of the FSC and supports the ongoing commitment to fostering transparent discussions on security issues. The FSC has long been an inclusive forum for meaningful dialogue among participating States and observers, and this openness to dialogue is essential in addressing the complex security challenges we all face.

As we consider the role of regional organizations in addressing these challenges, it is important that their actions align with the fundamental principles of the OSCE. While recognizing the contributions of different regional security arrangements, it is important to recall that NATO and the CSTO are not equivalent. A number of CSTO members have taken varied approaches to regional security and have, at times, demonstrated inconsistent adherence to OSCE commitments, particularly in areas related to human rights and respect for territorial integrity. Given these considerations, granting the CSTO broader international recognition could have negative implications for both the OSCE itself and its individual participating States, particularly those seeking to maintain flexibility in their foreign policy engagements.

The United States remains firm in its position: cooperation with any organization must be guided by OSCE principles, including respect for human rights, territorial integrity, and sovereignty, as outlined in key OSCE documents such as the Helsinki Final Act and the Istanbul Declaration. The United States' long-standing position opposing CSTO observer status at the FSC remains unchanged.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.