



United States Mission to the OSCE

Interpretive Statement on the 2012 Unified Budget

As delivered by Ambassador Ian Kelly
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
December 22, 2011

We would like to thank Ireland for its leadership of the ACMF to pass a budget on time.

The United States would like to make the following interpretative statement. The United States has joined consensus on the 2012 Unified Budget, as we believe that an on-time budget is important in that it allows the organization to move ahead with programs and activities that have theoretically been adjusted to meet the priorities of the New Year.

This budget, however, raises a number of serious concerns. We do not believe the budget adequately provides for the needs of the Organization as it attempts to meet the current mandates and tasks that we in the Permanent Council have identified. We realize that tough economic times have necessitated a decrease in the budget, but continuing to funnel over two-thirds of the overall field mission budget into Missions in Southeastern Europe is unwarranted and unsustainable. In our view, new and growing challenges in Central Asia require budget increases for the OSCE Missions there, and the process of rightsizing Missions in Southeastern Europe needs to continue. We will continue to seek adjustments to the budget in future years to better reflect current realities.

In addition, we are concerned about our inability to find consensus on larger budgets for the Mission in Moldova and the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on the Conflict Dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference. Making progress to resolve the protracted conflicts has been a stated priority for the OSCE, and we would hope to provide the resources necessary to contribute to the efforts in this area.

Of particular concern to us is that the Institutions--the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the High Commissioner on National Minorities, and the Representative for Freedom of the Media--do not have the resources they need to address the challenges in their areas of expertise and to help participating States live up to their OSCE commitments. We will continue our support for the Institutions by providing secondees and election monitors. We call on all other participating States to join us in finding new, additional funding in the Unified Budget for this important work in future years.

Finally, we will continue to place emphasis on the adoption of strong project assessment and evaluation methodologies in 2012. This remains an important issue, as it ensures the resources we are contributing to the organization are being used in the most efficient and effective way possible.

The United States requests that this statement be recorded in the journal of the day.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.