



## United States Mission to the OSCE

# Statement for 50th Joint Meeting of the Forum for Security Cooperation and the Permanent Council on Peacekeeping Operations

As prepared for delivery by Ambassador Ian Kelly  
to the Forum for Security Cooperation and  
the Permanent Council, Vienna  
December 13, 2011

The United States welcomes the presentations and discussions today on peacekeeping operations. In the wake of discussions we had in Vilnius on such issues as the Conflict Cycle and a strategic framework for police matters, and as we review and decide the organization's budget for the upcoming year, it is certainly appropriate that we take into consideration how the OSCE complements and interacts with other organizations active in conflict and post-conflict environments.

While we recognize that there is a long-standing directive for developing a plan for the establishment, force structure requirements and operation of a multinational OSCE peacekeeping force for the area of conflict dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference, the OSCE at present is not equipped to conduct peacekeeping operations, though of course this organization has served in many monitoring capacities. The United States values the OSCE's comprehensive security concept, and the organization's field operations contribute to the development of stronger democratic institutions throughout the entire OSCE region. These operations, and the work of the organization's institutions, put into practice the shared values and principles that the participating States have embraced and affirmed on numerous occasions.

On the occasion of this discussion today, Mr. Chairman, we reaffirm our commitment to the OSCE's core values and reiterate our support for the organization's cooperation with the United Nations, NATO, and the EU, among others. We know that the OSCE's core expertise in democratization and institutional development can enhance, when conditions demand, these organizations' peacekeeping activities, and we look forward to expanded cooperation with our partners in Afghanistan in the coming months.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.