



United States Mission to the OSCE

Interpretative Statement on the Decision on the Scales of Contribution for 2011

As delivered by Charge d'Affaires Carol Fuller
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
December 23, 2010

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

First of all I wish to thank the Delegation of the Czech Republic for its very hard work in attempting to end four years of necessary roll-overs of the Scales of Contributions. You've made definite progress that will we hope provide a basis in 2011 for an agreement that will put the OSCE on a sound financial footing.

The United States would like to make an interpretative statement under paragraph 79 (Chapter 6) of the Final Recommendations of the Helsinki Consultations.

We would like to thank the Kazakhstan Chairman-in-Office, the Kazakh and Lithuanian Chairs of the ACMF in 2010, and the British and Czech chairpersons of the informal working group on Scales of Contributions for their efforts to bring about a just and fair set of scales of contributions for the OSCE. The United States has joined the consensus on the decision to roll over the scales of contributions for 2011, based on the last revision of the scales in 2005, as we believe it is extremely important to put the OSCE on a stable financial footing. Having these scales in place, together with the adoption of the 2011 budget on time, ensures that we can devote our attention from January onward to carry forward the work begun at the Astana Summit.

We note that the United States continues to be the largest single contributor to the OSCE. Our willingness to do so attests to the significance we attach to the OSCE and to its comprehensive approach to the promotion of security, in all three dimensions. In joining consensus on the rollover of scales, the United States has made no commitment to any future increases in the U.S. contribution.

Permanent Council Decision No. 408, adopted in 2001, established a 14 percent ceiling on the Field Operations (Vienna) scale. The logic behind that ceiling remains valid and we see no reason for changing it. We intend to participate in future discussions on that basis. Moreover, it remains our view that all the criteria applied to future discussions on scales remain of equal weight.

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

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.