

Statement of the Secretary General on the temporary evacuation of OSCE staff from Ukraine

Due to the ongoing fighting and deteriorated security situation in Ukraine, in coordination with the Chairman-in-Office, I have decided to temporarily evacuate all international mission members from Ukraine as soon as possible.

The commitment and bravery of the OSCE staff is commendable. The OSCE promptly established the Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) in 2014 and the dedicated men and women of this mission have been our impartial eyes and ears on the ground throughout the country. Our Project Coordinator in Ukraine has worked diligently since 1999 to assist Ukraine enhance its security and develop its legislation, institutions, and practices in line with democratic standards.

We have a legacy to be proud of in the country. We look forward to resuming our missions when circumstances permit.

The evacuation of our staff will be conducted as early as possible and feasible dependent on the relevant factors on the ground.

This decision was not taken lightly and the relocation is meant to be temporary. The safety of the dedicated women and men who serve as impartial eyes and ears of the international community on the ground throughout the country is imperative.

For PDF attachments or links to sources of further information, please visit: <https://www.osce.org/secretary-general/512953>

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