OSCE TO 2025
FOUR PLAUSIBLE SCENARIOS
Caveats:

- No actual scenarios – just examples of “what if.”
- Answers depend on what questions are asked.
- Parameters of analysis can be less, more or different.
- Much depends on when and how this war will end.
1. MARRIAGE OF CONVENIENCE

Consensus on organizational survival matters but no dialogue otherwise
• Participating States unable to discuss principles but want to keep the OSCE afloat.

• **Silent concessions** made to reach key organizational decisions:
  • **Four key posts** appointed with the lowest common denominator → weak leadership.
  • **No CiO 2024** → North Macedonia’s CiO for 6 extra months, handover to Finland 6 months earlier.
  • UB negotiations as continued tool for political control
    • Each adopted **UB later and lower** than before → just enough to cover operations but minimum for activities.
    • Growing **limits to human dimension**.
    • Gradual downgrade and closure of **FOs**.
    • No **HDIM**.
    • Highly filtered **civil society participation**.

• **ExB scarce and uncertain** due to economic downturn and high military spending.

• Organization on life support, **no impact**.
2. ZOMBIE.ORG

Continuous dialogue that does not bring decisions
• No more decisions and resolutions at PC and MC meetings.
• Appearance of consensus-based organization kept but ways found to bypass current decision-making mechanism:
  • **No appointment of four key OSCE posts** → deputies acting as heads.
  • No **CiO** 2024 and 2026 → no Troika.
  • **No UB** → operations funded through greater “UB contributions” by some pS based on 2021 UB, and through greater ExB.
  • **No FOs** → ExB-funded program offices opened.
  • **No HDIM** → similar CiO events fully ExB-funded.
• No more ambitions to see Helsinki 2025 MC as a platform for renewed commitments.
• Some results at activity level but **no political impact**.
3. THE ABBYS

No consensus on any key decisions and no belief that any dialogue is possible
• Russia no longer engaged on any OSCE matters or putting forward any proposals for dialogue.

• No constructive cooperation ideas from Western countries because of principles on one hand, and lack of real vision for and belief in the future of OSCE on the other.

• All existential OSCE decisions not taken, rendering the organization non-functional:
  • **No leadership** - four key posts vacant.
  • **No incoming CiO** beyond Finland.
  • **No money** (cash surplus exhausted in consecutive years without the UB).
  • **No** extension of 6-month FOs mandates.

• Official non-consensual announcements about “**temporary suspension**” of OSCE activities. Premises closed in Vienna and elsewhere, staff laid off and no activities carried out.
4. PHOENIX

Consensus on all key decisions and a genuine dialogue on organizational matters and security architecture.
• OSCE as a broker of RU-UKR peace agreement that ends the war.
• Renewed consensual recognition of OSCE potential and shortcomings → new commitments to work towards:
  • Renewal of Helsinki Final Act spirit as relevant to 21 century.
  • OSCE Summit in 2025 to shape out new security architecture.
  • Sincere and good-willed collective reflection on best ways to overcome organizational deficiencies.
  • Active and broad engagement of and contribution from civil society to the processes towards new commitments.

• Timely decisions on all key organizational matters.
• Permanent Council decisions on administrative and operational changes → greater efficiency and accountability of the OSCE.
• (Reopening of) FOs with renewed/adaptated mandates.
• Stronger OSCE reputation as an important and impactful security organization.
Some questions to consider:

• What financing mechanisms, guaranteeing predictable, stable, sufficient and free of political interference funding for the OSCE, could be devised/employed?

• Is consensus still a feasible decision-making mechanism in the OSCE and, if not, what alternatives are possible/should be developed?

• If the OSCE is to remain a platform for dialogue, what should such dialogue look like and to what end?
THANK YOU!

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