

General Committees debate Reports and Draft Resolutions

First Committee Chair Asa Lindestam (Sweden) opened the meeting Sunday morning and gave the floor to Rapporteur Vilija Aleknaite Abramikiene (Lithuania), who highlighted the importance of the Helsinki +40 process in addressing issues related to the politico-military dimension of security. The rapporteur focused, in particular, on arms control, resolving protracted conflicts, and the future challenges associated with the 2014 withdrawal of International Security Assistance Forces from Afghanistan.

In the debate, parliamentarians emphasized the need to closely monitor the situation in Afghanistan. A delegate from Tajikistan stressed that support for Afghanistan should be one of the OSCE's highest priorities.

The committee considered 26 amendments, 17 of which were adopted. There are 74 proposed amendments to the First Committee draft resolution.

Chairing the Second Committee, Vice-Chair Roza Aknazarova (Kyrgyzstan) opened the meeting by giving the floor to Ambassador Sergey Kapinos, Head of the OSCE Centre of Bishkek. Amb. Kapinos pointed to the importance of co-operative work across three dimensions of security to best tackle issues facing the OSCE region. He underlined the significant role that the Assembly can play for Central Asia through the engagement of OSCE PA Special Representative for Central Asia Thierry Mariani.

Rapporteur Doris Barnett (Germany) presented her report and draft resolution "Helsinki +40" arguing that to tackle the challenges in the economic and environmental dimension, a revitalization of the spirit of Helsinki is needed. Barnett highlighted alternatives to austerity, such as green growth initiatives, and the need for collective action on climate change.

In the debate, members spoke about challenges posed by extractive industries and economic austerity. Several MPs spoke in favor of increased trade, green growth and sustain-

able development, as well as food security, water management, and energy security.

The amendments to the draft resolution were debated and with a few changes seven amendments out of ten passed.

Chaired by Vice-Chair Isabel Santos (Portugal), the Third Committee opened Sunday with the presentation of the report from Rapporteur Ann Phelan (Ireland), followed by a debate in which 15 parliamentarians took the floor. Phelan discussed new challenges that have emerged in the 40 years since the Helsinki Final Act was adopted, with a focus on human trafficking. In the debate, members further discussed human trafficking as well as the topic of freedom of the media, particularly the situation of journalists in prison.

Two delegates from Turkey discussed the recent demonstrations in Istanbul and other cities, expressing support for the right of assembly and offering assurances that any excessive force by police is being investigated.

Eight amendments to Phelan's draft resolution were considered and among them, five were adopted.



First General Committee



Second General Committee



Third General Committee

Side event on racism and intolerance



Side event "Enhancing Dialogue and Co-operation: A Common Message to the World on Racism, Xenophobia and Intolerance"

Alaattin Büyükkaya, former Head of the Turkish Delegation to the OSCE PA and current Deputy Minister in Charge of EU Affairs for Turkey, opened the side event on racism, xenophobia and intolerance citing the example of Istanbul as a city where the three

monotheistic religions coexist in mutual respect. The event included participation by Turkish religious leaders and was hosted by the Grand National Assembly of Turkey.

Programme ~ Monday, 1 July

09.30 – 11.00	First Committee ~ <i>Anadolu Auditorium</i>
09.30 – 11.00	Second Committee ~ <i>Rumeli A1</i>
11.30 – 13.00	Third Committee ~ <i>Anadolu Auditorium</i>
13.00 – 14.30	Gender Lunch ~ <i>Rumeli A2</i>
14.30 – 16.00	Second Committee ~ <i>Rumeli A1</i>
14.30 – 16.00	Third Committee ~ <i>Anadolu Auditorium</i>
16.30 – 18.00	First Committee ~ <i>Anadolu Auditorium</i>
20.00 – 22.30	Dinner ~ <i>Restaurant of the Halic C. Centre</i>