

## Annual Session News

Tuesday  $\blacklozenge$  1 July 2014

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## **Resolutions adopted, officers elected to Second Committee**



The First Committee agreed to 32 amendments on Mondav before the resolution adopting offered Rapporteur by Pia (Finland) Kauma overwhelmingly. Including the amendments from the previous day, there were a total of 37 made to the resolution, one of which,

sponsored by Alexey Pushkov (Russian Federation), "calls for the creation, on the platform of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, of an interparliamentary liaison group on Ukraine in order de-escalate the situation on the ground and to support the country out of the crisis."

Other amendments deal with issues ranging from Arctic security to protracted conflicts. After adopting the resolution as amended, the committee considered the supplementary item "The Development of Mediation Capacity," by Johannes Koskinen. The item was agreed to overwhelmingly with one amendment.

In the Second Committee, delegates continued their discussion of amendments to the draft resolution, agreeing to 18, with three withdrawn. In total, over two days of debate, the committee adopted 27 amendments to the draft resolution, adding language, *inter alia*, about protecting mountainous regions and the importance of participating States ratifying and implementing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The resolution was unanimously approved as amended.

The committee also amended and adopted three

supplementary items: "Protection and Promotion of Socio-Economic Rights in the OSCE Area;" "The OSCE at 40 Years – A Region of Trust and Mutually Beneficial Co-Existence;" and "Food Security, Limited Water Resources and Stability in the OSCE Area."

Wrapping up its work a day early, the committee elected its bureau by acclamation. Roza Aknazarova (Kyrgystan) and Nilza Sena (Portugal) were re-elected to the posts of Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively. The new rapporteur for the committee is Marietta Tidei (Italy).

The Third Committee met Monday to discuss and vote on the amendments to the draft resolution Rapporteur Gordana Comic (Serbia) had presented on Sunday. The committee considered 45 amendments, of which 30 were adopted. The final draft resolution was approved as amended with 50 votes in favor and nine against.

The parliamentarians took up consideration of one supplementary item, "Comprehensive Immigration Reform." Three amendments were proposed to this supplementary item, one of which was agreed to. The supplementary item was adopted by 26 votes in favor, 19 against and two abstentions. The committee continues its work on Tuesday with five supplementary items on the agenda.



## Working lunch considers women's participation in politics and OSCE Gender Action Plan



A Working Lunch on Gender Issues was held in the *Milli Mejlis* on Monday, with a discussion focused on the tenth anniversary of the OSCE's Gender Action Plan. Head of the Azerbaijani Delegation and Deputy Speaker of the *Milli Mejlis* Bahar Muradova chaired the lunch, together with Roza Aknazarova (Kyrgyzstan) and Walburga Habsburg Douglas (Sweden). Participants were invited to discuss barriers to women's participation in politics and how to overcome these

and other ongoing challenges to gender equality.

In the discussion, parliamentarians acknowledged the importance of gender equality in society, and shared best practices in their countries. Support was also expressed for initiatives supporting gender equality in every field.

The event was supported by OSCE PA Deputy Secretary General Gustavo Pallares and Research Assistant Astrid Loury from the International Secretariat.

	Pro	gramme - Tuesday, 1 July
)9.00 –	11.00	First Committee ~ Grand Ballroom I
)9.00 –	11.00	Third Committee $\sim$ Grand Ballroom II
11.10 -	11.30	Meeting of the Bureau ~ Boardroom I
11.30 -	13.30	First Committee ~ Grand Ballroom II
15.00 -	18.00	Plenary Session ~ Grand Ballroom

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