

REPORT

OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY 14TH AUTUMN MEETING ULAANBAATAR, MONGOLIA 15-18 SEPTEMBER 2015



*Addressing security challenges in the OSCE region and beyond:
the role of parliamentarians in fostering regional co-operation*



REPORT ON THE 2015 AUTUMN MEETING OF THE OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

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*Cover: Autumn Meeting delegates gathered at the Genghis Khan Monument Complex
Report prepared by the International Secretariat of the OSCE PA in Copenhagen
Photo credit: Mongolian Parliament*

Summary



The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly holds an Autumn Meeting every year to enhance inter-parliamentary dialogue on important topics related to OSCE commitments. Previous Autumn Meetings have been held in Switzerland, Montenegro, Albania, Croatia, Italy, Greece, Canada, Slovenia, Malta, and Spain.

The 2015 Autumn Meeting of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly was held on 15-18 September in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, under the theme “Addressing security challenges in the OSCE region and beyond: the role of parliamentarians in fostering regional co-operation.”

More than 150 parliamentarians from 45 OSCE participating States were in attendance, discussing security issues within the politico-military, economic-environmental and democracy-human rights spheres.

Hosted by the State Great Hural (Parliament) of Mongolia, the Autumn Meeting was addressed by Mongolian Parliament Chairman Enkhbold Zandaakhuu and Mongolian President Elbegdorj Tsakhia who spoke at the opening session on 16 September. It was the first time that Mongolia, the newest OSCE participating State, had hosted an OSCE PA meeting.

OSCE PA President Ilkka Kanerva (MP, Finland), members of the Mongolian Delegation to the Assembly and officials from the United Nations and Shanghai Cooperation Organization were among other keynote speakers. The meeting featured a special roundtable event on Central Asia with the heads of OSCE field presences in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

OSCE parliamentarians debated the ongoing refugee crisis – and the related question of how the OSCE can help mitigate the situation – during the concluding session on 17 September. Dozens of parliamentarians took the floor to exchange ideas on responses to the crisis and underscored the role of parliamentarians in

generating necessary political will. Several noted that their connection with constituents would be crucial in generating public support for burden-sharing policies, guarding against xenophobia and educating people on the driving factors behind the refugee crisis.

In his presentation during session three of the conference, Bold Luvsanvandan (MP, Mongolia) spoke about his country’s human rights record, describing in particular the impact of the Mongolian political framework on individual freedoms. United Nations Development Programme Representative

Beate Trankmann also addressed the third session, focusing on the role of parliaments in promoting the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals.

The OSCE PA’s Standing Committee met on 17 September and discussed the issue of European Union sanctions on members of the Russian Delegation and how this

is affecting the work of the Assembly. The Standing Committee also heard a report from recently elected Treasurer Doris Barnett (MP, Germany) and approved the budget for fiscal year 2015/2016 unanimously. PA President Ilkka Kanerva announced during the Standing Committee meeting that no OSCE PA delegation would deploy to observe the 1 November parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan, in line with an earlier decision made by the OSCE/ODIHR not to observe.

In his final address to a Standing Committee meeting as Secretary General, Spencer Oliver reviewed the OSCE PA’s accomplishments during his stewardship and thanked the parliamentarians and secretaries of delegations for their support and co-operation for more than 20 years.

“For such a new democracy, Mongolia has impressively demonstrated its ability to lead on the international stage. Now, Mongolia is hosting our Autumn Meeting – just three years since joining the OSCE.”

OSCE PA President Ilkka Kanerva





Parliamentary Conference Opening Session



Mongolian President Elbegdorj Tsakhia, Parliament Chairman Enkhbold Zandaakhuu and OSCE PA President Ilkka Kanerva opened the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's 2015 Autumn Meeting on 16 September. Topics addressed by the speakers included the progress of Mongolian democracy over a quarter-century, the crisis in and around Ukraine, the migrant and refugee crisis, the development of democratic institutions, and human rights issues.

President Kanerva congratulated Mongolia on its 25th anniversary of multiparty democracy and urged fellow OSCE participating States to learn from the country's swift adoption of democracy.

Ilkka Kanerva, President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly



Opening the conference, OSCE PA President Kanerva noted that for many participants it was their first opportunity to visit Mongolia, providing a new opportunity for OSCE parliamentarians to learn more about the country. He noted that its development into a free, democratic and modern nation had taken place peacefully, and he applauded Mongolia's commitment to parliamentary dialogue and to upholding OSCE commitments.

Turning to the crisis in and around Ukraine, he noted that OSCE principles have clearly been violated, and highlighted the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's efforts in contributing to dialogue between Ukrainian and Russian parliamentarians. The dialogue should be clear about the illegal annexation of Crimea and based on support of fully implementing the Minsk Agreements, he said.

Discussing another major issue facing the OSCE region, he called for greater solidarity and compassion in addressing the migrant and refugee crisis. "Europe can and simply must do more to respond, and do so with solidarity and compassion," he said.

Previewing some of the topics to be addressed during the conference, including the threat of terrorism, environmental concerns, and democratic development, he noted that parliamentarians must push their governments to be ambitious in all these fields. He also previewed the planned panel with the heads of OSCE offices in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan as a particular highlight of the Autumn Meeting.

Enkhbold Zandaakhuu, Chairman of the State Great Hural of Mongolia

The Chairman of Parliament greeted participants and welcomed the opportunity provided by the Autumn Meeting for an exchange of information and dialogue on critical issues facing the OSCE area. Recalling that Mongolia had only joined the OSCE in 2012, he stressed the importance that the country places on hosting this conference so early in its membership.

Parliamentary Conference Opening Session



Delegates applaud a welcoming speech at the opening session on 16 September 2015.

“Today countless complicated issues still exist in many corners of the world. This calls for improved coherence and communication among international organizations, the furthering of close co-operation and the necessity to comply with decisions and recommendations,” the Chairman said. “Honorable parliamentarians, the representatives of your people, I have full confidence in you all to reach a common consensus through thorough discussions and multiple approaches to the given issues.”



Enkhbold Zandaakhuu

The Chairman underlined his confidence in the ability of the gathered parliamentarians to contribute to dialogue on the many issues to be addressed during the conference.

He reminded participants that the Autumn Meeting coincides with the 25th anniversary of Mongolia’s first democratic elections, and expressed Mongolia’s pride in the democracy that has taken root in the country. He also noted the role of the OSCE and parliamentarians from the region in contributing to this process.

Elbegdorj Tsakhia, President of Mongolia

The President of Mongolia welcomed parliamentarians to his country, highlighting the parallel history of the OSCE PA’s foundation 25 years ago and the establishment of the first mul-

tiparty parliamentary elections in Mongolia the same year. He noted that the OSCE was instrumental in facilitating an end to the Cold War, and further expressed his confidence in the Parliamentary Assembly’s important role in contributing to international dialogue today.

Regarding the Ukraine crisis, the President stressed that there was no military solution. Rather, the situation should be addressed through a ceasing of violence and the full enforcement of the Minsk Agreements, he said.

He also discussed the difficulties facing the OSCE region in relation to migrants and refugees, noting however reason for optimism in the potential to overcome challenges. “Humankind still possesses the means and the opportunities to solve any emerging challenge,” he said. “I am confident that the OSCE can serve as the best model for engagement and dialogue and cross-continental co-operation and shall be a leader in finding the solutions to the most pressing issues.”

Elbegdorj Tsakhia remarked on Mongolia’s progress in promoting human rights, as well as its focus on peaceful resolution of disputes abroad. The same principles would continue to guide Mongolia’s development in the future, he said, and he welcomed the opportunity to share Mongolia’s experience in these fields.



Elbegdorj Tsakhia





Session One



Session one of the Autumn Meeting, held under the theme “The role of the OSCE and regional co-operation in regional security, fighting against terrorism and trafficking in human beings” on 16 September, was chaired by OSCE PA Vice-President Christine Muttonen (MP, Austria). The session featured a panel discussion with all five heads of OSCE field operations in Central Asia, focused on terrorism and human trafficking.

Christine Muttonen, OSCE PA Vice-President

Opening the session, Vice-President Muttonen stressed the significance of the threat posed by terrorism and human trafficking to the safety of the people in the OSCE region and to the general security and stability of society. She noted that these threats have been the focus of OSCE activities for a number of years and urged parliamentarians to make full use of the unique platform and instruments offered by the Parliamentary Assembly in order to establish closer co-operation, exchange information and share experiences to better tackle terrorism and human trafficking within the OSCE area. Muttonen also called for closer co-ordination between the OSCE and other regional organizations, notably the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

Batchimeg Migidddorj, Head of the Mongolian Delegation to the OSCE PA

Keynote speaker and Head of Mongolia’s Delegation to the OSCE PA Batchimeg Migidddorj expressed her gratitude to the Assembly for holding the Autumn Meeting in her country.

She noted the additional meaning of hosting the 2015 meeting during the 40th anniversary year of the 1975 Helsinki Final Act, as well as the significance for Ulaanbaatar, being the only capital city in the North Asia region to have hosted the Parliamentary Assembly.

She noted that Mongolia is the latest participating State to join the OSCE and spoke about the value that the PA adds by gathering parliamentarians and experts from the OSCE region and beyond, including the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, as an effort to realize the largest security community possible.



Bakhram Auanassov, Shanghai Cooperation Organization

Bakhram Auanassov, an expert from the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), focused his presentation on the newly adopted 2025 SCO Strategy. He stressed the need for regional organizations to collaborate for increased global security, including the fight against terrorism and extremism, countering organized



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crime, including human and drug trafficking, and resolving conflicts in Ukraine, Syria and Afghanistan.

Debate

The presentations of the keynote speakers were followed by a debate that included interventions by Sergey Naryshkin, the Speaker of the State Duma of the Russian Federation, who highlighted several key European security concerns, including the current wave of migrants and the Ukraine crisis, and recalled that Russia hosts over a million refugees from Ukraine. He also commended the successful development of Mongolia as an independent State.

Naryshkin was followed by the Head of the Ukrainian Delegation to the OSCE PA, Artur



Sergey Kapinos and Ivo Petrov, Heads of OSCE Centres in Bishkek and Ashgabat, respectively, participate in a roundtable event.

Gerasymov, who condemned what he referred to as Russian aggression against Ukraine's territorial integrity. Providing some details on this issue from his perspective, Gerasymov regretted in particular the lack of positive development in the case of illegally detained citizens of Ukraine.

Roundtable with Heads of OSCE Central Asia Field Operations

The 2015 Autumn Meeting on 16 September hosted the heads of OSCE field operations in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan for a panel discussion on security and co-operation in Central Asia. Presenting the missions' programmatic activities, with a focus on the fight against terrorism and human trafficking, participants made suggestions for boosting this effort, including through closer engagement with the OSCE PA.

Ambassador **Natalia Zarudna**, Head of the OSCE Programme Office in Astana, said that the OSCE, with an established field presence in all five countries of Central Asia, continues to offer a unique platform not only for further fruitful co-operation between the missions and the host countries, but also between the field missions themselves, as they work jointly to strengthen security in the region. Ambassador **Markus Mueller**, Head of the OSCE Office in Tajikistan, largely agreed, underscoring that countries' national efforts to counter security challenges must also prioritize a regional perspective and should focus on thorough implementation.

Ambassador **Ivo Petrov**, Head of the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat, described his office's recent work on projects in Turkmenistan. In recent years, the Centre organized training activities for law enforcement, security and legal officers to address topics such as airport security, border security, counter-terrorism, hostage negotiations tactics and identifying potentially vulnerable people as part of human trafficking prevention measures.

Ambassador **Sergey Kapinos**, Head of the OSCE Centre in Bishkek, highlighted the severity of the threats of both human trafficking and foreign terrorist fighters in Kyrgyzstan. According to the Head of Mission, government agencies report that the number of Kyrgyz citizens directly or indirectly involved in combat in Syria is up to 500.

Ambassador **Gyorgy Szabo**, OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan, indicated that from legislative support to the fight against terrorism and human trafficking, the Office has carried out projects helping numerous state agencies and civil society organizations to become more efficient and effective in transforming the OSCE ideas, initiatives and commitments into reality.

The presentations were followed by a debate in which more than 15 delegations participated, including Kazakhstan, Sweden, Turkey, Georgia, Italy and France. The Deputy Speaker of Parliament of Afghanistan, Mohammad Nazir Ahmadzai, also took the floor.

Session Two



The second session of the Parliamentary Conference, held on 16 September under the theme “Economic challenges in the region, food security, disaster risk reduction and water management: co-operation with international organizations,” was chaired by Roza Aknazarova (MP, Kyrgyzstan), the Chair of the OSCE PA’s Second Committee. Keynote speakers included Oyun Sanjaasuren, Member of the Mongolian Delegation to the OSCE PA, and Kevin Gallagher, Deputy Representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization in Mongolia.

Roza Aknazarova, OSCE PA Second Committee Chair

In her introductory remarks, Aknazarova stressed the role of parliaments in the process of fostering and facilitating international co-operation. “The challenges before us are complex, especially considering that this dimension includes such issues as food security, disaster risk reduction, water resources management and global climate change, all of which have a direct influence on the level of international and regional security” Aknazarova said.

While emphasizing the importance of water security in the OSCE region, she referred to the PA’s Declaration adopted at the 2015 Annual Session in Helsinki, which recognized water resources as an integral element of national, regional and international security. “This vital strategic resource may be in many ways utilized as the basis of international security, especially in the regions where tens of millions depend on an effective, mutually beneficial and transparent use of water resources,” Aknazarova said. She pointed out that this notion was also

recognized during the 2nd Preparatory Meeting of the 23rd Economic and Environmental Forum, organized by the Serbian OSCE Chairmanship, and the 2014 UN New York Climate Change Conference.

Aknazarova noted that “because only genuine co-operation will allow us to fully resolve the enormous problems before us,” the idea of “co-operation rather than competition” must become the guiding principle in the process of addressing issues in the economic and environmental dimension.

Oyun Sanjaasuren, Member of the Mongolian Delegation to the OSCE PA



In her keynote presentation, Mongolian OSCE PA Delegation Member Oyun Sanjaasuren focused on the issue of water security, and particularly the mining-energy-water nexus, in Mongolia. She pointed out that by the end of the century the world is

projected to reach 11 billion people and with current consumption patterns and an ever-increasing demand for food, energy and water, the world will require far more resources than the planet has to offer.

Humanity must take lessons from history, she said, and be more responsible and proactive to shift to more sustainable consumption and production that will allow economies and

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societies to grow sustainably within the means of the planet while creating equity and human wellbeing. Water is at the center of a sustainable development model, she said, pointing out that Mongolia is considered one of the more water-scarce nations in the world. Approximately 80 per cent of Mongolia's water supply, she said, is located in the north of the country. The most pressing water issue in Mongolia, she said, is the unequal distribution of surface waters, which are unavailable when they freeze in winter.

The mining sector is growing rapidly, she pointed out, especially in the southern Gobi region, and a substantial increase in mining sector's water demand over the years is expected.

In 2014 the Mongolian Parliament approved the country's Green Development Strategy, which aims to change the country's development trajectory to a smarter, more sustainable path, Oyun Sanjaasuren said. The new package of environmental legislation, including the Law on Water, upgraded the regulatory standards in the environmental sector. As in many countries, water was thought to be a free and abundant resource. However, with the new water law, an approval-based regulatory mechanism has been introduced to maintain water use at a level that considers ecological factors and assures effective and efficient use of water, she said.

Kevin Gallagher, Deputy FAO Representative in Mongolia

Kevin Gallagher, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization's Deputy Representative in Mongolia, focused his remarks on food security in Asia. Food production globally and in Asia during the past half-century has been remarkable, he reported, with high investments in agriculture infrastructure and research. Further, he pointed out, the 50 per cent reduction of food-insecure households



under the Millennium Development Goals was reached by most countries. However, there are still about 800 million food-insecure persons globally. Malnourished and developmentally stunted children under five years old are still prevalent in some Asian countries at various levels, Gallagher said.

While it is important to continue food productivity improvements globally, urbanization means that dignified jobs – especially for youth – and social safety nets are critical tools to ensure inclusive growth, he said. In other words, although there have been notable achievements towards poverty reduction and food security, there is still some way to go to reach the Sustainable Development Goal on eliminating hunger, Gallagher explained. The FAO Deputy Representative pointed out that his organization, along with other UN agencies such as UNICEF, the UN Development Programme and the UN Environment Programme, are working together for achieving food security and together they could do much better in terms of providing food globally.

Debate

Session two concluded with a general debate in which Members addressed a range of issues including water resources, environmental disaster risk reduction and the effects of climate change on human rights and food security. One parliamentarian underscored the risk of conflict between countries experiencing water shortages. The importance of bilateral and multilateral agreements and strengthening co-operation between participating States and international organizations in this regard was also emphasized.

Concern was raised over the possible effects of Russian sanctions on food from the European Union in retaliation over sanctions imposed by the West with respect to the crisis in and around Ukraine. Some parliamentarians called for the OSCE PA to advocate for more free trade and to reject trade sanctions, especially in relation to food. A number of parliamentarians highlighted the migrant and refugee flow to Europe, stressing the importance of promoting sound economic development, stability and security in order to resolve the migration crisis.





Session Three



The third session of the Parliamentary Conference was held on 17 September under the theme “Development of democratic institutions, human rights, freedom of media, religious tolerance, and gender equality.” Chaired by OSCE PA Vice-President Alain Neri (MP, France), the session included keynote addresses by Beate Trankmann, Resident Co-ordinator of the UN Development Programme, and Bold Luvsanvandan, Member of the Mongolian Delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

Alain Neri, Vice-President of the OSCE PA

In his opening remarks, Vice-President Neri discussed French commitments concerning global development goals and reminded participants of the upcoming Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21) in Paris, an important opportunity to formulate an effective international response to global warming. Neri also welcomed the recent signatures and ratifications of treaties on fundamental freedoms and human rights by the Mongolian Government.

Bold Luvsanvandan, Member of the Mongolian Delegation to the OSCE PA

Speaking as a Member of the Mongolian Parliament and as a Delegate to the Parliamentary Assembly, Bold Luvsanvandan described

the impact of the Mongolian political framework on individual freedoms and human rights, noting that Mongolia is celebrating 25 years of democracy this year. Democracy in the country affords its citizens universally accepted human rights, including private property and freedom of movement, he noted.



He regretted however that Mongolia has seen some of its political and legal structures, especially law enforcement, disregard fundamental human rights. This is seen in many examples of unjust prosecutions, he said, as well as imprisonment by fabrication and force, unlawful interrogations, and public labelling under fabricated criminal offences. Parliamentarians have a key role to play in standing for Mongolia’s citizens together with other politicians. Economic factors also play a role in affecting the democratic values of the country, he pointed out, noting that the diversification of the economy is essential for sustainable democracy.

Bold Luvsanvandan reported that Mongolian NGOs have demonstrated in recent studies that basic freedoms are not being fully upheld in Mongolia, noting that mechanisms in place to protect rights are not working properly. For example, national implementation of the UN Convention Against Torture is poor, and free-

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dom of expression, speech, and independent media are regularly violated. He also noted that discrimination is still a challenge, and environmental rights and a legal system to protect the public interest is lacking.

The Parliament will continue to play a leading role in ensuring universal human rights and fundamental freedoms, Bold Luvsanvandan said. It is vital that national parliaments, in a time of continued globalization, continue to engage and co-operate at the international level to ensure protections are guaranteed.

Beate Trankmann, UN Resident Co-ordinator, UNDP Resident Representative

Beate Trankmann focused on the role of parliaments in advancing sustainable economic development, placing particular emphasis on the Sustainable Development Goals, scheduled to be adopted by the UN on 27 September 2015.



Beate Trankmann

The UN Resident Co-ordinator underlined six key roles of parliamentarians in fostering the Sustainable Development

Goals through legislation and other means: establishing a general accountability system; addressing inequality and promoting equal opportunities for men and women; ensuring proper protections for a vibrant civil society; promoting meaningful dialogue and civic space; building successful open society with free information; providing for representation of different groups and states to prevent conflict and tensions; and ensuring that all people enjoy their full human rights.



Bold Luvsanvandan (left) speaks with Alain Neri and Beate Trankmann.

Debate

In the ensuing discussion, the assembled parliamentarians raised a number of questions and concerns. Some criticized the lack of respect for civilians in war time, noting the troubling trend of mixing of combatant and non-combatant roles in conflict zones. Specifically addressing the situation in Syria, Members called for a greater commitment to addressing the conflict's humanitarian impact. The need for thorough investigations of events in Ukraine was also stressed, as was the role of parliamentarians in outreach on issues such as landmine reduction. Similarly, the importance of dialogue and supporting minority rights to reduce the threat of conflict were underlined as critical needs.



Alain Neri chairs session three.





Standing Committee Meeting



The Standing Committee consists of the OSCE PA's 57 Heads of National Delegations and Members of the Bureau. Meeting three times a year – at the Winter Meeting, Autumn Meeting and Annual Session – the Standing Committee guides the work of the Assembly, approves its budget and appoints the Secretary General.

President Ilkka Kanerva (MP, Finland) opened the Standing Committee meeting on 17 September with a report on his activities since being re-elected at the 2015 Annual Session in Helsinki, noting in particular a recent meeting he held with Russian State Duma Chair Sergey Naryshkin in Moscow.

The President informed the Standing Committee that he had communicated with the EU's High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Federica Mogherini, to make clear his position that all PA Members should be able to travel to EU countries to attend Assembly meetings, notwithstanding the EU's travel restrictions on certain Members of the Russian Delegation. Kanerva also reported on the World Speakers Conference, which he attended in New York with OSCE PA Secretary General Spencer Oliver earlier in the month.

During the exchange of views that followed, the position of the President on the EU's travel restrictions was strongly supported by several delegations. Member of the Russian Delegation Nikolay Kovalev underlined the importance of ensuring the participation of all delegations in the work of the Assembly, expressing hope that the situation experienced at the Helsinki Annual Session would not be repeated at future OSCE PA meetings.

OSCE PA Treasurer Doris Barnett (MP, Germany) presented the 2016 budget, which was adopted unanimously, and informed members that the Assembly continues to function in a cost-effective manner. She extended gratitude to Denmark and Austria for their support to the OSCE PA International Secretariat. Barnett also stipulated the duties and conditions of employment of the incoming Secretary General of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Roberto Montella, whose mandate runs from 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2020.

Secretary General Oliver congratulated Montella on his election to the post of Secre-

tary General and thanked the Mongolian hosts for their excellent organization of the Autumn Meeting. Oliver commended the work of the OSCE PA Vienna Liaison Office, as well as the OSCE PA's research fellowship programme, and referenced the OSCE PA's Helsinki +40 Project, which concluded at the Annual Session in Helsinki with a special Commemorative Event and the presentation of a final report.

The Secretary General's presentation was followed by an overview of upcoming election observation missions, including a mission to observe the parliamentary elections in Kyrgyzstan on 4 October, the presidential election in Belarus on 11 October and the early parliamentary elections in Turkey on 1 November.

The President also spoke about the upcoming 1 November parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan, expressing his concern over restrictions imposed by the government of Azerbaijan on the work of the OSCE/ODIHR, which has led to the cancellation of its planned election observation mission, a decision followed by the OSCE PA. Kanerva went on to underline that the door for dialogue and co-operation between Azerbaijan and the OSCE PA will remain open.

The Standing Committee heard reports from the Helsinki +40 Project Chair and Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Transparency and Reform of the OSCE, Joao Soares (MP, Portugal), the Chair of the Parliamentary Team on Moldova, Arta Dade (MP, Albania), and the newly appointed OSCE PA Special Representative on the Baltic Sea, Juergen Klimke (MP, Germany). The Georgian Delegation took the floor to invite members of the OSCE PA to attend the 2016 Annual Session in Tbilisi. Vladimir Gjorcev, Acting Head of Delegation for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, invited members of the Assembly to the 2016 Autumn Meeting in Skopje, while Germany confirmed its readiness to host the 2018 Annual Session in Berlin.



Closing Session



Enkhbold Nyamaa

Concluding remarks by Enkhbold Nyamaa, Member of the Mongolian Delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

Enkhbold Nyamaa expressed his appreciation on behalf of the Parliament of Mongolia for the opportunity to host the meeting in Ulaanbaatar and to engage in dialogue with OSCE parliamentarians. He reiterated the important role that parliamentarians play in addressing security challenges throughout the region.

As a short recap of the conference, he highlighted the session addressing security challenges in the North Asia region, and the discussion on Ukraine. Remarking on the second session, he emphasized the impact of natural disasters on security and stability. Turning to the session on the human dimension, he reminded participants of Mongolia's work in consolidating democracy over the past 25 years.

He recalled other issues on the global agenda being addressed by the United Nations, including those related to the post-2015 development agenda and on climate change.

He also reminded participants of the inclusive tradition of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, and stressed the participation of Russian parliamentarians and representatives from the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in the discussion during the conference. He concluded by thanking all participants of the Autumn Meeting.



George Tsereteli

Concluding remarks by George Tsereteli, Vice-President, on behalf of Ilkka Kanerva, President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

On behalf of the President of the OSCE PA, Vice-President George Tsereteli (MP, Georgia) welcomed the opportunity to reflect on the Autumn Meeting, noting how useful the discussions had been in promoting understanding on the many aspects of current security challenges and the role of fostering regional co-operation.

Tsereteli particularly remarked on the roundtable discussion with the heads of OSCE field operations in Central Asia, noting that they are the Organization's people on the ground who are helping OSCE countries to implement their commitments. He noted that regardless of the topic, be it food security, humanitarian issues, climate change or the crisis in and around

“Whether discussing climate change and pollution, the crisis in and around Ukraine, or the refugee crisis, it is clear that more regional and international co-operation is required.”

OSCE PA Vice-President
George Tsereteli

Ukraine, greater regional and international co-operation was needed.

He welcomed the opportunity that the conference had provided for a discussion on the refugee and migrant crisis. With so many displaced and living in truly difficult circumstances, he said, lasting solutions must be found.

Before closing the 2015 Autumn Meeting, Tsereteli thanked the Mongolian hosts on behalf of the Assembly for their warm hospitality, and for the opportunity to learn more about the country.









Secretary General
Spencer Oliver

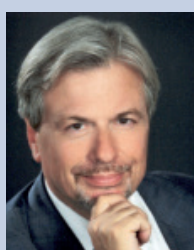
The OSCE PA International Secretariat provides administrative support for the Assembly in its various activities. The Secretariat organizes the meetings of the Assembly and provides support for election observation projects, special missions and Presidential activities. Its work is carried out in co-operation with other OSCE Institutions and international parliamentary organizations. The Secretariat, which is hosted by the Danish Parliament, is headed by Secretary General Spencer Oliver, and has a permanent staff of 18, including four staff members at the Liaison Office in Vienna.



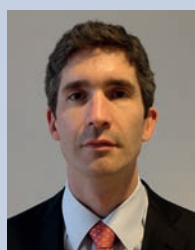
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Gustavo Pallares



Deputy Secretary
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Bringing together 323 parliamentarians from across the 57-nation OSCE region, the OSCE PA provides a forum for parliamentary dialogue, leads election observation missions, and strengthens international co-operation to uphold commitments on political, security, economic, environmental and human rights issues.

Recognized as a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter, the OSCE is a primary instrument for early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation in its area. The Parliamentary Assembly, originally established by the 1990 Paris Summit to promote greater involvement in the OSCE by national parliaments, is the oldest continuing OSCE Institution.

The basic objectives of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly are:

- To assess the implementation of OSCE objectives by participating States;
- To discuss subjects addressed during meetings of the Ministerial Council and the summits of Heads of State or Government;
- To develop and promote mechanisms for the prevention and resolution of conflicts;
- To support the strengthening and consolidation of democratic institutions in OSCE participating States;
- To contribute to the development of OSCE institutional structures and of relations between existing OSCE Institutions.

To pursue these objectives, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly employs a variety of means:

- A Final Declaration and a number of resolutions and recommendations are adopted each year at the Annual Session in July;
- Committee work addresses important contemporary international issues;
- Programmes and seminars are designed to develop and strengthen democracy including an extensive election observation programme;
- Special parliamentary missions are deployed to areas of latent or active crisis.



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