

Baku Declaration adopted, Kanerva elected OSCE PA President



Ilkka Kanerva delivers inaugural address as Assembly President.

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly last week wrapped up its 23rd Annual Session, adopting the Baku Declaration and electing officers to the Bureau, including a new President.

Ilkka Kanerva, former Foreign Minister of Finland and OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, was elected Assembly President at

the close of the Session on 2 July, with Christine Muttonen (Austria) and Kent Harstedt (Sweden) elected to vacant Vice-President posts, and Emin Onen (Turkey) re-elected Vice-President after having served one year in the post. Officers were also elected to the three General Committees. The new Committee leadership is as follows:

General Committee on Political Affairs and Security

- Chair Asa Lindestam (Sweden)
- Vice-Chair Azay Guliyev (Azerbaijan)
- Rapporteur Pia Kauma (Finland)

General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment

- Chair Roza Aknazarova (Kyrgyzstan)
- Vice-Chair Nilza Sena (Portugal)
- Rapporteur Marietta Tidei (Italy)

General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions

- Chair Isabel Santos (Portugal)
- Vice-Chair Mehmet Sevki Kulkuloglu (Turkey)
- Rapporteur Gordana Comic (Serbia)

The crisis in Ukraine is among the Baku Declaration's central themes, with other issues including enhanced confidence-building measures in the military sphere, democratic control of countries' armed forces and recommendations on cyber threats. The Declaration "Express[es] grave concern about the

New Bureau Members:



Marietta Tidei



Christine Muttonen



Kent Harstedt



Asa Lindestam

situation in Ukraine and emphasize the role of the OSCE in engaging all parties in a constructive dialogue."

A paragraph proposed by the Russian Delegation was approved, calling for "the creation, on the platform of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, of an interparliamentary liaison group on Ukraine in order to de-escalate the situation on the ground and support the country out of the crisis."

Following the adoption of this proposal, members of the Russian and Ukrainian OSCE PA Delegations met on the sidelines. The Delegations shared their views on recent developments and agreed on the need to continue open dialogue and to set up a liaison group dealing with the situation in Ukraine.

A supplementary resolution, proposed by U.S. Senator Benjamin Cardin, was adopted condemning Russia's violation of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

In the sphere of environmental issues and economics, the Baku Declaration calls for sustained work towards a new universal climate agreement, regulations to limit the risk of financial crashes, and steps to ensure the economic empowerment and property rights of women.

The Declaration also offers a diverse set of recommendations and pronouncements in the democracy and human rights sphere – from deploring hate crimes against migrant workers to calling for a redoubled fight against anti-Semitism and raising the cases of specific individuals in the OSCE region.

Fourteen supplementary items were adopted by the PA in addition to the Baku Declaration, including resolutions on the prevention and prosecution of child sex-trafficking, refugees and migration, food security, and water resources. A resolution on the upcoming 40th anniversary of the OSCE stresses the need for the Helsinki +40 process to reflect a strong parliamentary dimension that will add to the relevance, democratic legitimacy and outreach of the process.

The Annual Session was addressed by a number of prominent speakers, including Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev, Swiss Confederation President and OSCE Chairperson-in-Office Didier Burkhalter, Speaker of the Parliament of Azerbaijan Ogtay Asadov, Russian State Duma Chair Sergey Naryshkin, and Ukrainian Verkhovna Rada Deputy Chair Ruslan Koshulynskyi.