

Resolutions adopted, officers elected to Second Committee

The First Committee made 30 amendments to the rapporteur's draft resolution Monday before adopting the text. The resolution, which urges increased military transparency and strengthening international agreements on arms control, now awaits approval by the plenary.

The committee considered two supplementary items. "The Role of Local and Regional Authorities in Post-Conflict Rehabilitation Scenarios" was adopted with two amendments. "Enlarging the Partnership with Non-Member Mediterranean States to Include the Palestinian National Authority" was adopted in a close vote with three amendments.

With 22 amendments, the Second Committee resolution passed unanimously. The resolution, *inter alia*, calls for binding limits on greenhouse gas emissions, new fees to make short-term stock speculation more expensive, and the utilization of green growth initiatives as an alternative to economic austerity.

A supplementary item on water management passed without any amendments. Members approved "Promotion of Energy Saving and Energy Efficiency in the OSCE Region" with two amendments and "Environmental Dimension of Energy Security" with two amendments. The committee also passed a resolution on strengthening security in the border areas of the OSCE region.

The supplementary items "Gender Aspects of Labour

Migration", "Ensuring that Children Have the Right to be Protected From Economic Exploitation" and "Co-operation on the Transition to a Green Economy in the Context of Sustainable Development" were all adopted with no amendments.

The Second Committee elected its new leadership, promoting Roza Aknazarova (Kyrgyzstan), who previously served as vice-chair, to the position of chair. Nilza Sena (Portugal) was elected vice-chair of the committee and Roger Williams (United Kingdom) rapporteur.

The Third Committee approved 27 amendments to Rapporteur Ann Phelan's resolution and adopted it with 42 votes in favor, two against and two abstentions. The resolution, as amended, includes paragraphs on issues such as freedom of expression, combating against human trafficking, Interpol reform and a call for the abolition of the death penalty. Following the adoption of the committee resolutions, the supplementary item "Strengthening Civil Society Institutions in the OSCE Region" was adopted with four amendments.



Nilza Sena, Roza Aknazarova and Roger Williams

Parliamentarians consider new strategies for gender equality



Special Representative Hedy Fry opens the gender lunch

OSCE PA Special Representative on Gender Issues Hedy Fry (Canada) opened the working lunch on gender issues by reminding participants of the importance of promoting gender equality in public and private life. She introduced the four speakers at the event, three of

whom were from Turkey: Azize Sibel Gönül, MP from the Justice and Development Party (AKP) and chairwoman of the gender equality committee in parliament; Sedef Küçük, MP from the Republican People's Party; and Sebahat Tuncel, MP from the Democratic Society Party. The keynote speaker was Nick Smith, a member of the United Kingdom's delegation to the OSCE PA.

Gönül discussed Turkey's history on gender issues, stressing that since the beginning of the republic, Turkey has worked toward gender equality. Küçük spoke about her party's efforts to improve the situation of women, noting that although polit-

ical parties in Turkey have various disagreements, discrimination against women is an issue that trumps other political differences. Tuncel described gender equality as a long-term struggle, noting that real gender equality would be nothing less than a revolution. She said that women everywhere should raise their voices for women and girls in the Middle East.

Smith, a member of the British Labour Party's Foreign Affairs team, focused on sexual violence in conflict zones. There is an urgent need to address the culture of impunity by building nations' legal capacities, he said.

During the lunch, participants discussed new strategies that can be applied to improve gender equality in the OSCE region, arguing that issues of gender equality stem from societal norms that need to change.

Programme ~ Tuesday, 2 July

09.00 – 11.00	First Committee - Rumeli A1
09.00 – 11.00	Third Committee - Anadolu Auditorium
11.10 – 11.30	Meeting of the Bureau - Topkapi A
11.30 – 13.30	First Committee - Rumeli A1
15.00 – 18.00	Plenary Session - Anadolu Auditorium