

General Committees debate Reports and Draft Resolutions

First Committee Vice-Chair Azay Guliyev (Azerbaijan) opened the meeting Sunday morning and gave the floor to Rapporteur Pia Kauma (Finland), who presented her report on democratic control of the armed forces and the Vienna Document. The fundamental basis for democratic control over a nation's military, she argued, is strong and effective parliamentary oversight based on principles of constitutionality, legality and accountability. The report highlighted the importance of updating the Vienna Document, encouraging its modernization to take into account new realities in the politico-military dimension.

The report was well received, with delegates praising it as substantial, accurate and detailed. Parliamentarians discussed protracted conflicts in the OSCE region and the potential for resolving them, as well as the existing politico-military mechanisms of the OSCE, and ways for improving their effectiveness. Out of 49 proposed amendments, five were discussed on Sunday, with four agreed to. The committee continues its work on the draft resolution Monday.

Chair Roza Aknazarova (Kyrgyzstan) opened the Second Committee meeting and handed the floor to Rapporteur Roger Williams (United Kingdom). Williams described his draft resolution as a document "that comprehensively addresses a wide range of issues across the OSCE area," referencing issues such as water security, climate change and fracking. He emphasized the document's underlying theme of international co-operation and the importance of innovation in scientific and technological endeavours.

During the debate, delegates raised a number of additional issues related to the economic and environmental dimension, including energy security, gender equality, and migration. The importance of continuing investments in science and technology in the context of the economic crisis was emphasized, as was the urgency of combating climate change. Of 30

amendments tabled, nine were discussed, with eight approved.

Opening the Third Committee meeting, Chair Isabel Santos (Portugal) Santos reported on her work during the past year and gave the floor to Rapporteur Gordana Comic (Serbia), who provided an overview of her report and draft resolution. Stressing the universal nature of human rights, Comic described the socio-economic impact of migration flows on countries of origin, as well as the impacts on host countries.

Debating the document, parliamentarians raised additional issues, including the difficulty in defining "political prisoner" and issues related to racism, xenophobia and discrimination.

The committee closed business before considering the draft resolution's 45 proposed amendments, which will be taken up Monday. Following the Third Committee meeting, a well-attended side event organized by Santos included the participation of Azerbaijani civil society groups. The role of civil society in Azerbaijan was discussed, including possible reforms to facilitate the role of civil society in the promotion of fundamental freedoms.



Pia Kauma



Roger Williams



Gordana Comic

Debate on extremism and xenophobia

President Ranko Krivokapic (Montenegro) delivered introductory remarks to Sunday's special debate, "The Rise of Extremism, Radicalism and Xenophobia: Challenges for the OSCE Region," which featured the participation of 27 members of parliament. "Xenophobia and extremism are social diseases, for which it is not enough to focus on removal of symptoms, but to work on the causes," Krivokapic said, pointing to his own region's experience with ethnic violence during the break-up of Yugoslavia.

In the debate, the value of the OSCE in bringing together historically divided peoples was touched upon. Others noted the importance of education and dialogue, and that limited capacity to take on board all undocumented migrants should not be confused with xenophobia.

Programme - Monday, 30 June

09.30 – 11.00	First Committee ~ Grand Ballroom II
09.30 – 11.00	Second Committee ~ Grand Ballroom I
11.30 – 13.00	Third Committee ~ Grand Ballroom II
13.00 – 14.30	Gender Lunch ~ Milli Mejlis, 15th Floor (Only for pre-registered participants)
14.30 – 16.00	Second Committee ~ Grand Ballroom I
14.30 – 16.00	Third Committee ~ Grand Ballroom II
16.30 – 18.00	First Committee ~ Grand Ballroom II