



Address on behalf of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly
to the PABSEC, Belgrade, 30 November 2016

OSCE PA Vice-President Azay Guliyev (MP, Azerbaijan)

Mr. President,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First and foremost, I would like to express my gratitude to the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia for organizing such a great session and traditional Serbian hospitality.

I also use this opportunity to extend my special thanks to Mr. Asaf Hajiyev the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC) for inviting me to attend this important event.

It gives me a great pleasure to participate at this 48th General Assembly of PABSEC and deliver a statement on behalf of the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE in front of such a distinguished audience.

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, much like the PABSEC, is a young Assembly, but we have taken on a very active role in securing peace and promoting cooperation and dialogue in all OSCE States. Taking into account the current security situation around the globe, today, more than ever, we need to continue working together to ensure peace and prosperity for all our citizens.

We live in hard times with many challenges appearing at every corner. Unresolved conflicts, terror acts, the IDPS and refugees issue and migrant crisis, devastating humanitarian situation, pervasive misconception about religion and many more other impediments for peace and security continue to exist in our vulnerable and fragile world.

The challenges we face are truly global and require a multilateral, comprehensive and strategic response and this is why we need the close cooperation to each other.

Parliamentary diplomacy has a special role in dealing with on-going challenges and I think today's session gives us great opportunity to address some of them.

Taking this opportunity I would like to shortly highlight 5 main issues on which I believe our co-operation should focus on:

Firstly: Security challenges

Unfortunately, the world faces a serious and challenging threat from international terrorism, which is recognized as a fundamental and multifaceted peril. We have to combat terrorism without any delay and defend our freedoms and our way of life, in full compliance with our human rights and rule of law standards.

The OSCE PA calls upon governments to strengthen co-operation on anti-terrorism and develop measures aimed at blocking the funding of terrorist organizations.

Secondly: Refugees and Migrants

It is pretty clear from the visible consequences that countries are not successful in dealing with refugee and migration challenges. Finding solutions for this problem is getting more and more difficult. As parliamentarians, we have to use the full capacity of our organizations and national parliaments for placing the migration issue on the agenda.

The OSCE PA attaches a great importance to solving this crisis. Our "Ad Hoc" Committee on Migration was created last February, which serves as a focal point for the Assembly's work in this field and we have already submitted in a number of proposals to our participating States on how to address some of these challenges.

Thirdly: Unresolved Conflicts

The unresolved or protracted conflicts represent a serious threat to the security and stability of Europe. As you all know, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine have been impacted by unresolved conflicts, disrupting the lives of dozens of thousands of people, at times with tragic and painful consequences. There are no quick and easy fixes to these issues, but I think it is clear that an inclusive approach in the spirit of the Helsinki Final Act must be developed.

I strongly believe that parliamentary diplomacy, confidence building and dialogue have an essential role to play in the search for solutions to all conflicts in the OSCE region. In this regard, the Resolution on "Adherence to the Helsinki Principles in inter-state relations across the OSCE area" passed by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in Helsinki in 2015 is highly important.

In this resolution OSCE PA urges settlement of the conflicts, including those affecting the Republic of Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, based on the norms and principles of international law, in particular those relating to the sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of internationally recognized borders of the states concerned.

Fourthly: Parliamentary Diplomacy

Today, we witness a growing lack of cohesion and mutual trust among our member States. Dialogue and co-operation among parliamentarians, which are the very essence of parliamentary diplomacy, make a positive contribution to easing inter-state tensions, building confidence and finding feasible solutions to complex problems.

I come to my final, 5th important point: Elections

The OSCE PA, PACE, ODIHR and other key partners have put into practice a highly respected framework known as the International Election Observation Mission (IEOM) for monitoring elections. Through this approach we work together with partner organizations to make the cooperation procedures during all stages of the election observation process more efficient.

The OSCE PA has gathered significant experience in observing elections and welcomes cooperation in this field.

To this end, the OSCE PA looks forward to continuing to work with colleagues from the PABSEC.

Thank you Mr. President!