

Gender, Ukraine, rule of law in Russia debated in plenary



Joao Soares presents his resolution on the rule of law in Russia.

Four supplementary items were considered in Sunday's plenary session: "Gender and Minorities in the OSCE Region", "Equal Participation of Women in OSCE Decision-Making", "Ukraine" and "Rule of Law in

Russia: Case of Sergei

Magnitsky". The resolutions on gender received broad support and the two dealing with Ukraine and Russia provided for spirited debate, with Ukrainian and Russian delegates particularly engaged. Considered paragraph by paragraph, all resolutions ultimately passed overwhelmingly.

OSCE PA President Emeritus Joao Soares (Portugal) introduced the resolution on rule of law in Russia, calling on the 56 nations of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe to impose visa sanctions and asset freezes on persons

responsible for Russian lawyer Sergei Magnitsky's detention, abuse and death.

"Today we as parliamentarians from across the OSCE area sent a clear message of support for democratic values and human rights," said Soares. "National parliaments must now follow up to enact visa sanctions and travel bans so those who abuse human rights are kept from enjoying the luxuries of foreign travel and investment in our countries."

The Russian delegation spoke at length about the ongoing investigation of Magnitsky's death and assured the Assembly that those responsible would be held to account.

John McCain (United States) stated, "I believe that supporting the rule of law is pro-Russia. I believe that defending the innocent and punishing the guilty is pro-Russia."

Programme ~ Monday, 9 July

09.30 – 12.30 Plenary Session - *Prince Pierr*

12.30 *Adjournment immediately followed by a reception offered by the President of the OSCE PA*

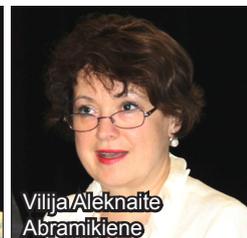
General Committees complete work and elect new officers



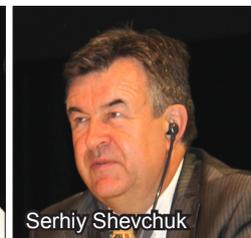
Asa Lindestam



Susanne Bratli



Vilija Aleknaite
Abramikiene



Serhiy Shevchuk



Roza Aknazarova



Christos Stylianidis



Matteo Meccacci



Isabel Santos



Ann Phelan

The Third Committee considered the 12 remaining amendments to the rapporteur's draft resolution on Sunday. Six were adopted and six rejected, and the draft resolution was agreed to.

The committee also adopted the resolution "Addressing Racism and Xenophobia Affecting People of African Descent in the OSCE Region". The resolution "Protecting Vulnerable Populations from Human Trafficking" was adopted with three amendments.

The meeting concluded with election of committee officers. Matteo Meccacci (Italy) was re-elected Chair of the Committee, Isabel Santos (Portugal) was elected Vice-Chair and Ann

Phelan (Ireland) elected Rapporteur, all by acclamation.

The First Committee discussed six supplementary items, all of which were adopted. The draft resolutions on "Strengthening Security in the OSCE Region", "Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalization that lead to Terrorism", "Support for the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy" and "Enhancing Cross-Border Co-operation Policies in Post-Conflict Scenarios" were adopted unanimously.

The supplementary item on the situation in Georgia received broad support and was adopted. The resolution on developing OSCE co-operation with Afghanistan was also adopted.

The First Committee closed with the election of officers. Asa Lindestam was elected Chair, and by acclamation Susanne Bratli and Vilja Aleknaite Abramikiene were re-elected Vice-Chair and Rapporteur, respectively.

On Saturday, the Second Committee elected Serhiy Shevchuk (Ukraine) Chair, Roza Aknazarova (Kyrgyzstan) Vice-Chair, and Christos Stylianides (Cyprus) Rapporteur.