

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's 28th Annual Session



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Summary

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly met for its 28th Annual Session on 4-8 July 2019 in Luxembourg under the theme “Advancing Sustainable Development to Promote Security: The Role of Parliaments.”

Following several days of intense debate and committee work, the Annual Session culminated in the adoption on 8 July of the Luxembourg Declaration, containing recommendations to the 57 participating States of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe – and to the OSCE itself – in the fields of political affairs, security, economics, environment, human rights and humanitarian questions.

Speakers at the event included:

- Fernand Etgen, President of the Chamber of Deputies of Luxembourg
- George Tsereteli, President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly
- Xavier Bettel, Prime Minister of Luxembourg
- Steny Hoyer, United States House Majority Leader and Founding Member of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly
- Liliane Maury Pasquier, President of the Parlia-

- mentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
- Miroslav Lajcak, Chairperson-in-Office of the OSCE and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Slovakia
- Ambassador Thomas Greminger, Secretary General of the OSCE

The Standing Committee of heads of national delegations met on 4 July and re-elected Secretary General Roberto Montella for a five-year term beginning January 2021. The Ad Hoc Committees on Migration and Countering Terrorism met on the margins of the Annual Session and a Working Lunch on Gender Issues took place on 5 July.

Numerous side events were held, including one convened by the OSCE PA's Special Representative on Human Trafficking Issues Chris Smith (United States) and OSCE PA Vice-President Roger Wicker (United States) featuring the participation of Kenneth Morris, a great-great-great-grandson of leading 19th century slavery abolitionist Frederick Douglass and President of the Frederick Douglass Family Initiatives; Bill Woolf, Executive Director of Just Ask; and Philip Hyldgaard, Senior Operating Director of A21.





Opening Plenary Session

With just over 250 members of parliament in attendance, the Annual Session opened on 4 July in Luxembourg City under the theme, "Advancing Sustainable Development to Promote Security: The Role of Parliaments." The opening plenary session began with statements by Fernand Etgen, President of the Chamber of Deputies of Luxembourg; George Tsereteli, President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly; Xavier Bettel, Prime Minister of Luxembourg; and a special guest address from Congressman Steny Hoyer (United States), founding member of the Parliamentary Assembly.

Opening Plenary Session



Fernand Etgen President of the Chamber of Deputies of Luxembourg

In his welcoming remarks, Fernand Etgen, President of the Chamber of Deputies of Luxembourg, noted that in times of climate change, energy issues and scarcity of natural resources, sustainable development has become a key factor to promote security. "Our aim is not to 'securitize' sustainable development," he stressed. "But we want to put forward the idea that we can avoid conflicts in the future if we take our sustainable development goals seriously."

He noted that since these challenges are transnational in nature, international security organizations like the OSCE must step up. "There is a

need to raise awareness and, as a parliament, we will take this unique opportunity of the OSCE PA meeting in Luxembourg to do so over the next days," he said. Climate change is not only the most complex and time sensitive issue of our day, but it is an issue that some governments still deny or refuse to acknowledge as a threat. He also noted that climate change is a cross-dimensional problem; questions surrounding energy extraction and use, as well as addressing diminishing natural resources must be answered. All of this confirms that developing sustainable solutions is an urgent requirement, and not merely a slogan of diplomatic intent, Etgen stressed. "We want to put forward

Opening Plenary Session

the idea that we can avoid conflicts in the future if we take our goals seriously,” he said.

George Tsereteli, President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

OSCE PA President George Tsereteli (MP, Georgia) noted that more than 40 years ago, the OSCE’s founding document, the Helsinki Final Act, called for enhancing the role of the United Nations in strengthening international peace and in promoting solutions to international problems. He pointed out that the UN’s landmark Sustainable Development Goals hold particular relevance for the Luxembourg meeting.

“The goals, which you all know very well, are founded on five pillars: people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnerships. All five of these priorities are at the core of our Organization’s major activities. The OSCE is contributing but we have to do more. We can use the potential of our 57 participating States, our partners and our field missions to keep the development goals high on the agenda,” he said.

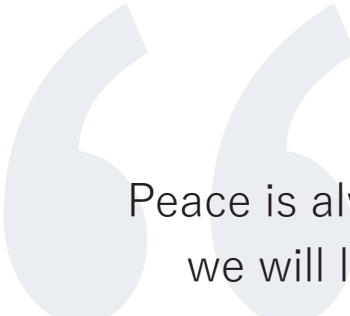
Tsereteli regretted however that too many governments set aside their responsibilities, noting that multilateralism is being undermined and international agreements violated with impunity. As many global challenges grow more entrenched, new

threats emerge, he pointed out.

He reminded participants that parliaments have a unique role to play within their own governments in developing and advancing agendas that ensure security, protect democracy and establish sustainable environment protections.

Xavier Bettel, Prime Minister of Luxembourg

Xavier Bettel, Luxembourg’s Prime Minister, spoke about the rule of law as part of the essence of what it means to be European. He spoke about his personal experience as an openly gay man and a descendent



Peace is always like a fertile sapling that we will lose if we don’t take care of it.

- Prime Minister Xavier Bettel

of Holocaust-surviving Jews, urging parliamentarians to take seriously the concept of diversity. He expressed disappointment with the steady creep of distrust in institutions and the return of Nazism to Europe. He underlined the fragility of peace, and called on parliamentarians to work together to solve current issues.

“Together we must take this work further,” Bettel said. “I should do this in my role and you should as well. Peace is always like a fertile sapling that we will lose if we don’t take care of it. Let us never forget our history and learn from our many mistakes.”

Opening Plenary Session

Congressman Steny Hoyer, founding member of the Parliamentary Assembly

As one of the founding members of the Assembly when it was established 28 years earlier, U.S. Congressman Steny Hoyer spoke about the need to strengthen multilateral institutions to protect democracy and the importance of legislators in leading the effort to demonstrate democracies' ability to deliver a better life for their citizens. "The success of this Assembly – and, indeed, the success of democracy – will depend not on what we did in 1991 but on what you will do today and in the years ahead," Congressman Hoyer said. "It will depend on whether elected representatives deliver for the people and prove that representative institu-

tions work. Or whether 'government of, by, and for the people' will transform into 'government of, by, and for' the powerful few."

The best way to combat anti-democratic forces both from within and from without is to show that democracy works and to restore faith in electoral government, he said. He recalled the centrality of values and virtues of democracy, justice, and liberty, not only as the pillars of what the Organization does, but as the backbone of what the Organization fundamentally is. The best way to combat the destructive forces from within and outside each country is to show that democracy works and to do all that is necessary to restore faith in electoral governments, he said.



Opening Plenary Session

Supplementary Items

Following the opening speeches, the plenary adopted two supplementary items. The first was principally sponsored by Congressman Alcee Hastings (United States); the latter by Margareta Cederfelt (Sweden) and Irene Charalambides (Cyprus). These resolutions dealt with realizing the bridge between civil society and the Organization as well as addressing corruption among the States.

Congressman Hastings' item was entitled, "The Role of Civil Society – Individuals and Non-Governmental Organizations – in Realizing the Aims and Aspirations of the OSCE."

A debate ensued over the precise definition of "NGO," with some citing cases where coercive groups had used the cover of "NGO" to speak, move and act as they please. The item passed with 18 votes in support, 8 against and 17 abstentions.

The Cederfelt-Charalambides' item was called, "The Role of National Parliaments in Preventing and Combating Corruption in the OSCE Area," and it passed unanimously.

Standing Committee Meeting

The meeting of the Standing Committee on 4 July started with a vote on the renewal of PA Secretary General Roberto Montella's mandate. Secretary General Montella was re-elected to a five-year term beginning in January 2021. "I am privileged and honoured to continue to serve in this position," he said. "I will do my utmost to meet the expectations of our parliamentarians and strengthen the added value of the parliamentary dimension of the OSCE, to the ultimate benefit of the people of our 57 participating States."

The Committee allocated 16 supplementary items for general debate, with five sent to the First Committee, four to the Second Committee and four to the Third Committee. Three supplementary items, "The Role of Civil Society – Individuals and Non-Governmental Organizations – in Realizing the Aims and Aspirations of the OSCE", "Effective Migration Governance Based on Promoting Inclusive Societies and Dignified Returns", and "The Role of National Parliaments in Preventing and Combating Corruption in the OSCE Area", were allocated for debate in plenary sessions.

OSCE PA Treasurer Doris Barnett (Germany) presented her report, providing an overview of the financial situation and the status of annual contributions. Following the report, the Standing Committee unanimously approved the budget for the 2019-2020 financial year, which registered an increase of 5.3 per cent.

In his report, President Tsereteli provided the Standing Committee with an overview of his recent activities, emphasizing the outcomes of his recent visits to the Hague, Kyiv, Minsk, and

Bratislava. He reported on the results of the election observation missions in Moldova, Ukraine and Kazakhstan, where he served a special co-ordinator. Additionally, the President also discussed his visit to the Arctic and announced that he had appointed Torill Eidsheim from Norway as a Special Representative for Arctic Issues.

Secretary General Montella presented his report, expressing his gratitude that so many parliamentarians are willing to dedicate their time to promoting the OSCE and the PA. He underlined that the focus of this Annual Session on sustainable development allows OSCE PA members to take a long-term perspective on the most pressing issues facing our societies. Montella added that the PA's work has an added value in grappling with current



challenges, such as climate change and migration, which go beyond national parliaments and their electoral cycles.

Information was provided on upcoming meetings, including the 2019 Autumn Meeting in Marrakech, the 2020 Winter Meeting in Vienna, and the 2020 Annual Session in Vancouver. Finally, the members of the Standing Committee engaged in a debate on current international political issues. Among items raised were the crisis in and around Ukraine, protracted conflicts, human rights in the OSCE area, the upcoming Albanian OSCE Chairmanship, and the Silk Road Support Group of the OSCE PA.



General Committee on Political Affairs and Security

Committee Vice-Chair Sofio Katarava (Georgia), acting on behalf of Committee Chair Filippo Lombardi (Switzerland), opened the meeting of the Committee on Political Affairs and Security on 4 July. She noted that the Assembly is an important forum for dialogue and dynamic discussions between the participating States of the OSCE to address the current challenges in the OSCE region, such as protracted conflicts, terrorism and energy security, and stressed the important role parliamentarians can have in promoting sustainable development to advance security.

She concluded her remarks by introducing Rapporteur Alan Farrell (Ireland) and announced the five supplementary items to be discussed during the Committee meeting.



GUSTAVO PALLA

DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL

OSCE PA

General Committee on Political Affairs and Security

Report and Resolution

Rapporteur Alan Farrell (Ireland) outlined the cornerstones of his report addressing multilateralism, protracted conflicts, the role of parliaments, counterterrorism and youth. He stressed that protracted conflicts in the OSCE area continue to pose a serious obstacle to peace, security and sustainable development and that the lack of substantive progress in the resolution of the protracted conflicts remain a grave cause for concern.

In the context of multilateralism, Farrell pointed to the collapse of the INF treaty, the deteriorating relationship between Russia and the US as well as the unprecedented situation of a member state leaving the European Union and the security implications of Brexit as additional sources of tensions and instability in the OSCE region.

The rapporteur emphasized that addressing the current issues the entire OSCE region is facing requires greater co-operation and multilateral engagement and pointed out that fully engaging youth as well as working towards a gender balanced approach for women to participate and exert influence in decision making processes is essential to ensure longevity in terms of peace and stability.

The committee resolution passed overwhelmingly after consideration of 31 amendments, out of which 12 were adopted.



General Committee on Political Affairs and Security

Supplementary Items

The first, entitled “The Militarization by the Russian Federation of the Temporarily Occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol, Ukraine, the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov”, principally sponsored by Artur Gerasymov (Ukraine), called upon the Russian Federation to withdraw Russian occupation forces from illegally annexed Crimea and the City of Sevastopol to return affected regions to the effective authority of the Ukrainian government. No amendments were proposed to the supplementary item and the resolution was adopted with a vote of 54 in favor, 6 against and 6 abstentions.

The supplementary item “The Challenges Related to Returning and Relocating Foreign Terrorist Fighters”, principally sponsored by Makis Voridis (Greece), laid out measures on border control, criminal justice, information sharing and counter-extremism to more efficiently respond to threats and challenges posed by foreign terrorist fighters and called on member states to enhance partnerships with OSCE governmental structures and other international actors in the context of counterterrorism measures. Six amendments were considered to the supplementary item, out of which three were adopted. The resolution was adopted unanimously.

Sofio Katarava (Georgia) principally sponsored the supplementary item “The Security and Human Rights Situation in Abkhazia, Georgia and Tskhinvali Region/South Ossetia, Georgia”. The supplementary item addressed the current human rights and security situation in Georgia and furthermore stressed the necessity for full implementation of the EU-mediated 12 August 2008 Ceasefire Agree-

ment, including the withdrawal of the Russian Federation’s military forces from Georgian territory. No amendments were proposed to the supplementary item and the resolution was agreed to. The fourth supplementary item, “Energy Security in the OSCE Area”, principally sponsored by Ms. Ruta Miliute (Lithuania) centered on security sector reform in the context of energy supply. It addressed the potential risk of economic coercion as a result of countries’ dependency on single energy sources and subsequently called on member states to create a regulatory framework for competitive energy markets as well as to facilitate dialogue between energy exporting, transit and importing countries to strengthen the security of supply in the entire OSCE region. Three amendments were proposed to the supplementary item, all of which were adopted. The supplementary item passed with overwhelming support.

The last supplementary item on “Good Practices for States Related to Private and Military Security Companies” principally sponsored by Hugues Hiltbold (Switzerland), which called on participating States to ensure that any outsourcing of activities to private military companies needs to meet States’ obligations under international law. One amendment was proposed to the supplementary item and was approved. The resolution was adopted.

Election of Officers

Chair: Filippo Lombardi (Switzerland)

Vice-Chair: Costel Neculai Dunava (Romania)

Rapporteur: Laurynas Kasciunas (Lithuania)

General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment

Committee Chair Nilza de Sena (Portugal) chaired the four sessions of the Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment on 5-7 July 2019. Members considered the report and resolution proposed by Elona Hoxha Gjebrea (Albania) and four supplementary items on strategic foresight for sustainable development, gender and youth, digitalization, and energy security.



NILZA DE SENA
CHAIR OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE
PORTUGAL

General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment

Report and Resolution

Rapporteur Elona Hoxha Gjebrea presented her report, which focused on climate change, corruption, money laundering, financing of terrorism, migration governance, human capital development, and disaster risk reduction. She urged national parliaments to develop legislative proposals with the aim of advancing sustainable development and security.

On climate change, her resolution urged all OSCE participating States to fulfill commitments under the Paris Climate Agreement

and to implement carbon pricing policies to both account for the environmental harm that CO₂ emissions are causing and leverage economic incentives to move away from fossil fuels and towards clean energy. Twelve parliamentarians took the floor to debate the resolution, placing emphasis on issues related to the multiple threats of climate change, women and girls' human rights, the future of migratory flows, the devastating effects of corruption, Nord Stream 2, and challenges facing the High North.

The committee considered 24 amendments of which 19 were adopted. Following the debate and the discussions of amendments, the resolution was adopted unanimously.

Supplementary Items

Boleslav Pirshtuk (Belarus) presented the supplementary item he authored, "Strategic Foresight for Science, Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Development," which welcomes the remarkable evolution and diffusion of technologies which have seen penetra-



It is the unique role of national parliaments to develop legislative proposals with the aim of advancing sustainable development and security and implementing OSCE commitments in the economic and environmental dimension.

- Second Committee Report

tion into many corners of the globe and calls upon OSCE participating States to integrate science, technology, and innovation policies into their national development strategies. The item was adopted unanimously with four amendments.

The committee considered the supplementary item principally sponsored by Hedy Fry (Canada), "Integration of Gender and Youth Perspectives in Efforts to Combat Climate Change," who introduced the resolution by underlining that climate change has become an added burden on



countries with few resources. Women and girls are more affected than others, she said, and as they tend to migrate, they encounter an increased risk of any kind of violence. Fry highlighted that young people are very concerned about climate change as indicated in public opinion surveys, and are so even more now because it is their future, they will be directly impacted. The item was adopted with overwhelming support.

The Second Committee considered the supplementary item “Digitalization as an Advantage for Gender Policies,” principally sponsored by Stefana Miladinovic (Serbia), who underlined that digitalization increases living standards and that States should focus on women aged 55 and older because

of the particular risk of unemployment. It was adopted unanimously with two amendments. The committee also took up “Promoting Energy Security by Ensuring Access to Sustainable Energy” (John Aldag, Canada), which inspired a spirited debate touching on geopolitical aspects of energy security including the Nord Stream 2 pipeline project. The resolution was adopted unamended.

Election of Officers

Chair: Sofio Katsarava (Georgia)

Vice-Chair: Artur Gerasymov (Ukraine)

Rapporteur: Elona Gjebrea Hoxha (Albania)

General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions

Committee Chair Margareta Kiener Nellen (Switzerland) chaired four meetings of the General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions during the Annual Session from 4 to 8 July in Luxembourg. In addition to the main resolution, four supplementary items were debated, with three adopted. The main resolution and subsequent debate centered on a range of issues, including the intensification of authoritarianism, radicalism, xenophobia, intolerance and hate speech.



MARGARETA KIEN

NELLEN

CHAIR OF THE THIRD COMMISSION

SWITZERLAND

General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions

Report and Resolution

Rapporteur Kyriakos Kyriakou-Hadjjianni (Cyprus) introduced presented his report, highlighting the link between security and sustainable development and the importance of stability, democracy and freedom and protection of human rights. The role of international organizations is vital, he said, and the OSCE PA should prioritize the protection of the right to life and ensuring the rights of children.

Parliamentarians took the floor raising issues such as the rapid growth of racism, anti-Semitism, and hate speech. It was recognized that education is a

major tool to spread democratic values, especially among youth. Another point raised was related to the freedom of media. Committee members also discussed migration, IDPs, LGBTI rights, and issues facing children and women.

Following the debate, the Committee members discussed the 30 proposed amendments to the draft resolution and it was subsequently adopted.



Working Lunch on Gender Issues

Every year on the sidelines of the Annual Session, a working lunch is held to bring OSCE parliamentarians together for a focused discussion on gender issues in the OSCE area. The event typically features a presentation by local and national figures, followed by a thematic discussion by participants.

Special Representative on Gender Issues Hedy Fry (Canada) and OSCE PA President George Tsereteli opened the 2019 gender lunch with Fry reminding participants that this event, and others like it, are not only about elevating women to higher


positions of power and recognition, but about ensuring men and women can navigate the same spaces together. She also welcomed discussions on the impact of climate change on the youth and young girls, and urged for concrete steps on how to engage youth in decision making.

Dan Biancalana, Chairman of the Committee on Equality between Women and Men in Parliament in the Chamber of Deputies of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg contextualized the intersectional

nature of gender and age issues. To demonstrate, he asked, "How do we educate young people so they grow up without gender stereotypes?"

Augusta Featherston, ODIHR's Youth Focal Point

and Democratic Governance Officer, spoke about the importance of engaging youth constituencies, and the programmes ODIHR runs to facilitate youth participation in democratic projects. She paid particular attention to the way gender and age play out



To encourage greater involvement by men in the promotion of gender equality, issues affecting men and boys such as unhealthy social norms and the types of violence affecting them must be addressed so that they can see the broad-based benefits of human security, women's empowerment and gender equality.

- Gender Balance Report 2019

with regards to the use of technology: linking this area to engagement in public and political life. She discussed results from her office's research on the experiences of young men and women with regard to technology, and presented relevant key findings from the Youth Progress Index.

The third presentation was delivered by Nora Dieschbourg, a 17-year-old youth activist from the Luxembourg Tech School initiative. She discussed her experiences as a young woman in STEM and the Luxembourgish youth parliamentary program, which allows young Luxembourgish citizens to address the parliament with their concerns.

In the discussion, the gender lunch participants provided concrete examples and measures that their countries are conducting in order to balance the gender scales and to reach younger audiences. This included: opening parliamentary meetings and organizing democracy workshops, holding student visits to parliament, and internship and mentorship programmes. The broad promotion

of initiatives such as Youth Parliaments should be adopted, it was emphasized. Particular attention was paid to the role of education and civic education, as well as the importance of quota systems.



Ad Hoc Committee on Migration

The Ad Hoc Committee on Migration was established in February 2016 at the 15th OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Winter Meeting and consists of some 20 parliamentarians from countries spanning North America and Europe. It serves as a focal point for the OSCE PA's work in the field of migration in all three dimensions of the OSCE: political and security affairs; economic and environmental issues; and human rights and humanitarian questions.

The OSCE PA Ad Hoc Committee on Migration met on the margins of the Annual Session in Luxembourg on 5 July.

Committee Chair Nahima Lanjri (Belgium) reported on the committee's visit to Belgium on 2 April and presented the draft report "Policy Briefing on Effective and Humane Returns." The Chair underlined the importance of taking into consideration not only welcoming of migrants but also the return policies. Members discussed the supplementary item on the agenda of the Annual Session, "Effective Migration Governance Based on Promoting Inclusive Societies and Dignified Returns," which focuses on effective returns with dignity based on the principle of "voluntary if possible, forced if necessary" as voluntary returns are not only more humane but also more sustainable.

Lanjri stressed that an effective and humane return policy is one of the main pillars of a comprehensive migration policy.

Lanjri also reported on the committee's recent visit to Belgium, which focused on EU and Belgian return policy and a discussion of recent migration developments in the OSCE area.

President Tsereteli thanked committee members for their dedication to this issue.





Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly established the Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism (CCT) in July 2017 to strengthen the contribution of OSCE parliamentarians in addressing violent extremism and radicalization. The CCT facilitates the work of parliamentarians to shape national policies and legislative counter-terrorism frameworks and establish the mandates of security-related bodies.

The CCT met on 5 July on the margins of the Annual Session in Luxembourg. The meeting was chaired by Vice-Chair Sofio Katsarava (Georgia), who acted on behalf of former Chair Makis Voridis (Greece). The committee discussed the draft resolution on “The Challenges Related to Relocating and Returning Terrorist Fighters” and a number of amendments. Furthermore, CCT member Lisa Chambers (Ireland) reported on her recent brief-

ing to the UN Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee, where she highlighted the work of the CCT. Lastly, independent consultant Valerio de Divitiis presented the key findings of the OSCE PA Initiative on Border Security and Information Sharing to the committee members.

Chamber noted that the OSCE PA Oversight Initiative on Border Security and Information Sharing



proved to be extremely valuable as it allowed to identify key areas in which participating States must improve to successfully implement the measures set out under UNSCR 2396. Even though the Irish Government did not respond to the questionnaire, Chambers argued that it is crucial to advocate for the participation of all OSCE participating States in such initiatives, to make regional cooperation in the context of counterterrorism measures more efficient.

Irakli Beraia (Georgia) pointed out that through the implementation of concrete measures such as passing legislation obliging airline carriers to share information on passengers with relevant authorities and developing civic education programmes, Georgia has been able to obtain tangible results as it is deemed one of the safest countries today. Yet, he also stressed that as terrorism transcends all borders, Georgia is dependent on regional and international co-operation to successfully respond to terrorist threats and cannot rely on domestic measures only.

Discussion also focused on the supplementary item being considered in Luxembourg, "The Challenges Related to Returning and Relocating Foreign Terrorist Fighters," with Katsarava underlining that the majority of the resolution's paragraphs were agreed upon and that only five amendments had been proposed.

Richard Hudson (United States) noted that individuals who return after having actively engaged in terrorist activities as affiliates of terrorist groups continue to pose a serious threat. Given that returnees impact security situations globally, it

is crucial for all affected states to develop a set of measures to effectively deal with citizens who were formerly associated with, or continue to be linked to terrorist groups. Hudson informed that he put forth an amendment to paragraph 1 of the resolution, to call on OSCE participating States 'to develop effective strategies to deal with returnees, including through repatriation', in line with UN General Assembly Resolution 70/291. Hudson invited committee members to share their opinions on the proposed amendment.

Abid Qayyum Raja (Norway) praised the work of the CCT, particularly its recent visit to Paris during which its members met with French authorities to learn about France's experience with children formerly associated with foreign terrorist fighters. Raja stressed that this visit prompted him to initiate a debate in his parliament on means of dealing with children whose parents engage in terrorist activities.

Rakhmatulla Nazarov (Uzbekistan) reported that his country had recently repatriated around 160 women and children linked to ISIS from Syria. Uzbekistan has also developed various educational initiatives, he said, such as 'Enlightenment against Ignorance' which aims to provide knowledge on religion and the falsehoods that are spread by those aiming to radicalize people.

Plenary Sessions

Chaired by President Tsereteli, the plenary session on 7 July was addressed by the President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Liliane Maury Pasquier, Chairperson-in-Office of the OSCE and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Slovakia, Miroslav Lajcak, and Secretary General of the OSCE, Thomas Greminger.

PACE President Liliane Maury Pasquier discussed issues of common concern between the OSCE and Council of Europe, noting that both organizations are based on values found in the European Convention on Human Rights and the Helsinki Final Act and both are dedicated to establishing the rule of law. In an age in which multilateralism is increasingly challenged, she said, we should not underestimate the importance of the role that the assemblies of the Council of Europe and OSCE play in promoting international norms and sustainable development.

On 8 July the plenary reconvened for its closing session with Members voting on the Luxembourg Declaration and the announcement of election results.



Miroslav Lajcak, Chairperson-in-Office of the OSCE and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Slovakia

OSCE Chairperson-in-Office and Slovak Foreign Minister Miroslav Lajcak said that the OSCE through its field operations, autonomous institutions and secretariat can uniquely contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. He linked the approach of the UN's SDGs to the comprehensive security model developed by the OSCE, arguing that the 1975 Helsinki Final Act laid the groundwork for the sustainable development agenda.

"Today, the OSCE through its field operations, au-

tonomous institutions and secretariat – continues to be active in both stable countries and conflict settings. It has its own expertise, its own prevention toolbox, its own local knowledge," he said. "And, it can, I believe, uniquely contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals."

You are the link between the
OSCE and the people it serves.
You inform and inspire the work
of our Organization.

- Miroslav Lajcak

Parliamentarians have a crucial role to play, he said, including by increasing funding to schools and boosting the participation of women in local governments. "You are the link between the OSCE and the people it serves," Lajcak said. "You inform and inspire the work of our Organization."

Plenary Sessions

Thomas Greminger, Secretary General of the OSCE

OSCE Secretary General Thomas Greminger urged greater momentum on the sustainable development agenda, including by systematically mapping SDG-related activities in OSCE countries. Parliamentarians can contribute by passing laws, allocating financial resources and holding governments to account, as well as by raising awareness and exercising leadership, he said. Greminger underlined that “the challenges are overwhelming and we can only hope to tackle them if we all pull together.”

The Secretary General also discussed other main priorities of the OSCE, including the crisis in and around Ukraine, cyber security and climate change. His biggest challenge as Secretary General is building a stronger sense of common purpose among participating States, he said. The OSCE has the potential to be the forum for meaningful diplomatic dialogue between the East and the West, Greminger noted, urging support from the PA in this regard.

Supplementary Items

The supplementary item “Effective Migration Governance Based on Promoting Inclusive Societies and Dignified Returns”, principally sponsored by Nahima Lanjri, was agreed to in the plenary session. It calls on OSCE participating States to adopt humane return policies, and recommends the establishment of a high-level task force on migration supported by a network of focal points throughout OSCE bodies, field missions and institutions, as well as the Partners for Co-operation for a greater intra-institutional cohesion and co-ordination.

Open Debate

In the open debate, members spoke about the key role that national parliaments play in ensuring implementation of OSCE commitments, the necessity of resolving the crisis in and around Ukraine, the importance of joint efforts in combating terrorism and drug trafficking, the need to work together to tackle issues related to climate change, gender equality, and many other topics.



Parliamentarians debated topics ranging from the ongoing and protracted conflicts to human rights violations, from water management to rights of national minorities, from challenges stemming from climate change to transnational challenges such as migration, organized crime and illicit trafficking. Many delegations stressed the need to rekindle Helsinki's spirit of dialogue and detente in order to restore trust among OSCE participating States and resolve existing conflicts.

Reports

OSCE PA Special Representatives and Chairs of the Ad Hoc Committees delivered reports on their activities. In the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism, Vice-Chair Katsarava highlighted the supplementary item on returning and relocating FTFs put forward by the committee, as well as participation of the members of the committee in international experts' events, and soon-to-be signed Memorandum with the UN for a goal-oriented co-operation in this field.

Hedy Fry, Special Representative on Gender Issues, highlighted the main elements from the 2019 OSCE PA Gender Report, such as positive change within the organization manifested by more female representatives and heads of delegations, as well as gender issues set high on the agenda. Special Representative Fry pointed out that gender is not a static concept, which is why the PA's guidelines and policies need to evolve accordingly. She also put a strong emphasis on fighting harmful stereotypes for both women and men, and underlined the importance of intersectionality in tackling these issues.

Pascal Allizard, Special Representative on Mediterranean Affairs, also presented a brief report, highlighting the upcoming Autumn Meeting in Morocco, the first ever OSCE PA meeting hosted by a Partner State.

The heads of recent PA election observation missions presented their main findings. It was noted that the next elections to be observed will be



Plenary Sessions

those in Ukraine, Belarus and Uzbekistan.

Adoption of the Luxembourg Declaration

The reports were followed by the voting procedure to adopt one by one the resolutions of the three committees and the 15 supplementary items, which together comprise the Luxembourg Declaration. Following a number of procedural and substantive challenges, parliamentarians adopted the Declaration by a vote of 94-7, with 11 abstentions.

PA's Danish Delegation, as Treasurer.

The supplementary items adopted by the plenary deal with topics including migration governance and promoting dignified return policies, the Russian militarization of Ukrainian territory, educating schoolchildren to avoid human trafficking, energy security, governance of private military and security companies, and the security and human rights situation in Abkhazia, Georgia and the Tskhinvali Region/South Ossetia, Georgia.



Announcement of Election Results

Election results were announced for the 2019-2020 term. President George Tsereteli was re-elected. Victor Paul Dobre (Romania) and Azay Guliyev (Azerbaijan) were both re-elected as Vice-Presidents, and Nilza de Sena (Portugal), previously Chair of the economic and environmental committee, was newly elected Vice-President. The Assembly elected Peter Juel-Jensen, the Head of the OSCE

Upon his election, President Tsereteli thanked the Assembly for its support and highlighted the value of the work carried out in Luxembourg. "I care about this Assembly," President Tsereteli said. "This is our obligation – to respond to the needs of our people. It's an important burden, whether it's conflict resolution, or whether it's terrorism, or climate change or other issues."



Luxembourg Declaration

In the Luxembourg Declaration, OSCE parliamentarians emphasize their commitment to implementing the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The Declaration urges parliaments and governments to facilitate ratification of the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change and fulfill their obligations to limit greenhouse gas emissions. It welcomes the adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and the Global Compact on Refugees.

It regrets the collapse of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, urges all sides to recommit to the preservation of effective arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation, and encourages OSCE participating States to sign the 2017 Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

The Declaration also "recogniz[es] the essential role of parliaments in advancing sustainable development and security by adopting relevant legislation, providing oversight, ratifying treaties, approving budgets and setting agendas that prioritize the need to comply with international commitments." It further urges parliaments to develop legislation with the aim of combating corruption, improving migration governance, and fighting organized crime.

It calls on OSCE countries "to place promotion and protection of human rights at the centre of their domestic as well as their foreign policy agendas" and encourages governments, parliaments, judicial bodies and national human rights institutions to consider requesting that the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights prepare legal reviews of laws and draft laws to ensure compliance with OSCE commitments.

Condemning all forms of terrorism and extremist violence, the Declaration calls on parliaments and governments to respond effectively to challenges stemming from returning and relocating terrorist fighters (FTFs), including by developing gender- and age-sensitive responses that reflect the varying roles of women and children as FTFs and family members of FTFs.

It recommends carbon pricing to account for the environmental harm of CO2 emissions and to leverage economic incentives to move towards clean energy.

Urging a cessation of hostilities in eastern Ukraine, the Declaration calls for "the full withdrawal of heavy-calibre weaponry by both sides, an immediate end to the use of landmines and greater investment in demining efforts, the de-occupation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, the withdrawal of Russian military forces from Ukrainian territory, and a comprehensive settlement based on full implementation of the Minsk Agreements, in particular the obligations under the Minsk Agreements which have not been fulfilled by the Russian Federation."

The Declaration also encourages the leaders of Armenia and Azerbaijan to intensify their dialogue in the context of the mediation led by the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs and to take "specific and tangible measures to reach a peaceful solution to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict."

In addition to the three general committee resolutions, the Assembly adopted 15 supplementary items covering a wide range of topics.

Download the full Declaration at www.oscepa.org.







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