

Partnership with PA enables defense of common values, OSCE CiO says

Speaking Monday to the OSCE PA's First Committee, OSCE Chairman-in-Office and Foreign Minister of Poland Zbigniew Rau told parliamentarians that by working together, the OSCE can ensure that its crucial work in Ukraine continues. "We should reaffirm our unity and work tirelessly to build resilience in the face of the current threat posed by the Russian aggression against Ukraine," CiO Rau said. "I believe in the value of our partnerships within the OSCE and with the Organization's Parliamentary Assembly. They enable us to join forces in the defense of our common values."

In his speech, Rau noted that the OSCE and the wider international community is at a turning point of history, and will be judged by its response. He stressed that the OSCE should continue to earn the trust that it has built over years with people living in conflict zones. Human rights are universal and indivisible, he said, and we cannot remain silent when they are violated. Resolve and clarity of purpose are key to defending our values and principles, the minister stressed, and the OSCE should build resilience in the face of the current threat.



Zbigniew Rau addresses the First Committee meeting on 4 July.

Following his speech, the CiO took questions from the parliamentarians and was asked by OSCE PA Special Representative for Parliamentary Dialogue on Ukraine Reinhold Lopatka (Austria) about the prospects for diplomacy to bring the war to an end. CiO Rau responded that as the victim of aggression, it is up to Ukraine to decide when to initiate diplomatic efforts, and when it does, the OSCE should be ready to support this.

Earlier in the day, the CiO met with OSCE PA President Margareta Cederfelt and Secretary General Roberto Montella for discussions that focused on plans for the second half of the Polish Chairmanship, particularly in the context of the ongoing war in Ukraine.

General Committees continue debating, amending and adopting resolutions

Voting in the Second Committee, 4 July



The First Committee on Monday took up work on the draft resolution authored by Rapporteur Laurynas Kasciunas (Lithuania). Taking on several amendments offered by committee members, the resolution was adopted with overwhelming support. The committee then adopted the supplementary item Victims of Terrorism, principally sponsored by Reinhold Lopatka (Austria) on behalf of the Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism, and began work on The Arctic Region, principally sponsored by Bryndís Haraldsdóttir (Iceland).

The Second Committee considered 17 amendments to the draft resolution authored by Rapporteur Gudrun Kugler (Austria), before adopting the document with 54 votes in favour and two abstentions. The supplementary items

Code of Conduct for Members of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, principally sponsored by Irene Charalambides (Cyprus), and Implementing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals in the OSCE Area, principally sponsored by Askar Shakirov (Kazakhstan), were also approved with unanimous support following meaningful debates. The committee also began consideration of Accelerating the Green Energy Transition, principally sponsored by John Aldag (Canada).

Chaired by Lord Alfred Dubs (United Kingdom), the Third Committee resumed work on the draft resolution authored by Rapporteur Johan Büser (Sweden). Having already adopted two amendments on Sunday, the committee agreed to 15 more before adopting the resolution overwhelmingly. The committee then considered supplementary items, adopting The Importance of the Human Dimension in the Context of Current Threats to Security in the OSCE Area Stemming from the Russian Aggression against Ukraine, principally sponsored by Grzegorz Bierecki (Poland), and Combating Violence Against Women Journalists and Politicians, principally sponsored by Hedy Fry (Canada).

Parliamentarians discuss COVID-19 recovery at OSCE PA Gender Lunch



Caroline Nokes addresses Gender Lunch on 4 July.

Hosted by OSCE PA Special Representative on Gender Issues Hedy Fry (Canada) and Caroline Nokes (UK), and introduced by Patricia Bovey (Canada), the 2022 Working Lunch on Gender Issues focused on "Ensuring a

Gender-Inclusive Economic Recovery from the COVID-19 Pandemic." Following a welcome address by PA President Margareta Cederfelt (Sweden), participants at the lunch held a wide-ranging discussion on what concrete actions parliamentarians can take to ensure that their countries' post-pandemic recovery are gender-inclusive, sustainable and equitable, discussing challenges and sharing best practices. PA Secretary General Roberto Montella also spoke, emphasizing the importance of women's participation in the PA and gender mainstreaming in the OSCE.