

OSCE PA General Committees debate draft resolutions

Chaired by Richard Hudson (United States), the First Committee met Sunday to consider the report and draft resolution prepared by Rapporteur Laurynas Kasciunas (Lithuania). Kasciunas presented a summary of his report and noted that not only Ukraine but European security as a whole is under attack, as well as OSCE commitments, international law, human rights and democracy. It is important, he said, to explore how to make the OSCE more resilient to respond effectively to future challenges. In the debate, members raised issues including the efficacy of sanctions and the need for unity in curbing aggression.

The Second Committee was chaired by Pere Joan Pons (Spain), who said that the concept of economic and environmental security is more critical than ever, stressing the need for a green energy transition and noting that the war in Ukraine has plunged global food markets into turmoil. Rapporteur Gudrun Kugler (Austria) presented her report and draft resolution, which covers issues including the economic and social repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, and the effects of the war in Ukraine on stability, connectivity, and prosperity in the OSCE region. Kugler expressed hope that the resolution would be put to use in the national parliaments in relevant committees.

Michael Georg Link (Germany) chaired the Third Committee meeting and reported on a visit of the committee leaders to Warsaw earlier this year. Rapporteur Johan



Buser (Sweden) presented his report, highlighting the need to strengthen the commitment to democracy, human rights and the rule of law, which requires a vibrant and independent civil society. In the debate, members took the floor to raise issues such as the need to prioritize gender in the committee's work, including combating sexual violence.

Following the debate, the Third Committee took up work on amending the resolution, adopting two amendments that dealt with issues related to the Russia-Ukraine war, including food insecurity and war crimes.

All three committees will continue work on the draft resolutions on Monday, considering amendments to the text and taking up work on several supplementary items that have been approved for debate. Following an amendment and voting process the resolutions will be included in the Birmingham Declaration which will be adopted on Wednesday.

Side events and meetings of ad hoc committees held on margins



Following decisions in the Standing Committee and plenary Saturday to launch new regulations on sanctioning serious breaches of OSCE commitments, the Assembly's Sub-Committee on Rules of Procedure and Working Practices met Sunday and decided that a proposal put forward by the Ukrainian Delegation provided an acceptable basis for further work. The rules committee agreed to consult with experts from the Secretariat to develop specific text in the coming weeks and will meet again in the months ahead to review progress, with the intention of presenting a text for consideration by the Standing Committee at its next meeting in Sofia, in October.

A number of side events and meetings of ad hoc committees also took place on Sunday, covering issues such as migration, counter-terrorism, prevention of war crimes, and safety of female journalists. The informal Network of Young Parliamentarians met to discuss the youth perspective in the OSCE PA and the Group of Friends of the Call for Action Initiative also met to discuss reaffirming the OSCE's common purpose and increasing the political attention to it ahead of



the 50th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act.

Chaired by OSCE PA Vice-President Reinhold Lopatka (Austria), the Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism met to review implemented activities and discuss recent terrorism trends. Committee members also discussed the Resolution on Victims of Terrorism, which is on the agenda of the First Committee.

The Ad Hoc Committee on Migration was chaired by Vice-President Kristian Vigenin (Bulgaria) and featured the participation of OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings Val Richey. Members discussed their recent visit to Greece and the Ukrainian refugee crisis, as well as a questionnaire sent to national parliaments on special measures taken to welcome Ukrainian refugees in the OSCE region.

President Margareta Cederfelt (Sweden) and Secretary General Roberto Montella held a number of bilateral meetings with national delegations, OSCE Secretary General Helga Schmid, and former OSCE PA Presidents.