

OSCE PA General Committees debate draft resolutions



The OSCE PA's three general committees began consideration of reports and draft resolutions on Saturday. Opening the meeting of the First Committee, Chair Richard Hudson (United States) emphasized the importance of the OSCE PA continuing to strongly condemn Russian aggression against Ukraine. Rapporteur Laurynas Kasciunas (Lithuania) underlined the comprehensive security framework of the OSCE, stressing the value of utilizing the organization's toolbox to bring the war to an end in respect for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

In the debate, members stressed that a variety of means should be employed to advocate for peace and long-term stability, including by utilizing diplomatic channels. Concern was expressed over the threatening nuclear rhetoric, as well as the transfer of tactical nuclear weapons to Belarus.

In the Second Committee, Chair Azay Guliyev (Azerbaijan) expressed concern about the environmental impact of the sabotage of the Nord Stream pipelines last year, as well as and the recent destruction of Khakovka dam. He also highlighted threats posed by climate change and stressed the need to make energy supply and infrastructure more secure, resilient, diversified and carbon-neutral.

Committee members considered the report and draft resolution authored by Rapporteur Gudrun Kugler (Austria), which covers a variety of issues including economic security and sustainable economic recovery, protecting the Arctic, and human trafficking. In the debate, members raised the

impact of the war in Ukraine on regional energy, underlining that energy diversification is a pragmatic as well as a security concern. To meet climate goals, it was stressed that it is necessary to pursue a global effort to transition to clean and sustainable energy supplies.

Opening the meeting of the Third Committee, Chair Nikoloz Samkharadze (Georgia) described the tools that the committee employs, noting that he and his fellow officers regularly speak out on thematic issues also hold in-person interactions to promote OSCE values. Addressing the committee, Rapporteur Johan Büser outlined the topics covered by his report, including easing the suffering of those impacted by war, addressing the eroded trust in political and democratic processes, standing up for minorities' rights and vulnerable groups, and addressing impact of technology and digitalization on people's rights. Büser's report also focuses heavily on the implications of artificial intelligence, which has the potential to create serious democratic and human rights challenges.

In the debate, members raised issues regarding migrants drowning in the Mediterranean Sea, the need to invest more in election observation missions, the difficult situation facing the OSCE, war crimes and the humanitarian impacts of the war in Ukraine, and democratic backsliding. Concern was also raised over the growing trend of questioning of the universality of human rights, recalling that these principles are non-negotiable.

Migration committee and young parliamentarian network meet on sidelines



On the sidelines of the Annual Session, the PA's Ad Hoc Committee on Migration met on Saturday to review implemented activities, including a field visit to Moldova last March, and to discuss upcoming work. New members were welcomed to the committee, with an emphasis on building teamwork and pursuing a common approach. The current unrest in France was highlighted as a particularly challenging migration-related issue, with Committee Chair Mark Pritchard (United Kingdom) expressing concern over the violence and voicing solidarity with the French people.

The Network of Young Parliamentarians, chaired by David



Stögmüller (Austria), heard from Special Representative on Youth Engagement Farah Karimi (Netherlands) and Guido Almerigogna, Special Advisor of North Macedonia's OSCE Chairmanship, who shared examples of youth engagement in the OSCE. The meeting included a panel discussion with Senators Marilou McPhedran and Rosemary Moodie from Canada focusing on Youth, Peace and Security and Canada's experience in building youth engagement.

Also meeting on the margins on Saturday was the Silk Road Support Group, an informal network to support economic co-operation.