

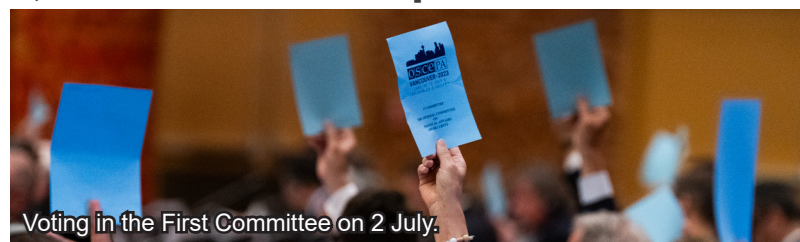
## PA's General Committees debate, amend and adopt resolutions



Voting in the Third Committee on 2 July.

The First Committee on Sunday took up work on the draft resolution authored by Rapporteur Laurynas Kasciunas (Lithuania). Agreeing to some two dozen amendments, the committee then adopted the resolution with overwhelming support. The committee also considered the supplementary item Clarifying the Consequences of Russia's Aggression against Ukraine in Terms of Adherence to the OSCE Principles, principally sponsored by Daniela De Ridder (Germany), and The Republic of Moldova, principally sponsored by Dan Barna (Romania). With members expressing solidarity with both Ukraine and Moldova and agreeing to several amendments, the resolutions were adopted with strong support from the committee.

The Second Committee considered 18 amendments to the draft resolution authored by Rapporteur Gudrun Kugler (Austria), agreeing to 16. Committee members then unanimously adopted the resolution as amended. John Aldag (Canada) presented his supplementary item, Microplastic and Nanoplastic Pollution, which was adopted without objection. The committee considered A Structured Set of Rules for a Regular Performance Audit of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, principally sponsored by Irene Chara-



Voting in the First Committee on 2 July.

lambides (Cyprus), which was adopted unanimously. On behalf of the principal sponsor Daniela De Ridder (Germany), Kyriakos Hadjiyianni (Cyprus) presented the supplementary item Greater Exploitation of the Potential of Science Diplomacy for International Co-operation and Active Peace Policy, which was adopted unanimously.

The Third Committee commenced work on the draft resolution authored by Rapporteur Johan Büser (Sweden). Members agreed to some 20 amendments before adopting the resolution overwhelmingly. The committee then considered supplementary items, starting with Adopting Effective Mechanisms to Safeguard Ukrainian Women and Children from Abuse, Exploitation, and Human Trafficking, principally sponsored by Chris Smith (United States) and presented by Joe Wilson (United States). The item was adopted. Bjorn Soder (Sweden) presented his resolution, Condemnation of the Desecration of Polish Graves in Belarus, which was also adopted. Siv Mossleth (Norway) presented Support for Democratic Belarus, which was amended and adopted, followed by the adoption of The Consequences of Russia's Aggression Against Ukraine with regard to Women and Children, principally sponsored by Radoslaw Fogiel (Poland).

## Working lunch explores gender-related considerations of armed conflicts

OSCE PA Special Representative and Head of Canada's Delegation Hedy Fry welcomed participants to Sunday's Working Lunch on Gender Issues, which was held under the theme "Gender-related considerations in armed conflicts: A parliamentary perspective." Dr. Fry focused on gender-based and sexual violence, stressing the need to take stock of how data-aggregated research and best practices can help advance prevention and mitigation efforts in Ukraine. There is much to be learned from efforts in preventing and addressing gender-based and sexual violence in other armed conflicts, she said. Special Representative Fry also mentioned that she has authored a resolution on this topic, The Gendered Consequences of Armed Conflicts, which will be considered in the plenary session on Monday.

The working lunch also included remarks from President Margareta Cederfelt (Sweden); Dr. Lauryn Oates, Executive Director of Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan; Ya'ara Saks (MP, Canada), Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Families, Children and Social Development; and Dr. Katharina Coleman, associate professor of Political Science at the University of British Columbia, who spoke about the participation and important role of women in peace-making processes, the challenges faced by women in conflicts, and particularly in Ukraine. They also highlighted the multiple ways of keeping gender



Hedy Fry opens the Gender Lunch on 2 July

high on the parliamentary agenda.

During the discussions, parliamentarians considered what sorts of concrete actions parliaments and governments can take to ensure that their countries' international assistance policies are gender-sensitive, as well as the challenges OSCE participating States face when trying to integrate a gender perspective into the support they provide to those affected by conflict situations. Emphasis was also placed on how women and girls – both those who are in Ukraine, as well as those who have fled the war – face specific challenges with regard to food security, economic hardship, and access to health care, including mental health services. To respond to these complex challenges, OSCE participating States must incorporate intersectional gender perspectives into their humanitarian support for Ukrainians, it was stressed.