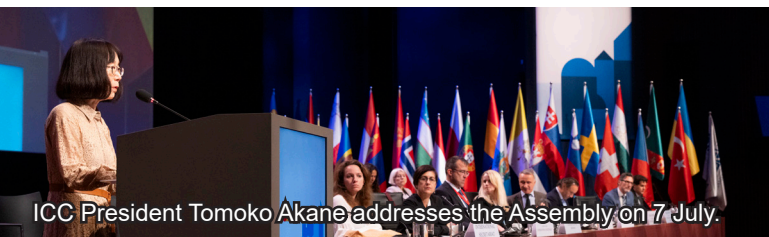


Parliamentarians reaffirm commitment to international justice in plenary session



ICC President Tomoko Akane addresses the Assembly on 7 July.

Meeting in plenary session in The Hague for a general debate on “International Law and Shared Principles: Foundations for Security and Co-operation in the OSCE Area,” parliamentarians on Tuesday reaffirmed the OSCE PA’s commitment to international humanitarian law and international human rights law as cornerstones of multilateralism and justice. In keynote speeches introducing the debate, ICC President Tomoko Akane and Eurojust’s Boštjan Škrlec underscored the importance of international law and co-operation, noting that parliamentarians have a key role to play in ensuring the compliance of governments.

Underscoring the human impact of international law, prior to the debate, Marharyta Shabanova – the wife of

Dmytro Shabanov, one of three OSCE officials illegally held in Russian captivity for more than four years – described her husband’s incarceration as a violation of international humanitarian law. She issued a plea to the Assembly for assistance in securing the release of her husband and his two fellow detainees, Vadym Golda and Maksym Petrov.

Also in plenary session, OSCE parliamentarians agreed to a supplementary item “International Justice, Humanitarian Law and Human Rights as the Foundations of Lasting Peace and Security in the OSCE Region,” principally sponsored by OSCE PA President Pere Joan Pons (Spain).

Introducing the resolution, President Pons noted that it reaffirms the commitments undertaken by OSCE participating States under the Helsinki Final Act, including the principles of sovereign equality, territorial integrity, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the right of all peoples to self-determination and democratic governance free from external interference or coercion.

Following a lively debate, the resolution was adopted with overwhelming support.

General Committees complete work and elect leaders for 2026-2027



Voting in the Third Committee, 7 July

Continuing its work on supplementary items, the OSCE PA’s First Committee on Tuesday considered SI #12, “Ukraine as an Indispensable Security Provider,” principally sponsored by Roger Wicker (United States). Introducing the item, Wicker noted that for more than four years of full-scale war, Ukraine has defended shared principles of self-determination and the inviolability of borders. Following a debate the item was adopted with an overwhelming majority. The committee then held elections for its 2026/27 leadership, with Joe Wilson (United States) elected Chair, Jevrosima Pejović (Montenegro) re-elected Vice-Chair and Tobias Winkler (Germany) re-elected Rapporteur.

With no further supplementary items to consider, the Second Committee concluded its work with the election of

its Bureau. By acclamation, Azay Guliyev (Azerbaijan) was re-elected Chair, Artur Gerasymov (Ukraine) was re-elected Vice-Chair and Paula Cardoso (Portugal) was re-elected Rapporteur.

The Third Committee took up work on three supplementary items: “Ongoing War Crimes Against Media Workers and Violations of Their Rights During the Russian Federation’s War of Aggression Against Ukraine,” principally sponsored by Pascal Allizard (France), “The Situation in Belarus in the Context of Regional Security, Transnational Repression and Human Rights,” principally sponsored by Bjorn Soder (Sweden), and “The Situation of National Minorities and Indigenous Peoples in the Russian Federation,” principally sponsored by Ruslanas Baranovas (Lithuania). Following debates, all three SIs were adopted.

The committee then elected its leadership for the coming year: Sargis Khandanyan (Armenia) was re-elected Chair, Baroness Christine Blower (United Kingdom) re-elected Vice-Chair, and Mpanzu Bamenga (Netherlands) elected Rapporteur.

Side events explore Ukraine peace, YPS agenda and artificial intelligence’s impact

Three side events took place on Tuesday, exploring the human dimension of peace talks in Ukraine, the Youth, Peace and Security agenda, and the impact of artificial intelligence on media freedom. “Put People First: The Human Dimension of the Ukraine Ceasefire Talks” was sponsored by the Head of Norway’s Delegation Marius Arion Nilsen; “Making Youth, Peace and Security Work: Institutional Mechanisms for Co-ordination, Participation and Accountability” was sponsored by OSCE PA Special Representative on Youth Engagement Lucija Tacer Perlin (Slovenia); and “Artificial Intelligence and Media Freedom:



Artificial intelligence side event, 7 July

From Shared Principles to Parliamentary Actions” was sponsored by OSCE PA Special Representative on Artificial Intelligence Federica Onori (Italy).