

**Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly
2-6 July 2022**

**Report of the President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly
Margareta Cederfelt**

Reporting period: 15 February 2022 – 30 June 2022

Dear Members,

Since being elected as President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in July 2021, **my steadfast commitment has been to make the Assembly more inclusive and to strengthen our common response to the challenges of today.** With this in mind, I have worked with a **key set of priorities** to fully utilize the strength of the Parliamentary Assembly.

To begin with, **I have worked to bolster the impact of the OSCE PA.** In this spirit, I have entrusted the Vice-Presidents with individual portfolios as Special Representatives and Chairs. In order to increase their involvement and democratic impact on the work of the Assembly, they have also been invited to take part in important activities throughout my tenure as President.

To **make the Assembly more inclusive**, I have strived to include all Members of the Assembly in our common effort. Importantly, this includes giving more room for discussion and contribution from each parliamentarian. Every effort to promote security and stability needs to involve the perspective of the whole OSCE region.

At the same time, I have worked to **adapt the Parliamentary Assembly to the current challenges.** Ever since the outbreak of Russia's war in Ukraine, I have been devoted to make the PA an arena for parliamentary dialogue, ready to engage with every aspect of the three dimensions of security. The situation has clearly demonstrated the need to involve the humanitarian dimension, including the consequences of the ongoing war for women and children. Taken together, there is a pressing need for more international



At the Winter Meeting 24-25 February



With Secretary General Roberto Montella in the Swedish Parliament

co-operation to support a **sustainable solution to the war in accordance with Ukraine’s internationally agreed territory.**

In line with these priorities, I have made appointments which will be further described in this report and conducted several important visits to participating States directly affected by the war. For the period before 15 February, please find all relevant information about my activities in the previous reports from the Autumn¹ and Winter meetings.²

Activities of the President

On the morning of our 2022 Winter Meeting, on 24 February, the start of **the Russian war of aggression in Ukraine shattered peace and security in Europe and upended the work of our Organization.**

This invasion is unjustifiable and represents an unprecedented danger for all three dimensions of the OSCE. As we have had the ample opportunity to stress over these past four months, **it cannot be business as usual for the OSCE under the current circumstances.**

Underscoring this important fact, the war in Ukraine **has rightly been on the top of our agenda since our Winter Meeting.** As President, I **have initiated a number of activities and actions to be taken by the Assembly** related to the situation.

Most recently, I performed **a high-level visit to Ukraine** together with a PA delegation in June.³ I asked the International Secretariat to organize the visit in order for us to **show our support and solidarity with the Ukrainian people** in the clearest possible way.



At the Bureau Meeting in Copenhagen 3-4 April



With Ruslan Stefanchuk, Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine

¹ Report of the President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Margareta Cederfelt, Autumn Meeting of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, 3-4 November 2021, <https://www.oscepa.org/en/documents/president/reports-22/4280-president-s-report-to-the-2021-autumn-meeting/file>

² Report of the President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Margareta Cederfelt, Winter Meeting of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, 24-25 February 2022, <https://www.oscepa.org/en/documents/winter-meetings/2022-vienna/reports-25/4327-president-cederfelt-s-report-to-the-standing-committee/file>

³ High-level OSCE Parliamentary Assembly delegation visits Ukraine, 28 June 2022, <https://www.oscepa.org/en/news-a-media/press-releases/2022/high-level-osce-parliamentary-assembly-delegation-visits-ukraine>

During the visit, the PA delegation and I had the privilege to meet with the Speaker of the Ukraine Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, Ruslan Stefanchuk, Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal and the Head of the Committee on Foreign Policy and Interparliamentary Cooperation Oleksandr Merezhko. In our discussions, I reassured our Ukrainian colleagues of the continued support from OSCE PA for a **sustainable solution to the war with respect for Ukraine’s territorial integrity and sovereignty**. Visiting the Ukrainian cities Irpin and Bucha, I saw the destruction caused by the Russian military aggression and how the severe violations of international law affect the civilian population.

Witnessing the **humanitarian consequences of the Russian war of aggression in Ukraine on the ground**, my message is clear. As a Parliamentary Assembly, **we must continue to utilize every possible venue to support an end to the war in Ukraine, while continuing to denounce the terrible acts of the Russian Federation in breach with international law**. This has been my main priority since the 24 February, and it will continue to be.

We also held an extraordinary Standing Committee meeting⁴ and we debated within the framework of the *Call for Action*.^{5,6,7} These were useful **opportunities for Delegates to highlight initiatives taken in their countries on the national level**, including the implementation of sanctions and providing aid directly to Ukraine. The meeting of our Bureau in Copenhagen also served to determine which actions and activities



President Cederfelt with the PA delegation during the visit to Ukraine in June: Reinhold Lopatka (Austria), Pere Joan Pons (Spain), Kari Henriksen (Norway) and Secretary General Roberto Montella in Irpin.



During the visit to Poland with the OSCE PA Delegation; Kristian Vigenin (Bulgaria), Sereine Mauborgne (France), Johan Buser (Sweden), Gudrun Kugler (Austria) Barbara Bartuś (Poland), Valiant Richey, OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Secretary General Roberto Montella

⁴ Strong support for Ukraine expressed at extraordinary meeting of the OSCE PA’s Standing Committee, 11 March 2022, <https://www.oscepa.org/en/news-a-media/press-releases/2022/strong-support-for-ukraine-expressed-at-extraordinary-meeting-of-the-osce-pa-s-standing-committee>

⁵ Parliamentarians debate ways to increase OSCE’s support for peace in Ukraine, 23 March 2022, <https://www.oscepa.org/en/news-a-media/press-releases/2022/parliamentarians-debate-ways-to-increase-osce-s-support-for-peace-in-ukraine>

⁶ Urgent need for increased humanitarian aid for Ukraine and diplomatic push to end war, participants say at OSCE PA webinar, 11 May 2022, <https://www.oscepa.org/en/news-a-media/press-releases/2022/increased-humanitarian-aid-for-ukraine-and-diplomatic-push-to-end-war-are-urgently-needed-participants-say-at-osce-pa-webinar>

⁷ Ending war in Ukraine and pursuing accountability for aggression highlighted as top OSCE priorities, participants say in PA webinar, 23 June 2022, <https://www.oscepa.org/en/news-a-media/press-releases/2022/ending-war-in-ukraine-and-pursuing-accountability-for-aggression-highlighted-as-top-osce-priorities-participants-say-in-pa-webinar>

the OSCE PA could pursue, in line with its mandate, to contribute to the resolution of the conflict.⁸

Field visits called attention to the **solidarity of OSCE participating States**, and in particular those bordering Ukraine, in welcoming and supporting refugees. In Poland, our PA delegation was able to witness how the whole society – NGOs and churches, as well as municipal and state authorities – is involved in assisting those fleeing the war.⁹ In Moldova, I joined the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Valiant Richey. Our visit underlined the need for all OSCE participating States to share the humanitarian burden stemming from Ukraine and work together in a comprehensive manner to mitigate risks of human trafficking.¹⁰

My visit to New York City and to Washington, DC, together with Vice-President Pascal Allizard and Vice-President Irene Charalambides, also served to underscore the **need for strong international co-operation to respond to crises in the OSCE region**. We discussed the added value of co-ordination between the OSCE and the United Nations to avoid the duplication of efforts in our common quest to care for civilians and support conflict resolution. Our valuable conversations with Members of Congress and of the U.S. Helsinki Commission, and with administration officials stressed the importance of the transatlantic partnership in upholding and defending common values, especially in such times of crisis.¹¹



At the Moldovan-Ukrainian border together with OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Valiant Richey



In Washington DC with Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Vice-President Pascal Allizard (France), Irene Charalambides (Cyprus), Secretary-General Roberto Montella, Steve Cohen, Head of the US Delegation and Joe Wilson (US)

⁸ In Copenhagen, OSCE Parliamentary Assembly leadership hears reports on the war in Ukraine and discusses upcoming work, 4 April 2022, <https://www.oscepa.org/en/news-a-media/press-releases/2022/in-copenhagen-osce-parliamentary-assembly-leadership-hears-reports-on-the-war-in-ukraine-and-discusses-upcoming-work>

⁹ At Polish-Ukrainian border OSCE parliamentarians and OSCE anti-trafficking Special Representative highlight need for solidarity, 15 March 2022, <https://www.oscepa.org/en/news-a-media/press-releases/2022/at-polish-ukrainian-border-osce-parliamentarians-and-osce-anti-trafficking-special-representative-highlight-need-for-solidarity>

¹⁰ Countering risks of human trafficking amid refugee flow focus of visit to Moldova by OSCE Parliamentary Assembly President and Special Representative, 23 April 2022, <https://www.oscepa.org/en/news-a-media/press-releases/2022/countering-risks-of-human-trafficking-amid-refugee-flow-focus-of-visit-to-moldova-by-osce-parliamentary-assembly-president-and-special-representative>

¹¹ High-level OSCE Parliamentary Assembly delegation visits the United States, 1 April 2022, <https://www.oscepa.org/en/news-a-media/press-releases/2022/high-level-osce-parliamentary-assembly-delegation-visits-the-united-states>

In addition to these activities, **the OSCE PA has continued to be very clear in its messages of condemnation of Russia’s actions in Ukraine, and this since 2014.** I had the opportunity to reiterate these points during consultations with parliamentarians and government officials on a number of occasions this spring.¹²

At the same time, it is the role of the OSCE and its Parliamentary Assembly to facilitate a dialogue based on the commitments and values of the Helsinki Final Act, which all OSCE participating States signed on knowingly, freely, and voluntarily. It is therefore within our mandate to **encourage and support the OSCE in helping to resolve the conflict, by using all available channels of diplomacy to stop the war.**

In this spirit, I have appointed Vice-President Reinhold Lopatka as **Special Representative for Parliamentary Dialogue on Ukraine** to lead our efforts in co-ordinating closely with the OSCE Chairmanship and executive structures, as well as other international actors, to promote coherent actions on dialogue facilitation between Ukraine and the Russian Federation.¹³

In the longer term, making peace and sustainable reconciliation will require institutions and individuals to acknowledge their role in crimes, and perpetrators will need to face justice. If we allow one country to attack another country in violation of international law and fail to hold accountable those who commit war crimes, these crimes may be repeated in the future. We cannot allow this to happen, and here again, I believe the OSCE PA has a role to play. I have therefore tasked John Whittingdale, Head of the Delegation of the United Kingdom, to serve as **Special Rapporteur on War Crimes in Ukraine.**¹⁴



With the OSCE Chairwoman-in-Office Zbigniew Rau, Minister for Foreign Affairs (Poland)



Vice-President Reinhold Lopatka (Austria), newly appointed as Special Representative for Parliamentary Dialogue on Ukraine

¹² Including during visits to the OSCE in Vienna, Italy and the Holy See, or Kyrgyzstan.

¹³ OSCE PA’s Reinhold Lopatka appointed Special Representative for Parliamentary Dialogue on Ukraine, 12 May 2022, <https://www.oscepa.org/en/news-a-media/press-releases/2022/osce-pa-s-reinhold-lopatka-appointed-special-representative-for-parliamentary-dialogue-on-ukraine>

¹⁴ Newly appointed Special Rapporteur on War Crimes in Ukraine announces side event for Birmingham Annual Session, 16 June 2022, <https://www.oscepa.org/en/news-a-media/press-releases/2022/newly-appointed-special-rapporteur-on-war-crimes-in-ukraine-announces-side-event-for-birmingham-annual-session>

I expect that this unjustified war and its consequences will continue to dominate OSCE discussions in the months and years to come. We already need to think about the **long-term impact of this war on the European security architecture and on the OSCE itself.**

Evidently, every armed conflict represents a failure of our rules-based multilateral system. Each war neutralizes our tireless efforts to build and maintain peace and stability. But the clear condemnations of Russia's aggression and strong support for Ukraine from an overwhelming majority of OSCE participating States is also a sign that our system and our values are strong. **We remain strongly committed to the principles of the Helsinki Final Act and the Charter of Paris for a New Europe.** We remain committed to the OSCE as a unique forum to build comprehensive security from Vancouver to Vladivostok through principles-based dialogue.

Although the war in Ukraine is central to our discussions, including here in Birmingham, we must **maintain focus on a number of other issues conditioning comprehensive security in the OSCE region.**

We must carry on **supporting mediation efforts to peacefully solve conflicts throughout the OSCE area.** During my visit to Armenia and Georgia with Special Representative on the South Caucasus, Kari Henriksen, I was able to stress the OSCE's long-term commitment to peace and security in the region.¹⁵ We also need to maintain focus on the situation in Central Asia following the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan.

By participating in the Women's International Forum in Tbilisi, I drew focus on the **need to strengthen the OSCE's implementation of the Women, Peace, and Security agenda to achieve long-lasting peace and stability.**



With John Whittingdale, Head of Delegation (UK), newly appointed Special Rapporteur on War Crimes in Ukraine



President Cederfelt, Kari Henriksen, Special Representative on the South Caucasus and Secretary General Montella meeting the Armenian delegation to OSCE PA headed by Eduard Aghajanyan



Meeting with Salomé Zurabisjvili, President of Georgia during the visit to Tbilisi

¹⁵ High-level OSCE Parliamentary Assembly delegation concludes visit to Yerevan and Tbilisi, 20 June 2022, <https://www.oscepa.org/en/news-a-media/press-releases/2022/high-level-osce-parliamentary-assembly-delegation-concludes-visit-to-yerevan-and-tbilisi>

We also need to carry on **actively supporting the OSCE’s human dimension**. I participated in the 2nd Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting in Vienna, where I stressed the importance of ensuring the continuity and functionality of democratic processes during crises to prevent a larger crisis of democracy in the OSCE region.

And we must continue to **join forces with all international players to contribute our unique parliamentary perspective and expertise in global efforts to achieve comprehensive security**. The conference on “Combating Corruption, Defending Democracy: the Role of National Parliaments” hosted by the House of Representatives of Cyprus and Vice-President Irene Charalambides perfectly illustrated this ambition.

This Annual Session, our first in person since 2019, represents the perfect opportunity for us to **reaffirm our commitments to these shared values and principles**. Given that the OSCE PA’s influence relies on the active engagement of its national delegations and depends on strong political support from the leadership of your national parliaments, let me voice again my sincere **gratitude for your dedicated participation in all our online meetings and activities in the field** during these past twelve months.

I also want to express my thanks for the assistance provided by the International Secretariat to support my activities as President and the wide array of projects carried out by Members to promote comprehensive security in the OSCE region.



President Cederfelt and Secretary General Montella at the administrative boundary line to the occupied areas of Georgia



President Cederfelt during the conference on “Combating Corruption, Defending Democracy: the Role of National Parliaments” in Cyprus

A handwritten signature in black ink, which reads "M Cederfelt".

Margareta Cederfelt