

“GREATER EURASIA: DIALOGUE. TRUST. PARTNERSHIP”

Remarks by OSCE PA President George Tsereteli
Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan
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Chairman Nigmatulin,
Excellencies,
Distinguished participants,

Let me first echo the previous speakers in warmly thanking our Kazakh hosts for their outstanding hospitality and for providing this opportunity to revitalize international dialogue.

As our parliamentary leadership meets today in Nur-Sultan, we carry the voice of billions of citizens eager to live in peace and harmony on our vast continent.

And we have much in common.

All our citizens strive for stability, security and prosperity. They all want to share more than barriers with each other, and suspicions on one another.

From Western Europe to Eastern Asia, we all share that common desire of a more closely connected continent, freed from conflicts.

This is the vision that has been promoted for close to 45 years by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

Together, our 57 participating States have committed themselves to building a shared future: free, democratic, common and indivisible, rooted in agreed principles, shared commitments and common goals.

Too often, unfortunately, the OSCE principles and commitments that united us in the heart of the Cold War have been reneged and trampled.

Dialogue has eroded. Trust has been diluted. It has been more difficult to build long-lasting partnerships.

In the OSCE area, protracted conflicts and tensions between neighbours have been stumbling blocks in fulfilling our promise of a common future.

Thirty years after the Fall of the Berlin Wall, we see other barriers being erected.

Military aggression against Georgia and Ukraine has jeopardized our entire security order.

Aggravated relations with Russia have deepened existing rifts, reopened old wounds, and prevented profound Cold War scars from healing.

Fundamental disagreements, even regarding what should be undisputable facts, have seriously undermined our ability to find common ground.

In all conflicts, including the ones over Nagorno-Karabakh and in Transdniestria, we see that unfulfilled agreements and lack of political will amplify human suffering.

We can no longer allow innocent civilians to be hostages to our political disagreements.

With continued human rights violations, we must step up to take effective international action.

This is the OSCE's calling. It is up to each of our member countries to ensure that our Organization remains a key component of the international security system.

A strong partnership between our countries also requires dialogue on other issues that can exacerbate conflicts, as much as prevent them.

Issues such as:

- Holding elections in line with democratic principles.
- Promoting media freedom and defending journalists.
- Safeguarding our environment and protecting our biodiversity.
- Encouraging trade and sustainable economic development.
- Enhancing effective migration governance.

Our Organization continues to be active in both stable countries, such as Kazakhstan, and conflict settings through a vast network of field operations and autonomous institutions.

I would like to use this opportunity to underline Kazakhstan's commitment to strengthening the OSCE and making it more effective, as outlined on several occasions by First President Nazarbayev.

I hope that President Tokayev and Kazakhstan's parliamentary leadership will continue to contribute to this process, and help our Organization carry on with its mission.

Throughout Central Asia, we have seen that enhanced co-operation on issues such as water management, countering terrorism, and cross-border economic projects can have positive spill-over effects into the political sphere.

Dialogue has built trust. And trust has made it possible to envisage strong partnerships.

Today's meeting is an important opportunity for all of us to exchange ideas and promote the deeper ties necessary to reinforce international co-operation and parliamentary diplomacy throughout Eurasia.

Thank you.