



## **OSCE Parliamentary Assembly President Pia Kauma**

### **Address to the Inter-Parliamentary Union**

**Tashkent, Uzbekistan | 8 April 2024**

*Check against delivery.*

Excellencies,  
Honoured Colleagues,

It is a privilege to address you today on behalf of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act – an achievement that laid the foundation for security and co-operation in Europe. It was a milestone that demonstrated the power of diplomacy and dialogue in overcoming divisions.

The principles agreed upon in Helsinki – sovereign equality, territorial integrity, human rights, and co-operation – remain just as relevant today as they were in 1975. This has been made abundantly clear to us in the OSCE region that I represent, with Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine.

The Russian Federation remains part of the OSCE, yet its actions blatantly violate the commitments it made half a century ago.

As parliamentarians, we must persist in holding it accountable while standing in solidarity with those within its society who continue to fight for democracy.

At a time of heightened geopolitical tensions and growing challenges to democracy, our interparliamentary co-operation is more essential than ever.

The OSCE PA remains committed to promoting security, stability, and democratic resilience through dialogue, mediation, and election observation across our 57 participating States.

In an era marked by military aggression, polarization, and democratic backsliding, we must reaffirm our commitment to multilateralism and co-operation, guided by the spirit of Helsinki. We must continue our dialogue, even with those we may disagree with, if we are to contribute to a better tomorrow.

As parliamentarians, we carry the responsibility of ensuring that multilateralism remains effective and responsive. This means upholding the principles of the Helsinki Final Act, defending fundamental freedoms, and fostering trust between nations.

It also means working together to address new and emerging threats, from hybrid warfare and disinformation to climate change and forced displacement.

The OSCE PA has been at the forefront of these efforts, working to promote meaningful dialogue rooted in our shared values, support democratic institutions, and strengthen the rule of law. The OSCE PA deeply values our co-operation with the Interparliamentary Union.

Our shared commitment to parliamentary diplomacy reinforces the global rules-based order and strengthens the role of legislatures in conflict prevention and resolution.

As the world grapples with instability, humanitarian crises, and increasing challenges to democratic governance, our ability to work together across regional and institutional boundaries is critical.

The legacy of the Helsinki Final Act reminds us that diplomacy and dialogue are the most effective tools we have to bridge divides and build a more peaceful and secure world. In this spirit, I urge all of us to continue strengthening parliamentary engagement, reinforcing dialogue, and championing the values that underpin peace and security.

Together, we can promote greater stability and a future rooted in co-operation and mutual respect.

Thank you.