

2nd Ashgabat Conference on PARLIAMENTARY DIPLOMACY IN THE OSCE AREA: DIALOGUE AS A TOOL FOR BUILDING BRIDGES FOR A SECURE AND PEACEFUL FUTURE

HIGHLIGHTS



Table of Contents

- 3 Executive Summary
- 6 Session 1: Parliamentary Diplomacy in the OSCE Area: Building a Strong Foundation for Lasting International Peace and Security Through Dialogue and Cooperation
- 11 Session 2: Addressing the Adverse Impacts and Consequences of Climate Change to Ensure the Wellbeing of Future Generations
- 17 Session 3: Ensuring Equal Opportunities: Role of Young People and Intergenerational Solidarity in Building a Prosperous Future
- 22 Conclusion and Recommendations

Executive Summary

The 2nd Ashgabat Conference “Parliamentary Diplomacy in the OSCE Area: Dialogue as a Tool for Building Bridges for a Secure and Peaceful Future”, held on 27-28 November 2024, brought together over 100 participants, including parliamentarians from 18 OSCE participating States, international experts, government representatives and high-level stakeholders to explore the role of parliamentary diplomacy in addressing pressing global challenges and securing the interests of future generations.

Co-organized by the Mejlis of Turkmenistan and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, the conference proved instrumental in highlighting the importance of multilateralism, trust-building, and inclusive dialogue for advancing the foundations for a peaceful and secure future, aligned with the commitments made at the UN Summit of the Future and the ongoing work of the OSCE PA.



Ýewropada Howpsuzlyk we Hyzmatdaşlyk
Guramasynyň çäginde Parlament diplomatiýasy:
Dialog - abadan we asuda geljek üçin
hyzmatdaşlygy ýola goýmagyň guraly

2024-nji ýylyň 27-28-nji noýabry
Aşgabat şäheri

Parliamentary Diplomacy in the OSCE Area:
Dialogue as a Tool for Building Bridges
for a Secure and Peaceful Future


27-28 November 2024
Ashgabat city






Divided into three thematic sessions, speakers addressed the transformative potential of parliamentary diplomacy for bridging divides, facilitating constructive engagement, and promoting mutual understanding as tools for conflict resolution and stability within and beyond the OSCE region. Participants underscored the responsibility of parliamentarians to act decisively to protect the environment, safeguard the interests of future generations, and ensure that forward-looking legislation is implemented effectively at national and regional levels. The conference also highlighted the need of engaging young people in decision-making and bridging gaps in perspectives and priorities between generations through dialogue and collaboration.

The Ashgabat conference built on key initiatives, including the outcomes of the [UN Summit of the Future](#), the [Helsinki +50 Conference](#), and the OSCE PA's [Resolution on Future Generations](#). It provided a platform for actionable dialogue on pressing global challenges and reaffirmed the importance of parliamentary diplomacy in promoting peace, security, and sustainability for future generations.



 Dmitry
SHLAPACHENKO

Session 1: Parliamentary Diplomacy in the OSCE Area: Building a Strong Foundation for Lasting International Peace and Security Through Dialogue and Cooperation

Moderated by **Ms. Farah Karimi, OSCE PA Special Representative on Central Asia**, Session 1 of the Ashgabat Conference opened discussions on the critical role of parliamentary diplomacy in fostering peace, security, and sustainable development. This session emphasized the importance of multilateralism, trust-building, and inclusive dialogue to address global challenges and create a stable and prosperous future for all.

Parliamentary diplomacy was highlighted as a bridge to foster connections and advance mutual understanding, particularly in addressing transnational issues such as climate change, migration, and human trafficking. The session underscored the potential of parliamentary initiatives to lay the groundwork for durable peace and stability, particularly within the OSCE region and Central Asia.

Session 1: Parliamentary Diplomacy in the OSCE Area: Building a Strong Foundation for Lasting International Peace and Security Through Dialogue and Cooperation

KEY-NOTE PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Maksat Kulyyev, Head of the Committee for International and Inter-parliamentary Relations, Mejlis of Turkmenistan

Mr. Kulyyev highlighted Turkmenistan's dedication to neutrality and its active efforts to enhance international cooperation through parliamentary diplomacy. He emphasized the country's philosophical commitment to the principle "Dialogue is a guarantee of peace," which underpins its approach to fostering global understanding and trust.

Mr. Kulyyev outlined Turkmenistan's initiatives to build strong inter-parliamentary relations, including the creation of bilateral and multilateral friendship groups, as well as collaborative legislative initiatives. He also presented proposals for global security projects focused on sustainable transport connectivity and energy security, reflecting Turkmenistan's commitment to fostering international stability.

Additionally, Mr. Kulyyev underscored Turkmenistan's efforts toward inclusivity, particularly through initiatives aimed at eradicating statelessness and integrating refugees into its national systems. These measures, he noted, exemplify Turkmenistan's proactive stance in promoting peace and inclusivity on a global scale.





Mr. Dmitry Shlapachenko, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Turkmenistan

Mr. Shlapachenko emphasized the significant role of parliamentarians in translating global commitments into actionable national policies, highlighting the importance of multilateral cooperation and dialogue. He drew attention to the outcomes of the UN Future Generations Summit, including the adoption of the Pact for the Future and the Declaration on Future Generations, which prioritize security, sustainable development, and multilateralism as essential components of global peace.

He praised Turkmenistan's neutrality as a unique platform for fostering dialogue on key issues such as migration, cybersecurity, and regional stability. Turkmenistan's approach, he noted, sets an example for leveraging neutrality to promote peaceful resolutions and regional cooperation.

Mr. Shlapachenko also highlighted the collaboration between the UN and OSCE in strengthening institutional capacities and supporting regional stability. He emphasized the need for continued partnerships to address shared challenges and ensure a secure and sustainable future.

Ambassador Brigitte Brenner, Permanent Observer of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) to the UN

Ambassador Brenner underscored the transformative potential of parliamentary diplomacy in addressing global challenges and advancing cooperation. She emphasized the relevance of the Geneva Declaration on Parliamentary Diplomacy (2024), which defines the role of parliaments as critical agents for fostering global dialogue, inclusivity, and collaboration. She elaborated on the IPU's initiatives to engage youth, women, and marginalized communities in global policymaking processes. These efforts, she explained, aim to amplify diverse voices and ensure that decision-making processes reflect the needs and aspirations of all societal groups.

Ambassador Brenner also discussed strategies for implementing the **UN Pact for the Future**, focusing on reforming global financial systems to address economic inequities and prioritizing investments in green technologies and climate resilience. She highlighted the role of parliaments in driving these reforms and ensuring their alignment with sustainable development goals.



OPEN DEBATE SUMMARY

The open debate centered around the critical role of parliamentary diplomacy in addressing global challenges, with parliamentarians from various countries sharing their perspectives and initiatives. Speakers emphasized the importance of fostering trust, dialogue, and collaboration among nations, particularly in the context of regional stability, human rights, and sustainable development.

Speakers highlighted the pressing need for solidarity and cooperation to address challenges such as migration, climate change, and security threats. Discussions underscored the significance of multilateral engagement in resolving conflicts, promoting gender equality, and empowering youth to participate in decision-making processes. Several countries emphasized their commitment to using parliamentary platforms to exchange experiences and strengthen regional and global partnerships.

The debate also acknowledged the challenges posed by geopolitical tensions and the need for inclusive, transparent policies to uphold sovereignty and the rule of law. Participants stressed the importance of aligning national legislations with international commitments, such as the UN Pact for the Future, to achieve meaningful progress in addressing shared concerns.

Session 2: Addressing the Adverse Impacts and Consequences of Climate Change to Ensure the Wellbeing of Future Generations

During Session 2 of the Ashgabat Conference, moderated by **Mr. Artur Gerasymov, Deputy Head of the Ukrainian Delegation to the OSCE PA and Vice-Chair of the OSCE PA General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology, and Environment**, speakers and experts addressed the urgent and multifaceted challenges of climate crisis as one of the most significant security threats to future generations. The discussions focused on how the accelerating impacts of climate change, such as rising global temperatures, melting ice caps, sea-level rise, and extreme weather events, are driving broader global challenges, creating risks for human security, regional stability, global peace, and the wellbeing of communities worldwide.

The critical responsibility of parliamentarians to respond to this crisis through forward-thinking and decisive legislative action was emphasized. Participants explored the essential need for policies that not only address the immediate effects of climate change but also ensure long-term environmental protection for future generations.

Additionally, the session reflected on the outcomes of COP29 and the role of parliamentarians in ensuring that ambitious global climate commitments are implemented effectively. Legislators were called upon to hold governments accountable, advocate for transformative climate policies, and drive the adoption of fair, inclusive strategies to combat climate change. While sharing national experiences in addressing the specific implications of climate change in Central Asia and the OSCE region, in particular water scarcity, ecological disasters, and their interconnectedness with conflicts, participants highlighted the pressing need for broader international support of local and regional efforts, as well as enhanced global cooperation.




Artur
GERASYMOV

Session 2: Addressing the Adverse Impacts and Consequences of Climate Change to Ensure the Wellbeing of Future Generations

KEY-NOTE PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Serdar Gayypov, Head of the Committee for Environmental Protection, Natural Resource Management, and Agroindustry Complex of Mejlis of Turkmenistan

Mr. Gayypov highlighted Turkmenistan's proactive engagement in addressing climate change and fostering international cooperation to combat environmental challenges. He underscored Turkmenistan's commitment to tackling climate change through international cooperation, regional initiatives, and ambitious national strategies. Outlining Turkmenistan's comprehensive initiatives to address climate change, Mr. Gayypov referred to the joining of the Global Methane Pledge, Ratification of the Paris Agreement and adoption of national programs, including country's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) aiming to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 20% by 2030 compared to 2010 levels, proposals for the establishment of a UN Regional Center on Climate Technologies for Central Asia and the Caspian Ecological Initiative, advancement of green urban development, including large-scale afforestation programs, with 3 million trees planted in 2024 and the goal to transform Turkmenistan into a "green oasis." Such efforts as the OSCE's "Green Cities" initiative and the "EcoPorts" certification for the Turkmenbashi International Seaport were noted as examples of successful cooperation with the OSCE.

Ambassador Bakyt Dzhusupov, OSCE Co-ordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities

Ambassador Dzhusupov discussed the OSCE's pivotal role in addressing the climate-security nexus. He recalled that starting with the 1975 Helsinki Final Act, which recognized climate change as a shared challenge, and reinforced by key decisions such as the 2007 Madrid Declaration and the landmark 2021 Ministerial Council Decision on strengthening cooperation to address climate-related challenges, the OSCE's role and mandate have been solidified as a platform for political dialogue, multilateral cooperation, and action on the nexus of climate change, security, and stability. Ambassador Bakyt Dzhusupov highlighted how this mandate is being operationalized through flagship initiatives such as the Climate and Security Repository Programme launched at the Vienna High-Level Conference on Climate Change, the OSCE's engagement in high-level climate discussions, including COP29.

The Ambassador emphasized the importance of the OSCE regional projects in Central Asia, such as water diplomacy, fostering cooperation on transboundary water management, disaster risk preparedness, sustainable energy transitions, and climate risk analysis. The OSCE's strong collaboration with the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly was underscored, with a focus on the critical role of parliamentarians in translating international commitments into

national policies.

Ms. Venera Shayhullina, Environmental Policy Advisor, Green Central Asia Initiative

Ms. Shayhullina introduced the Green Central Asia Initiative, a regional program launched in 2020 by the German Federal Government to address climate and security challenges in Central Asia. It fosters transboundary cooperation, supports climate adaptation, and strengthens regional dialogue on environmental protection. Implemented by the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ) with scientific partners, the initiative focuses on four key areas: water resources, land use and biodiversity, international mechanisms, and electronic waste management.

Ms Shayhullina noted that following up to the successful conclusion of the first phase which led to the development of a Regional Climate Adaptation Strategy adopted in 2023, the second phase of the initiative (2024–2028) will focus on implementing this strategy, supported by a secretariat and detailed action plans with international partners like the OSCE, UNDP, and the World Bank. Key practical projects include renewable energy integration, water resource management, and climate risk assessments in transboundary basins, with significant funding from Germany and other partners. Specific projects in Turkmenistan aim to reduce methane emissions and strengthen climate legislation.





Mr. Serdar Eyeberenov, Head of the Hydrometeorology Department, Ministry of Environmental Protection of Turkmenistan

Mr. Eyeberenov highlighted Turkmenistan's focus on environmental protection, ecological security, and the promotion of a green economy. He elaborated on the efforts taken by Turkmenistan in reducing methane emissions and achieving climate goals under the Paris Agreement. This includes the National Climate Change Strategy with the focus on adapting key economic sectors, particularly the energy sector, to global climate requirements, the establishment of a High-Level Interagency Working Group and a joint \$10 million program with the UN to reduce methane emissions from 2025–2029 and the National Forestry Programme, which continues to expand artificial forest belts with millions of tree seedlings annually.

Mr. Eyeberenov highlighted that Turkmenistan remains committed to harmonizing its policies with global efforts to combat climate change while fostering international cooperation and contributing to sustainable development. The proposed UN Regional Centre on Climate Change Technologies in Turkmenistan was highlighted as an example of openness to cooperation and a platform for advancing climate-related projects and capacity-building in Central Asia and beyond.

OPEN DEBATE SUMMARY

The open debate centered around the pressing issue of climate change with parliamentarians from various countries sharing their perspectives and initiatives. Speakers expressed concern over the increasingly severe consequences of climate change, highlighting its effects on food security, natural disasters, and regional stability, particularly in Central Asia. There was a collective call for urgent action, with participants emphasizing the need for cooperation, sharing knowledge, innovative technologies, and sustainable solutions to mitigate the impacts of climate change.

Participants also underscored the need to prioritize green technologies, renewable energy, and sustainable practices in addressing climate change. Several countries committed to ambitious climate goals, such as achieving carbon neutrality and investing in green infrastructure. However, there was also recognition of the challenges posed by geopolitical tensions and military expenditures, which divert resources away from climate action. The debate stressed the critical role of parliamentarians in creating policies that foster climate resilience and sustainability. It was acknowledged that while international agreements like the Paris Agreement are crucial, tangible progress depends on the effective implementation of climate action plans at local, regional and national levels. Parliamentarians were urged to hold governments accountable and support climate financing, especially for developing nations.

Overall, the debate highlighted the shared responsibility of nations to tackle climate change, with a call for greater cooperation, investment in green technologies, and the implementation of ambitious climate policies. The participants reaffirmed their commitment to sustainable development and ensuring a stable, secure future for generations to come.

Session 3: Ensuring Equal Opportunities: Role of Young People and Intergenerational Solidarity in Building a Prosperous Future

Moderated by **Ms. Enejan Atayeva, Member of the Committee for International and Inter-Parliamentary Relations of the Mejlis of Turkmenistan**, Session 3 of the 2nd Ashgabat Conference brought together a panel of experts, policymakers, and youth representatives to discuss the role of young people and intergenerational solidarity in building a prosperous and sustainable future. This session highlighted how collaboration across generations can address current challenges such as climate change, technological advancements, and social inequalities. The session also provided a platform to share best practices in youth engagement from across the OSCE region, with a special focus on Central Asia.

The session featured keynote addresses and interventions by OSCE PA parliamentarians, OSCE experts and civil society leaders, each offering unique insights into the transformative potential of youth in governance and decision-making. The discussions underscored the urgent need to empower young people, equip them with the necessary tools and platforms, and foster solidarity between generations to address long-term global challenges.

Session 3: Ensuring Equal Opportunities: Role of Young People and Intergenerational Solidarity in Building a Prosperous Future

KEY-NOTE PRESENTATIONS

Mr. David Stögmüller (Video Address), Austria, OSCE PA Special Representative on Youth Engagement and Chair of the OSCE PA Network of Young Parliamentarians

Mr. Stögmüller, OSCE PA Special Representative on Youth Engagement, delivered a video address emphasizing the concept of intergenerational solidarity. He highlighted how youth engagement serves as a cornerstone for long-term governance and sustainability. Addressing crises such as climate change and the ethical use of artificial intelligence, he underscored the need for governance models that can maintain science- and fact-based approaches over time.

He stressed the importance of empowering young people to be active contributors to decision-making processes, describing this as a democratic necessity rather than a concession. Mr. Stögmüller shared the success story of the Youth Perspectives Resolution adopted at the OSCE PA's Bucharest Session, which integrated the voices of young leaders from across the OSCE area. He concluded by challenging policymakers to institutionalize youth participation, stating that intergenerational collaboration is not only beneficial but essential for equitable and innovative solutions to global challenges.

Mr. Batyr Baylyyev, Chairperson of the Committee for Legislation and Norms of the Mejlis of Turkmenistan

Mr. Batyr Baylyyev, Chairperson of the Committee for Legislation and Norms of the Mejlis of Turkmenistan, detailed Turkmenistan's comprehensive approach to youth engagement through legislative measures and state policies. He highlighted the revised Turkmenistan's Law "On State Youth Policy", which enhances opportunities for education, employment, and social protections for young people. The law's provisions, such as tax reductions for young professionals and deferral of military service for students, exemplify Turkmenistan's commitment to youth development.

Mr. Baylyyev also described the establishment of the Group of Young Parliamentarians in the Mejlis, which fosters international collaboration and parliamentary diplomacy among young policymakers. He emphasized the role of youth as a vital social resource and outlined initiatives aimed at supporting youth participation, humanism, and leadership among Turkmen youth. His address underscored the importance of aligning youth policies with international frameworks like the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to ensure a prosperous future.

Mr. Yazpolat Keriyeu, Chairperson of the Magtymguly Youth Organization of Turkmenistan

Session 3: Ensuring Equal Opportunities: Role of Young People and Intergenerational Solidarity in Building a Prosperous Future

As Chairperson of the Magtymguly Youth Organization of Turkmenistan, Mr. Keriyeve provided insights into the organization's role in empowering young people. He highlighted initiatives aimed at integrating youth into socio-political and economic activities while fostering a sense of national unity. These initiatives include vocational training programs, youth competitions, and social support measures that address challenges like rural-urban migration and youth unemployment.

Mr. Keriyeve also spoke about Turkmenistan's international youth initiatives, such as the Central Asian Youth Dialogue, which promotes peace and trust through cultural exchanges. He emphasized the importance of preparing young people to be technologically skilled professionals capable of driving innovation and sustainable development in Turkmenistan and beyond.

Mr. Aleksander Stokkebo, Norway, Vice-Chair of the OSCE PA Network of Young Parliamentarians

Mr. Stokkebo, Vice-Chair of the OSCE PA Network of Young Parliamentarians, focused on the





importance of integrating youth perspectives into policymaking. He highlighted the success of the Youth Perspectives Resolution, which was developed through consultative workshops with young people across the OSCE region. The resolution addressed critical issues like democratic backsliding, climate change, and inequality, demonstrating the value of youth-driven solutions.

Mr. Stokkebo called for institutional mechanisms to ensure that youth voices are not only heard but also translated into actionable policies. He stressed that empowering young people is an investment in the sustainability, resilience, and inclusivity of future generations. His remarks underscored the need for intergenerational equity in governance frameworks and the critical role of parliamentarians in fostering youth participation.

Ms. Nigina Abdullaeva, OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe

Representing the OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe, Ms. Nigina Abdullaeva shared the Office's extensive experience in promoting youth engagement in Central Asia. She outlined initiatives like Model OSCE, Central Asian Young Policy Advisors Course and "Central Asia +" Youth Talks, which provide young leaders with platforms to develop participatory skills, engage in dialogue, and collaborate on joint projects. These programs aim to enhance youth capacity for decision-making while fostering mutual understanding and regional cooperation.

Ms. Abdullaeva emphasized the importance of long-term, structured engagement with youth, rather than one-off events. She highlighted the demographic significance of Central Asia, where over 60% of the population is under 30, and called for coordinated efforts to address challenges such as unemployment, gender disparities, and limited civic engagement opportunities. Her remarks reinforced the need for multilateral institutions like the OSCE to prioritize youth-focused initiatives and integrate their recommendations into policy design.

OPEN DEBATE SUMMARY

A recurring focus of the open debate was the importance of integrating young people into legislative and decision-making processes. Speakers highlighted how mechanisms such as youth councils and parliamentary advisory bodies provide critical platforms for youth to have a direct influence on governance.

The need for intergenerational collaboration emerged as a central theme, with participants emphasizing that older generations must create opportunities for youth to contribute while also learning from their innovation and fresh perspectives. Discussions further underlined the potential of youth-led initiatives in addressing global and regional challenges, particularly in areas like climate change, human rights, and economic disparities.

A special emphasis was placed on the unique demographic significance of Central Asia, where a majority of the population is under 30. Participants advocated for regional cooperation to harness this demographic dividend, fostering collaboration among neighboring countries to tackle shared issues. Moreover, the debate underscored the value of legislative frameworks and resources that empower youth through education, vocational training, and civic engagement initiatives.

Finally, regional initiatives such as the Central Asian Youth Dialogue and Central Asian Network by Consensus were highlighted for their role in fostering trust, mutual understanding, and shared learning among youth across borders. Education, employment, and skill development were consistently highlighted as key drivers for enabling youth to actively contribute to socio-economic development and governance.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Conference concluded with a call for unified, urgent, and sustained efforts to strengthen parliamentary diplomacy as a vital tool for fostering peace, stability, and cooperation. Key recommendations included:

Promoting Trust, Dialogue, and Institutional Cooperation: Cross-border collaboration is essential for addressing global challenges, including climate change, migration, and economic inequality. Strengthening ties between national parliaments and international organizations fosters cohesive implementation of global policies. Initiatives to build trust through dialogue, best-practice exchanges, and regional partnerships should be prioritized.

Strengthening Parliamentary Diplomacy and Engagement: Parliaments play a pivotal role in implementing multilateral commitments, such as the UN Pact for the Future, Paris Agreement, etc.. Through legislative actions and continuous oversight, they can ensure national policies align with international agreements. Parliamentary diplomacy must be harnessed as a vital tool for fostering peace, stability, and global cooperation and the capacity of parliamentarians to create and implement efficient and forward-looking policies should be strengthened. They must be equipped with the knowledge and tools to drive legislative actions that are in line with international agreements and national priorities.

Advancing Legislative Reforms for Resilience and Equity: Transparent, accountable, and resilient governance frameworks are necessary to address global challenges effectively. Parliaments should commit to legislative reforms that uphold human rights, promote equity, and enhance institutional efficiency. Intergenerational equity must also be embedded in legislative processes to safeguard the future.

Building Resilience to Climate Change: Adaptive capacities at local, national, and regional levels should be strengthened to reduce vulnerability to climate-related disasters. Enhanced cooperation in areas such as water diplomacy, disaster risk management, and green infrastructure development is critical to addressing shared challenges and building sustainable urban resilience.

Advancing Climate Action, Energy Transition, and Green Infrastructure: Accelerating the shift to renewable energy and reducing reliance on fossil fuels is essential for mitigating climate change, enhancing energy security, and fostering economic resilience. Parliaments must ensure that projects promoting environmental sustainability and climate resilience are prioritized. Policies should be designed so that green infrastructure investments and the renewable energy transition stimulate economic growth, create jobs, and build more resilient communities.

Empowering Youth and Women in Governance: Inclusive decision-making processes must prioritize the active participation of youth and women. Establishing platforms such as youth advisory councils and parliamentary youth groups ensures these voices influence policy development. Investments in education, leadership programs, and innovation hubs can empower youth and women to drive sustainable, equitable solutions.

Integrating Future-Oriented Policies and Youth Perspectives: National and international frameworks should include mechanisms, such as intergenerational future committees, to evaluate the long-term impacts of policies. Aligning policies with frameworks like the UN Pact for the Future and the Youth 2030 strategy ensures that youth perspectives are central to sustainable development goals and climate action.

Facilitating Multilateral and Cross-Border Youth Collaboration: Expanding regional youth networks and fostering youth-led solutions to pressing challenges, such as digital transformation and economic inequalities, can promote mutual understanding and cooperation. Programs like the Central Asian Youth Dialogue provide replicable models for effective collaboration.

