

Report of the OSCE PA Special Representative on Central Asia
Vice-President Pia Kauma
to the 29th Annual Session of the OSCE PA
on her activities in the period covering August 2021-June 2022
(Birmingham, 2-6 July 2022)

Dear President,
Dear Colleagues,

It is an honour for me to have been appointed in August 2021 as the President's entrusted representative in a key region for the OSCE. My specific role as Special Representative on Central Asia is to encourage active participation by parliamentarians from the five Central Asian OSCE participating States (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) as well as Mongolia in the work of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and to strengthen parliamentarism in the region.

I would like to use this opportunity to provide an overview of my activities over the past year in my capacity as Special Representative. I have furthermore prepared a brochure in English as well as in Russian which I hope you will have the time to read.

Visit to Uzbekistan – 25-26 October 2021

Last October, I took part in a high-level OSCE PA visit to Uzbekistan, together with OSCE PA President Margareta Cederfelt and Secretary General Roberto Montella.

Our official programme on 25-26 October included meetings with top parliamentary and governmental interlocutors as well as representatives of the OSCE office, civil society and the international community. We met with Ms. Tanzila Narbaeva, Chairperson of the Senate of the *Oliy Majlis* (Parliament) of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Mr. Sadik Safoev, First Deputy Chairperson of the Senate and Head of the Delegation of Uzbekistan to the OSCE PA, Mr. Nurdinjon Ismoilov, Chair of the Legislative Chamber (lower chamber) of the *Oliy Majlis* as well as members of the Delegation of Uzbekistan to the OSCE PA. A meeting was also held with the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Gairat Fazilov.

Issues discussed included the participation of women and youth in political life, humanitarian support to Afghanistan, post-COVID economic recovery as well as addressing challenges related to climate change. Our discussions further highlighted the need to empower women and the younger generations to promote an inclusive society and achieve long-term success.

The OSCE is providing important support to the authorities of Uzbekistan in the implementation of the ambitious set of reforms aimed at enhancing democratic institutions, restructuring the domestic economy, and promoting fundamental freedoms and human rights, as we learned during our visit to the Office of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan, headed by Ambassador Pierre Von Arx.

In Tashkent our delegation also met with local organizations to discuss the role of civil society in promoting and protecting democratic principles and human rights, and in crafting comprehensive responses to security challenges.

We also had the opportunity to exchange with the Head of the EU Delegation to Uzbekistan Amb. Charlotte Adriaen, UNDP Resident Representative in Uzbekistan Ms. Matilda Dimovksa, and the Acting Resident UN Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan Mr. Yu Yu, to learn more about their activities and where they see an opportunity for further contribution by international actors.

Prior to the start of our official visit, I took part in the international election observation mission to the 24 October presidential election. Taking place against the backdrop of continued reforms in the social, political and economic spheres, my participation in this mission provided an excellent opportunity to learn more about Uzbekistan's electoral framework as well as the general context in which they were being held.

The extent of reforms carried out in Uzbekistan by President Mirziyoyev since 2017 is impressive, although there is still scope for further developments. I was particularly struck by the efforts to promote the participation of women and youth in political life. Uzbekistan has also played a key role in the provision of humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan. Fortunately, the security situation in Uzbekistan is stable, although the country finds itself in a difficult situation.

We are also closely following developments in Uzbekistan related to the upcoming constitutional reform. The OSCE PA is ready to provide assistance, and hopes that these reforms will help to strengthen participatory democracy and institutions and enhance the protection and promotion of human rights. The OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan and ODIHR in particular can be a good source of support.

The warm welcome and the openness of our exchanges was very much appreciated. I look forward to returning to this vibrant and beautiful country for the 2023 Autumn Meeting which Uzbekistan has offered to host and which will provide a unique opportunity for Uzbekistan to demonstrate its reform effort to the rest of our Assembly.

Visit to Tajikistan – 27-31 October 2021

Continuing onwards to Tajikistan, we held a broad range of meetings in Dushanbe and also carried out a number of field visits outside the capital. Our official programme included exchanges with Mr. Mahmadoir Zokirzoda, Chairman of the Assembly of Representatives (*Majlisi Namoyandagon* – Lower Chamber) of the Supreme Assembly (*Majlisi Oli*) of the Republic of Tajikistan, Mr. Saidmurod Fattohzoda, Head of the Delegation of Tajikistan to the OSCE PA and members of the PA delegation. We also met with Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Sirojiddin Muhriddin.

In the context of the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan, discussions focused on regional stability and pointed out the vulnerability of the border between Tajikistan and Afghanistan which is more than 1,300 km long. Our official interlocutors reiterated the position of the government which has called for the the establishment of an inclusive government in Afghanistan with the participation of all ethnic communities. Tajikistan has also supported peace processes in the country for the last decades. Last but not least, Tajikistan is host to a sizeable community of Afghan citizens, many of whom are ethnic Tajiks, and who have arrived throughout the years.

Other issues raised included the management of scarce water resources, implementation of political, economic and social reforms as well as strengthening parliamentarism and the participation women in public and political life.

We visited the OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe (POiD) to meet with Deputy Head Tea Jaliashvili and staff to learn more about the excellent work which they are doing,¹ as well as the OSCE Border Staff Management College (BMSC) where we were briefed on their activities.² It is worth highlighting that the BMSC works to strengthen co-operation and capacities by ensuring and promoting open and secure borders across the OSCE area, not just in Tajikistan, and that it serves as a centre of excellence and a vehicle for delivery of expertise and best practices in border management and security for the whole of the OSCE. It was particularly interesting for me to hear how the OSCE field operation in Tajikistan and this flagship project had been affected by the deterioration of the situation in Afghanistan, and how they were nevertheless hoping to pursue projects with the participation of Afghan stakeholders.

Another highlight was the visit to a Women's Resource Centre in Obi-Kiik, Khatlon province. The centre is part of the nationwide network established by the OSCE POiD with the objective to protect victims of domestic violence and to support them in becoming independent through education and skills development. These centres offer psychological counselling, legal support and vocational courses. Although most of the beneficiaries are women, men who request counselling and training are also provided with assistance. Our discussions served to reinforce how civil society can play a key role in addressing community-based security issues and in empowering women.

We also saw how the integration of Afghan refugees can be promoted at the local level through joint educational and vocational activities through two field visits in the vicinity of Dushanbe, kindly organized by the UNHCR Representative in Tajikistan, Mr. Mulugeta Zewdie Mamo. We visited a youth center in Vahdat which serves both local and refugee communities, mainly Afghan refugees who had already spent some time in the country. UNHCR supports their community technology access centre where both local and refugee children and youth have IT classes and has fully refurbished the room and provided new computers in 2020. We also visited a painter's workshop for refugees which is a beneficiary of a grant from UNHCR.

¹ For more on the activities of the OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe, see: <https://www.osce.org/programme-office-in-dushanbe>.

² For more on the activities of the OSCE Border Management Staff College, see: <https://www.oscebmssc.org/en/>

EOM to Kyrgyzstan – 28 November 2021

At the end of November, I returned to Central Asia to take part in the observation mission to Kyrgyzstan for the 28 November parliamentary elections. This was my third election observation mission in Central Asia in 2021, having also participated in the observation mission to the January 2021 parliamentary elections in Kazakhstan and the October 2021 presidential election in Uzbekistan.

Kyrgyzstan has seen major changes to its political structure, system, and landscape over the past year, one of the most notable being the move from a parliamentary to a presidential form of government, including a shift to a mixed electoral system; the number of seats in Parliament has been reduced from 120 to 90.

As a strong advocate of parliamentarism, I will continue to monitor developments in Kyrgyzstan and to stress the importance of preserving the separation of powers and strengthening mechanisms for parliamentary oversight. Kyrgyzstan has a rich civil society and has the potential to once again become a leader in the region along the path of democratic transformation.

Joint statement following the January events in Kazakhstan – 6 January 2022

The events in Kazakhstan at the beginning of January 2022 caught us all by surprise, as what started as peaceful protests in reaction to the lifting of price caps for liquified petroleum gas on 2 January in the city of Zhanaozen quickly spread to the rest of the country. It was difficult at the time to ascertain what was happening as internet connections were disrupted and journalists were among those being detained.

In a joint [statement on 6 January](#) with OSCE PA President Cederfelt, we deplored the loss of life, condemned the use of violence and called upon all sides to exert restraint and to use dialogue and democratic institutions to resolve grievances. I also called for respect for fundamental rights and freedoms, including the right to peaceful assembly and freedom of expression.

I am grateful to Vice-President Askar Shakirov for briefing the OSCE PA Bureau later in January about the events that unfolded in his country. I reiterated my deep concern over reports of unlawful killings, excessive use of force, arbitrary detentions as well as allegations of mistreatment and torture and expressed my hope that all necessary steps would be taken to hold accountable all persons responsible for deaths and other abuses.

As I mentioned in my short report to the OSCE PA Winter Meeting in Vienna in February, the authorities of Kazakhstan have made clearly their commitment to the values of the OSCE, and have taken care to keep the Organization informed about their responses to the events. I encouraged them to allow for a full and independent investigation that would provide transparency both to domestic and international stakeholders. I also called upon the authorities of Kazakhstan to make use of the OSCE and its Institutions as they can provide valuable support and expertise in these endeavours.

Participation in the web dialogue on Implementation of the SDGs – 2 March 2022

I would like to congratulate Vice-President Askar Shakirov, OSCE PA Special Representative on Sustainable Development Goals, for an excellent web dialogue on 2 March on “Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the OSCE region: a parliamentary perspective” which was organized within the framework of the OSCE PA Call for Action – Helsinki +50 initiative. The countries of Central Asia have taken on the task of implementing the SDGs with great commitment. As mentioned by Vice-President Shakirov, Kazakhstan is hosting a centre devoted to sustainable development in the city of Almaty. Uzbekistan, too, has placed this topic high on the agenda, as we heard from Ms. Tanzila Narbaeva, Chair of the Senate of the *Oliy Majlis* of Uzbekistan. The positive impact of SDG implementation is already being seen in many areas, such as the protection of human rights, the rule of law, women’s rights as well as the environment.

As I mentioned in my intervention during the web dialogue, one of the most concerning effects of climate change is on water supplies. Climate change can also ultimately cause people to leave their homes and become climate refugees. As Special Representative on Central Asia I follow developments in these countries with great concern. I highlighted in particular SDG 7 which concerns energy security which is an important issue for a region with rich but uneven distribution of fossil fuels and water resources. The war in Ukraine has further heightened concerns regarding over-reliance on fossil fuels.

Visit to Kazakhstan – 24-26 April 2022

In April I had the opportunity to follow up on Vice-President Shakirov’s invitation and travelled to Kazakhstan, first to Almaty and then to the capital Nur-Sultan, to learn more about the reforms announced by President Tokayev as well as the results of the official investigation into the January events and what steps had been taken thus far to ensure that persons responsible for unlawful killings, excessive use of force, arbitrary detentions and other human rights violations would be brought to justice.

I met with a broad range of high-level parliamentary and governmental interlocutors, including Mr. Maulen Ashimbayev, Chairman of the Senate of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan; Deputy Senate Speaker and PA Vice-President Mr. Askar Shakirov; Mr. Yerlan Koshanov, Chairman of the *Mazhilis* (lower chamber) of the Parliament as well as *Mazhilis* PA members Ms. Aigul Kuspan, Ms. Yuliya Kuchinskaya, Mr. Sayasat Nurbek and Mr. Aidos Sarym.

A number of additional meetings focussed exclusively investigations into the January events, with Mr. Berik Asilov, Prosecutor General of the Republic of Kazakhstan and staff, as well as Mr. Kanat Musin, Minister of Justice of the Republic of Kazakhstan and his staff.

One main topic of discussion was the January events and the results of the investigations. We naturally also discussed the impact of the war in Ukraine, with Kazakhstan sharing a 7,600 km long border with the Russian Federation. Kazakhstan reiterated its readiness to provide a platform for dialogue and negotiations, if both parties are interested. We also touched upon the situation in Afghanistan, regional threats to security, and the repatriation of families of foreign terrorist fighters to Kazakhstan. The use of water resources was also raised, as Vice-President Shakirov co-chairs the Kazakhstan-Uzbekistan Inter-Senate Group on the Aral Sea, together with the Head of the Delegation

of Uzbekistan to the OSCE PA Sadik Safoev. Security issues, use of water resources, economic cooperation, border issues, Afghanistan were all raised as areas for regional cooperation as well as further cooperation with the OSCE and the OSCE PA.

I also had an in-depth exchange with Mr. Mukhtar Tileuberdi, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan as well Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Roman Vassilenko. EU Ambassador to Kazakhstan Mr. Kestutis Jankauskas as well as the Ambassador of Finland to Kazakhstan Ms. Soili Mäkeläinen-Buhanist also provided informative briefings on developments and the role of the international community.

Prior to my official meetings, I invited a number of civil society representatives both in Almaty and in Nur-Sultan to provide a brief overview of their activities, highlighting achievements as well as challenges. Issues raised during our discussions included the need to further reform Kazakhstan's political system to avoid a repeat of the events of January 2022, advocating easing restrictions on political party registration, allowing self-nominated candidates to run for parliament and providing for independent election observation by domestic NGOs. Many also reported continued pressure by authorities on journalists, bloggers, and civic activists. The need for reform of the media sector and to counter Russian propaganda, in particular on the war in Ukraine, e.g., by strengthening Kazakh-language media, was also underlined. I trust that the authorities of Kazakhstan will continue to draw upon the expertise of the OSCE, ODIHR and OSCE PA in these areas.

My visit cemented the strong relations between the OSCE PA and Kazakhstan and served to outline avenues for further co-operation. I look forward to further discussions with the delegation of Kazakhstan and to their contribution to the discussions related to the 50th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act.

Visit to Kyrgyzstan – 21- 23 April 2022

Prior to visiting Kazakhstan, I travelled to Kyrgyzstan for an official visit to meet the new PA delegation and to follow up on developments since last Autumn's elections. I met with a broad range of interlocutors, including Ms. Zhamilya Isaeva, Deputy Speaker (*Toraga*) of the *Jogorku Kenesh* (Supreme Council/Parliament) as well as members of parliament including the new Head of Delegation Mr. Mirlan Samyikozho. We also held intense discussions with the Ombudsperson Ms. Atyr Abdrakhmatova on the new draft law on the Institution of the Ombudsman, prepared with the input of ODIHR and the EU. My discussions with Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Ms. Dinara Kemelova were also particularly open and informative.

The main topics discussed included recent political reforms and their impact on parliamentarism, post-pandemic economic recovery and migration, energy security, and promoting gender balance in political life. We also discussed the security situation and economic challenges associated with the deteriorating situation in Afghanistan and the war in Ukraine.

We also discussed environmental issues and the impact of climate change. Kyrgyzstan has designated 2022 as the International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development and has expressed interest in cooperating with the OSCE PA on this topic. As I myself

personally experienced, this beautiful country, 93 per cent of which is covered by mountains, truly holds great potential for the expansion of tourism.

Regional co-operation was also on the agenda, as Kyrgyzstan prepares to host the next summit of the heads of state of Central Asia later in July.

This year marks 30 years since the OSCE first established a presence in the country. There is certainly appetite for further co-operation, in particular in the second dimension, in the area of addressing climate change, enhancing cybersecurity and supporting the achievement of the SDGs. Our discussions confirmed the good level of relations with the *Jogorku Kenesh* and I look forward to getting to know the new delegation better.

Prior to my official meetings I visited the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek (POiB) for a briefing on main issues and activities by Ambassador Alexey Rogov and senior staff. I was impressed by the work carried out with different projects covering all three dimensions of the OSCE and expressed the PA's full support to the Programme Office.

I also heard from a number of civil society representatives about latest developments in the area of constitutional and electoral reforms and current challenges in carrying out their activities. Positive developments noted included the peaceful holding of parliamentary elections last November as well as progress in the area of torture prevention and the monitoring of illegal detention. Concern was expressed about the decreased role of parliament following constitutional reform, the lack of gender balance in parliament due to the new single mandate districts. The need to increase parliamentary transparency was also emphasized. The NGO interlocutors also reported increased pressure on human rights activists and, in their view, a deteriorating environment for civil society.

UNDP Resident Representative in Kyrgyzstan Louise Chamberlain and EU Ambassador to Kyrgyzstan Eduard Auer also shared their perspectives on recent developments and areas for engagement by international actors, such as in capacity-building of parliament.

I also visited one of the OSCE POiB's flagship initiatives, the OSCE Academy in Bishkek, with which the OSCE PA enjoys a memorandum of understanding to hire recent graduates as part of the OSCE PA International Research Assistant programme. I met with Director Alexander Wolters who has great ambitions to expand the programme of the Academy. I also addressed the students on the topic of parliamentary diplomacy and its role in promoting the OSCE's comprehensive security approach and very much enjoyed very honest and interesting exchanges with the students about their vision of the role of the OSCE and its future following the war in Ukraine, and on how to promote women's political participation in our societies.

Turkmenistan

In recent years we have seen increased engagement by the delegation of Turkmenistan in the PA's activities. A visit to the country to learn more about ongoing political transformations had been on my list of planned activities. Regrettably, due to the lack of regular flights, I was not able to carry out a visit. I am therefore look especially forward to meeting members of the delegation on the margins of the Annual Session in July.

Mongolia

I also hope to visit Mongolia soon, especially as I was not able to participate in the successful OSCE PA Autumn Meeting hosted by Ulaanbaatar in 2015. I nevertheless had the opportunity to meet the Head of the Delegation of Mongolia to the OSCE PA, Mr. Damdin Tsogtbaatar, in Rome on the occasion of the High-Level Conference on Parliamentary Support to Victims of Terrorism on 7-8 June. Mr. Tsogtbaatar has recently been appointed to the OSCE PA Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism, of which I am also a member, and will undoubtedly make a significant contribution to its work. I look forward to speaking with Mr. Tsogtbaatar again in Birmingham.

Having participated in the election observation mission to Hungary for the 4 April parliamentary elections, I wish to also underline how encouraging it is to see that, for the first time, a member of the State Great Hural (Parliament) of Mongolia participated in one of our election observation missions. I hope that this has been a positive experience and that we will continue to see MPs from Mongolia and Central Asia take part in our election observation missions as well as other activities.

Afghanistan

While our eyes and hearts are understandably turned towards the tremendous human suffering caused by the Russian Federation's invasion of Ukraine, let us not forget Afghanistan. As a humanitarian catastrophe unfolds in Afghanistan and economic collapse looms, compounding the effects of years of armed conflict, drought and the COVID-19 pandemic, the neighbouring countries of Central Asia have not witnessed massive influxes of refugees, mostly because their borders have remained closed.³

This is not to say that they have not contributed in other ways, either by hosting UN agencies, such as the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) in Almaty, Kazakhstan, or a hub for humanitarian aid in the city of Termez in Uzbekistan.

The lack of safe, legal routes out of the country remains a grave concern. I appeal to all of our OSCE participating States to provide access to asylum procedures to those who have already fled, to protect the most vulnerable and to refrain from forced returns to Afghanistan. While we may have legitimate security concerns, we must continue to uphold our international humanitarian commitments. Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, due to their strategic location, can play an important role in facilitating the onwards relocation of Afghan nationals who worked with western forces.

As the largest regional security organization with a long standing field presence in Central Asia, the OSCE and its Parliamentary Assembly are in a good position to provide expertise and help counter the multiple cross-border threats to regional security posed by the export of radical ideologies and foreign terrorist fighters who see in Afghanistan a potential safe haven, as well as transnational crime and the trafficking of illicit drugs, weapons and human beings, to name a few. We must also support Afghan women and girls in particular, so that the hard-earned progress of the past decades is not lost.

³ The three neighbouring countries of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan were hosting about 6,775, 13 and 14 registered refugees respectively (<https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/afghanistan>). Tajikistan was already hosting a sizeable share of Afghan citizens before the August 2021 Taliban takeover.

Concluding Remarks

The past year continued to be a challenging one for Central Asia due to the worsening security and humanitarian situation in Afghanistan, with the neighbouring countries of Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and to a lesser extent Turkmenistan especially concerned about possible spill-over effects.

The war in Ukraine, too, has had multifaceted impacts on countries in the region, just as they were beginning to recover from the economic and human impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. It has raised concerns with respect to food and energy security as well as in the area of migration, just to name a few.

On a more positive note, we have witnessed continued regional co-operation and efforts to jointly address common challenges, some of which I have already touched upon:

- Impact of the situation in Afghanistan and spill-over effects on regional security. Updates on the current situation with respect to refugees, humanitarian assistance, Foreign Terrorist Fighters, fight against trafficking of drugs and illicit weapons, prospects for relations with the Taliban
- The war in Ukraine, and the role which Central Asia could play as a facilitator.
- Impact of the sanctions on the Russian Federation on the economies of Central Asia, impact on migrants and remittances,
- Energy and food security, and the effects of the war in Ukraine.
- Economic recovery following the Covid-19 pandemic
- Fighting climate change; joint management of water and the use of water resources of transboundary rivers; promoting accessible clean energy resources.
- Connectivity issues, regional trade & cooperation.

These are all areas which stand to benefit from enhanced regional co-operation. Looking for example at the issue of energy security, as we witnessed during the energy blackout in Central Asia region at the end of January 2022, which affected millions of citizens in Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, the solution cannot be found solely based on the national strategies for water and energy use. Rather, it requires enhanced regional co-operation to promote sustainable solutions. Strengthening governance in the water sector and increased co-operation on water issues can also have a positive impact on border stability and lead to the expansion of opportunities for youth in rural areas.

In addition, the following were amongst the top issues raised in discussions at the national level:

- Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals
- Constitutional reform, democratic consolidation, prospects for strengthening parliamentarism
- Promoting the role of women and youth in political life
- Promotion of fundamental rights and freedoms, especially freedoms of association, assembly and expression.

While these past months were characterized by a number of unforeseen events, we should not lose sight of long-term trends and continuity in the region. This message is clear from the exchanges with national authorities, civil society representatives and experts across the region over the past year.

Key recommendations that have emanated from my meetings and that I hope will help inform the future actions of the Central Asian countries and the OSCE PA include:

- Maintain focus on sustainably addressing longstanding issues, with particular focus on economic development, reduction of social inequalities, energy security and a fair distribution of limited water resources which remain among the most critical questions of mutual concern for Central Asian countries;
- Develop concrete, cooperative responses for preventing and mitigating the effects of climate change in Central Asia;
- Ensure an environment in which civil society actors can operate freely and safely and in which citizens can make informed choices; and
- Further strengthen regional cooperation by fully utilising the existing fora and by creating new meaningful ways of collaboration.

It has been a particular honour to have been entrusted with this mandate. I have done my best to understand the cultural richness and complexities of the Central Asian region and Mongolia, and to learn more about the common features and shared challenges as well as the particularities that set each country apart.

I have strived to further facilitate the engagement of the delegations of Central Asia in the activities of our Assembly and to ensure that their concerns and perspectives continue to be heard within our Assembly.

It has not been an easy task given the broad regional scope of this mandate and the travel restrictions. At the same time, my work has been greatly facilitated by the engagement and enthusiasm of the respective PA delegations, their strong commitment to the values of the OSCE, and their trust in the OSCE PA and in inter-parliamentary dialogue.

Upcoming activities

- 2 July (Birmingham): Joint meeting with the delegations of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Mongolia on the margins of the OSCE PA Annual Session.
- 3 July (Birmingham): Bilateral meeting with Mr. Damdin Tsogtbaatar, Head of the Delegation of Mongolia to the OSCE PA and members of the delegation.
- 4 July (Birmingham): Bilateral meeting with Mr. Resulberdi Mammedov, Acting Head of the Delegation of Turkmenistan to the OSCE PA and members of the delegation.
- 5 July (Birmingham): Report to the Plenary Session of the OSCE PA

Annex I



Ms. Pia Kauma (Finland), Vice-President of the OSCE PA and Member of the Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism, was appointed Special Representative on Central Asia on 16 August 2021 by OSCE PA President Margareta Cederfelt. Her mandate expires at the next Annual Session in Birmingham in July 2022. Vice-President Kauma previously served as Special Representative on Civil Society Engagement from August 2019 until July 2021.

Mandate:

- Encourage active participation by parliamentarians from Central Asian OSCE participating States (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan) and Mongolia in the work of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly to strengthen parliamentarism in the region;
- Liaise and support the work of the OSCE field missions in the region, as well as relevant OSCE institutions, international and regional organizations and diplomatic missions;
- Encourage closer contacts between the parliaments in the region to promote greater intra-regional cooperation in all three OSCE dimensions;
- Report to the President of the Assembly on developments in the region, including opportunities for enhanced parliamentary dialogue and further inter-parliamentary co-operation among the Central Asian OSCE participating States and Mongolia.

Annex II

Overview of Main Activities (Aug. 2021-June 2022)

- 25 August 2021 (online): Meeting of PA President Cederfelt and PA Special Representative on Central Asia Kauma with the Heads of Delegation of Tajikistan and Uzbekistan and Vice-President Askar Shakirov on impact of recent developments in Afghanistan on the neighbouring OSCE participating States of Central Asia, and potential contribution of the OSCE and its PA to address challenges and concerns. The OSCE field presences in Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan as well as the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre and the OSCE Secretary General's office were also represented.
- 27 August 2021 (Helsinki): Meeting with OSCE Secretary General Helga Schmid and OSCE CPC Director Tuula Yrjölä.
- 13-15 October 2021 (St. Petersburg): participation in the Third Eurasian Women's Forum, including an intervention in the opening plenary session as well as bilateral meetings with representatives of parliaments and international organizations, including former Speaker of the Parliament of Moldova, Zinaida Greceanii; Chairperson of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of Uzbekistan, Tanzila Narbaeva; Chairperson of the Council of the Republic of the National Assembly of Belarus Natalia Kochanova; and Natali German, Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for Central Asia and Head of the UN Regional Center for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia. Vice-President Kauma also exchanged with Speaker of the Federation Council of the Russian Federation and CIS IPA President Matvienko on the margins of the forum, as well as Deputy Speaker Konstantin Kosachev.
- 24 October 2021 (Tashkent): EOM to Uzbekistan for the 24 October Presidential Election
- 25-26 October 2021 (Tashkent): High-level visit to Uzbekistan together with President Cederfelt and Secretary General Montella, including meetings with Tanzila Narbayeva, Chair of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis; Nurdinjon Ismoilov, Chair of the Legislative Assembly of the Oliy Majlis; Mr. Gairat Fazilov, Deputy MFA of the Republic of Uzbekistan; Mr. Sadik Safoev, First Deputy Chairperson of the Senate and Head of the Delegation of Uzbekistan to the OSCE PA, and members of the PA delegation; Amb. Pierre Von Arx, OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan, as well as representatives of the international community and civil society.
- 27-29 October 2021 (Dushanbe, Vahdat, Obi-Kiik): High-level visit to Tajikistan, including meetings with Mahmadoir Zokirzoda, Chairman of the Assembly of Representatives of the Supreme Assembly (*Majlisi Oli*) of the Republic of Tajikistan; Mr. Saidmurod Fattohzoda, Head of the Delegation of Tajikistan to the OSCE PA and members of the PA delegation; Mr. Sirojiddin Muhridin, MFA, as well as representatives of the international community and civil society. Visit to the OSCE Border Management Staff College field visit to a youth center in Vahdat, a painting workshop for refugees and a Women's Resource Centre in Obi-Kiik.

- 28 November 2021 (Bishkek): EOM to Kyrgyzstan for the 28 November Parliamentary Elections
- 6 January 2022: [Joint Statement](#) with OSCE PA President Cederfelt regarding developments in Kazakhstan
- 24 January 2022 (online): Participation in the Bureau meeting of the OSCE PA on the challenges facing Afghanistan and Kazakhstan.
- 4 February 2022 (online): Participation in the OSCE PA Parliamentary Web Dialogue “The Clean Energy Revolution and its Implications for the OSCE region”
- 17 February 2022 (online): Meeting with representatives of Human Rights Watch and Open Dialog Foundation regarding the January events in Kazakhstan.
- 24-25 February 2022 (Vienna): Participation in the 21st OSCE PA Winter Meeting, including report to the Standing Committee on 25 February.
- 2 March (online): Participation in the PA web dialogue “Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the OSCE region: a parliamentary perspective” organized within the framework of the OSCE PA Call for Action – Helsinki +50 initiative.
- 4 April 2022 (Copenhagen): Report (written) to the Bureau Meeting in Copenhagen (see: <https://www.oscepa.org/en/activities/special-representatives/central-asia>)
- 21-23 April (Bishkek): Visit to Kyrgyzstan, including meetings with Deputy Speaker of the Jogorku Kenesh (Parliament) Zhamilya Isaeva and members of parliament, Deputy Foreign Minister Dinara Kemelova, and Ombudsman Atyr Abdrakhmanova. Vice-President Kauma also visited the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek to learn more about the projects carried out by the OSCE in all three dimensions. On 22 April, Kauma visited the OSCE Academy in Bishkek and delivered remarks on how to promote stability, peace and democracy in the OSCE region. Prior to her official meetings Kauma met with civil society representatives as well as with representatives of UNDP and the EU in the country.
- 24-26 April (Almaty, Nur-Sultan): Visit to Kazakhstan including meetings with the Chairman of the Senate of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan and Head of the Delegation of Kazakhstan to the OSCE PA Maulen Ashimbayev, Chairman of the Legislative Chamber Yerlan Koshanov, as well as members of the delegation of Kazakhstan to the OSCE PA including Deputy Senate Chairman and OSCE PA Vice-President Askar Shakirov. Meetings were also held with Minister of Justice Kanat Musin, Prosecutor General Berik Asilov and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Mukhtar Tileuberdi focusing on political reforms, reform of the judiciary, official investigations into the events of January 2022 as well as Kazakhstan’s role in promoting regional stability. Prior to her official meetings, Kauma met with civil society representatives in Almaty and Nur-Sultan as well as with the Head of the EU Delegation and the Ambassador of Finland.