As noted in the 2011 MC Decision adopted in Vilnius on the conflict institution of the OSCE bring added value to overall OSCE efforts.

The seminar, entitled, “Ten years after Vilnius – Advancing an inclusive ‘whole-of-OSCE’ approach to prevent violent conflict and build sustainable peace,” featured high-level participation and focused on how to ensure the coherent implementation of the OSCE’s tools for conflict prevention and resolution.

A hearing organized by the OSCE PA’s Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism (CCT) on Tuesday focused on the challenge of repatriating, prosecuting, rehabilitating and reintegrating foreign terrorist fighters. The event examined the experience of Kazakhstan as a case study for lessons learned and good practices.

In his opening remarks, CCT Chair Reinhold Lopatka (Austria) said that terrorism and violent extremism represent multi-dimensional challenges that require multi-dimensional responses, as well as strong international networking and co-operation among governments. Briefing the PA on Kazakhstan’s experience with

OSCE PA hearing focuses on prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration of FTFs

FTFs were representatives from the ministries of foreign affairs, education, information, and internal affairs. The Kazakhstan representatives described the challenges of balancing the needs for law enforcement and prevention with the long-term strategies of reintegration and rehabilitation. They provided background to CCT members on the political and diplomatic groundwork required for such repatriations, the decision-making process, and the de-radicalization programmes in place for the returnees, including in places of detention.

In the discussion, CCT members commended Kazakhstan’s counter-terrorism efforts, raised several follow-up questions and reiterated the urgency to address the issue of FTFs throughout the OSCE region through effective prosecution and rehabilitation of both FTFs and their family members, especially women and children, noting the negative social perception towards returnees in many countries. Closing the meeting, Secretary General Roberto Montella thanked the Kazakhstani authorities for sharing their experience and best practices. The hearing was organized with the support of the OSCE Programme Office in Nur-Sultan, represented during the meeting by Volker Frobrauth.

OSCE PA holds event with ODIHR and OSCE Secretariat on improving legislation to prevent gender-based violence

OSCE PA Secretary General Roberto Montella addressed the Commonwealth of Independent States Interparliamentary Assembly (IPA CIS)’s Conference Technologies of Electoral Process and Monitoring of Elections on 13 May. In his remarks, Montella pointed out that OSCE PA election observation is grounded in the commitments that all OSCE participating States, which include all CIS countries, made in the 1990 Copenhagen Document. Montella noted that although the CIS and OSCE do not formally collaborate in election observation missions due to different criteria applied to their assessment procedures, the PA and IPA CIS enjoy strong co-operation, often meeting and exchanging views during the process of observation. He also noted that the use of technologies have allowed the PA to innovate its methodology for EOMs, which has enabled it to deploy almost 250 people for seven observation missions during the COVID-19 pandemic.

DSG Nothelle highlights parliamentarians’ role in conflict prevention at OSCE seminar

The OSCE PA’s Special Representative in Vienna, Deputy Secretary General Andreas Nothelle, represented during the meeting by Volker Frobrauth.