

PA human rights leaders visit Georgia to focus on impacts of protracted conflicts



OSCE PA delegation at the Administrative Boundary Line, 12 January 2023

The leaders of the OSCE PA's Third Committee were in Georgia on 11-12 January, holding meetings with members of the Georgian Parliament, governmental authorities and civil society to co-ordinate work and hear about priority issues facing the country. The committee leaders stressed that as a nation impacted by long-running protracted conflicts and foreign occupation, Georgia's experience is especially relevant in developing the OSCE's response to addressing the Russian Federation's ongoing war against Ukraine.

The working visit was hosted by Nikoloz Samkharadze (Georgia), Chair of the Third Committee, and included Vice-Chair Farah Karimi (Netherlands) and Rapporteur Johan Büser (Sweden). It was intended to help identify topics for the OSCE PA to engage with ahead of the Winter Meeting taking place next month in Vienna, where Rapporteur Büser will present preliminary ideas for the report and resolution he will prepare



Members of the OSCE PA delegation discuss findings at the end of the working visit, 13 January 2023

for this summer's OSCE PA Annual Session in Vancouver.

On 12 January, following a meeting with Tea Akhvediani, State Minister of Georgia for Reconciliation and Civic Equality, the OSCE PA delegation visited the Administrative Boundary Line in the Village of Odzisi. In discussions with interlocutors, the PA members discussed issues including continuing detentions along the administrative boundary lines, and the human rights of people living in the occupied regions. The members were particularly interested in any changes in relations following Russia's attack on Ukraine.

The PA members also focused on Georgia's commitment and willingness to resolve the outstanding problems by dialogue within the Geneva Discussions and the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanisms.

The visit was supported by Andreas Baker from the International Secretariat.

PA and ODIHR to hold webinar on gender mainstreaming in parliaments

On 24 January, the OSCE PA and OSCE/ODIHR are holding a Joint Web Dialogue entitled "Institutionalizing Gender Mainstreaming in Parliament: Participatory Gender Audits and Gender Action Plans." The event will provide an opportunity for parliamentarians and experts to discuss the application of gender audits and gender action plans in parliaments, and facilitate discussion on possible steps to be taken to work towards gender-sensitive parliaments. The event will livestream at oscepa.org. For more information, please click here: <http://bit.ly/3lWh9R>

PA Secretary General participates in opening of North Macedonia's Chairmanship

OSCE PA Secretary General Roberto Montella was in Vienna last week for the opening of the 2023 OSCE Chairmanship, held this year by North Macedonia, and the Annual Meeting of the Chair and Secretariat with the Heads of Field Operations and Institutions. From 11 to 13 January, SG Montella participated in the official events and held a number of bilateral meetings in Vienna, including with OSCE Chairman-in-Office and Minister of Foreign Affairs of North Macedonia Bujar Osmani. Montella also met with Secretary General Helga Schmid, several heads of OSCE institutions and Permanent Representatives of participating States, exchanging views on how the PA can contribute to the suc-



Roberto Montella (right) poses with other OSCE officials in Vienna for a group photo, 12 January 2023

cess of the organization. Another topic of discussion was the PA's Winter Meeting to be held in Vienna on 23-24 February.

Deputy Secretary General represents PA at Black Sea Security Conference

OSCE PA Deputy Secretary General Gustavo Pallares participated last week in the Black Sea Security Conference, held at the Folketing in Copenhagen on 12 January. Co-organized by the Embassy of Georgia and the Center for Science and Commercial Diplomacy, the event was held in close collaboration with the Chair of the Danish Parliament's

Foreign Policy Committee, Michael Aastrup Jensen, and brought together parliamentarians, diplomats and representatives of the business community and civil society for discussions on the challenges and opportunities in the Black Sea region. Deputy Secretary General Pallares spoke about democracy and security in the region, and provided an overview of the role of the PA.