

President Cederfelt visits Ottawa in preparation for 30th Annual Session



Parliament Hill in Ottawa

OSCE PA President Margareta Cederfelt, accompanied by Deputy Secretary General Gustavo Pallares, has been in Ottawa, Canada, this week on a preparatory visit for the 30th Annual Session, taking place in Vancouver from 30 June to 4 July 2023. Following a series of meetings and engagements in the Canadian capital, President Cederfelt will later today sign a Memorandum of Understanding for hosting the Annual Session with the Honourable George Furey, Speaker of the Senate of Canada; and the Honourable Anthony Rota, Speaker of the House of Commons.

Meetings have been held this week with Dr. Hedy Fry, who serves as Head of the Canadian Delegation and Special Representative on Gender Issues; and His Excellency Urban Ahlin, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Sweden, who has previously been a distinguished Member of the Swedish Delegation to the OSCE PA.

In meetings, Cederfelt and Pallares have voiced the PA's appreciation for Canada's steadfast support for the OSCE, including through Special Representative Fry's work in mainstreaming gender issues and promoting gender balance within the OSCE, as well as in national parliaments. The sides explored ideas for the general programme of the Annual Session, with a focus on priority issues facing the OSCE region, particularly the Russian Federation's ongoing war against Ukraine, and the need for strengthening the OSCE to uphold peace and security

in these challenging times. Cederfelt thanked the Canadians for their strong support for Ukraine and expressed thanks to the Canadian Parliament for hosting the Annual Session, the largest event on the Assembly's calendar.

The visit to Ottawa has also included a guided tour of the centre block renovation on Parliament Hill in Ottawa, which is the largest, most complex heritage rehabilitation project ever undertaken in Canada. Cederfelt and Pallares also visited the Canadian Museum of History, the Library of Parliament, and attended sessions at the House of Commons.



Margareta Cederfelt signing the guestbook at the Canadian Parliament

Registration open for 2023 OSCE PA Annual Session

Registration is open for the Annual Session and delegates are kindly asked to register no later than Friday, 26 May 2023. The International Secretariat notes that it is highly advisable that parliamentarians are register as soon as they are confirmed in their respective parliaments.

Additional information about the Annual Session is available at www.oscepa.org.

Featured tweets @oscepa



At the close of last week's official visit to Switzerland by members of the OSCE APA's Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism (CCT), Tsogtbaatar Damdin, CCT member and Head of the Mongolian Delegation, tweeted about the visit. He noted that the delegation met with the Speaker of the Parliament, police officers, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and the Geneva Centre for Security Policy.

The purpose of the visit was to discuss global terrorism trends and to develop effective strategies to prevent radicalization. Discussions focused on the intersection of conflicts and terrorism and the complementarity of international humanitarian law with the counterterrorism legal framework.

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