

President Kauma addresses Warsaw HDC, highlights work of parliamentarians and civil society



Pia Kauma (left) at the opening session of the Warsaw Human Dimension Conference, 2 October 2023

Speaking Monday at the opening session of the OSCE's Human Dimension Conference in Warsaw, PA President Pia Kauma (Finland) stressed that parliamentarians and civil society working together is fundamental for the promotion and protection of human rights and democratic values. President Kauma highlighted the OSCE PA's activities in the human dimension, particularly the work of the Third Committee, which has been dedicated to shedding light on abuses of human rights, most notably the violations of international humanitarian law by the Russian Federation in Ukraine. The PA has established a Parliamentary Support Team for Ukraine to ensure that the war remains at the forefront of the Assembly's activities, Kauma pointed out.

While in Warsaw, President Kauma held bilateral meetings with Amb. Andrzej Kasprzyk, who serves as Personal Represent-

tative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office on the conflict dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference; Amb. Igor Djundev, representing North Macedonia's OSCE Chairpersonship; Douglas Wake, Head of the ODIHR Limited Election Observation Mission to Poland; and Zosia Lutkiewicz, President of the Political Accountability Foundation.

In addition to President Kauma, the leaders of the OSCE PA's Third Committee – Chair Lucie Potuckova (Czechia), Vice-Chair Sargis Khandanyan (Armenia), and Rapporteur Malik Ben Achour (Belgium) – are attending the HDC. Other OSCE parliamentarians participating in the conference include Barbara Bartus, Head of Poland's OSCE PA Delegation; Irene Charalambides (Cyprus), Vice-President of the OSCE PA and Special Representative on Fighting Corruption; Kyriakos Hadjiyianni (Cyprus), Vice-President of the OSCE PA and Special Representative on South East Europe; and Daniela De Ridder (Germany), Vice-President and Chair of the OSCE PA's Ad Hoc Committee on Migration.

Today, President Kauma participated virtually in an OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media side event on monitoring online violence against female journalists. She co-opened the event with RFoM Teresa Ribeiro.

OSCE PA re-elected to lead Counter-Terrorism Co-ordination Mechanism of Parliamentary Assemblies

The OSCE PA was re-elected today to lead the Co-ordination Mechanism of Parliamentary Assemblies on Counter-Terrorism. Having held the presidency for the past year, the OSCE PA will continue to co-ordinate the counter-terrorism work of assemblies around the world and promoting knowledge of one another's experiences in this field.

Speaking at the Fourth Counter-Terrorism Co-ordination Meeting of Parliamentary Assemblies in Vienna, Chair of the OSCE PA's Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism Reinhold Lopatka (Austria) thanked his colleagues for the trust they have placed in the PA. "I want to assure you that I will continue to support a holistic and integrated approach, along with a transparent and well-co-ordinated strategy to pursue our common goal of a future without terrorism," Lopatka said.

Several other OSCE parliamentarians, including President Pia Kauma (Finland), are also participating in the Co-ordination Meeting this week, as well as the Second Parliamentary Policy Dialogue on Prevention and Countering of Violent Extremism also taking place in Vienna. Speaking today, President Kauma stressed the impact of conflicts on terrorism, the key role of youth in preventing violent extremism, and the growing risk posed by AI in the hands of terrorists.

Others taking part in the two Vienna meetings include Vice-Chair of the CCT Kamil Aydın (Türkiye), CCT member Paula Cardoso (Portugal), CCT member Emanuele Loperfido (Italy), Chair of the OSCE PA Network of Young Parliamentarians David Stögmüller (Austria), and Federica Onori (Italy), a member of the Network of Young Parliamentarians.

Special Representative Karimi takes part in Model OSCE event in Istanbul

OSCE PA Special Representative on Central Asia Farah Karimi (Netherlands) participated in the 2023 Model OSCE event held in Istanbul from 25 to 29 September 2023. Addressing 25 young professionals from Central Asia, Karimi underlined the importance of youth political participation, noting that with large populations under 30, Central Asian countries hold immense potential for a brighter future. "I'm thrilled to be with young, talented, and engaged participants from five Central Asian countries at the OSCE event in Istanbul," Karimi said. "Their energy and belief in multilateralism are truly inspiring!"

Topics discussed at the Model OSCE included mediation and dialogue facilitation, negotiation skills and strategies, gender



Farah Karimi addresses participants of Model OSCE event in Istanbul, 29 September 2023.

mainstreaming, youth and security issues and decision-making processes at the OSCE. The five-day event provided the chance to learn about the OSCE and experience diplomatic negotiations first-hand as the participants simulated meetings of the OSCE Permanent Council.

OSCE PA Conference Team visits Bucharest in preparation for 31st Annual Session

In preparation for the 31st Annual Session, to be hosted by Romania's Parliament and scheduled to take place from 29 June to 3 July 2024, several members of the International Secretariat are on an assessment visit this week in Bucharest. Gustavo Pallares, Odile Lelarge, Stephen Paul and Dimitrije Todoric have visited the premises of the Session and met with staff of the Romanian Parliament to discuss logistical, technical and security aspects of the meeting.

This year's Annual Session will be the second time that Bu-



Members of the Conference Team visit the Parliament, 4 October 2023.

charest has hosted the event, having done so previously in 2000 when the OSCE PA's Ninth Annual Session took place there.