

## OSCE PA Bureau meets to discuss situation in the South Caucasus

The OSCE PA's Bureau met on 5 October in a hybrid format for a discussion that focused on recent developments in the South Caucasus. President Pia Kauma (Finland) chaired the meeting and offered opening remarks, noting that the upcoming Autumn Meeting in Yerevan will provide an opportunity to build support for dialogue and advance a process for peace. She added that OSCE PA Members can contribute to the process by working in national parliaments to urge sending humanitarian aid and work to prevent escalation.

Special Representative on South Caucasus Kari Henriksen (Norway) briefed the Bureau, noting that the events of recent weeks have drastically changed the situation on the ground as it was known for many years. There are reports, she said, that the aid provided by governmental authorities has been slow and she regretted that the negotiations between Azerbaijan and Armenia have stalled. It is necessary, she said, to learn from past mistakes, pointing out that frozen conflicts do not remain frozen forever.

The Bureau also heard from Sargis Khandanyan, who



President Pia Kauma chairs the Bureau meeting in Copenhagen, 5 October 2023

serves as Head of the Armenian Delegation and Vice-Chair of the PA's Third Committee, as well as Azay Guliyev, Head of the Azerbaijani Delegation and Chair of the Second Committee. Khandanyan and Guliyev presented their respective views on the situation, followed by a discussion by members of the Bureau. Khandanyan also assured colleagues that preparations for the OSCE PA Autumn Meeting are continuing.

OSCE PA Secretary General Roberto Montella thanked members for their participation and welcomed the decision by the Ukrainian Delegation to participate in the Autumn Meeting.

## General information for OSCE PA Autumn Meeting available online

The 21st Autumn Meeting of the OSCE PA will be held 18-20 November at the Karen Demirchyan Sports and Concerts Complex in Yerevan, Armenia. Participants should register via the OSCE PA Registration Portal by 27 October.

General information about the meeting is available here:

<https://www.oscepa.org/en/meetings/autumn-meetings/upcoming-autumn-meeting>

## OSCE parliamentarians actively participate in the OSCE's Human Dimension Conference

The OSCE PA held a side event on 6 October at the OSCE's Human Dimension Conference, which is taking place from 2-13 October in Warsaw. Chaired by OSCE PA Vice-President Kyriakos Hadjiyianni (Cyprus), the event brought together more than 30 representatives of OSCE governments, parliaments and civil society, experts in the field of civil society and political participation, representatives of OSCE executive structures, and delegations of OSCE participating States. The discussion focused on integrating civil society in the work of national parliaments and international parliamentary organizations.

During the event, Hadjiyianni presented the conclusions from the Vancouver 2023 Declaration and briefed participants about the Resolution on the Role of National Parliaments in Enhancing Participation of Civil Society in Parliamentary and Decision-Making Processes. Keynote speakers raised points about the precarious situation faced by human

rights defenders across the OSCE region and negative trends related to the "foreign agents" laws that have been adopted in some OSCE countries.

OSCE PA Members have also actively participated in various sessions of the Warsaw HDC. Last week, Assembly President Pia Kauma (Finland) spoke at the opening and contributed to the side event on "Countering Online Violence: Guidelines for Monitoring Online Violence Against Female Journalists." On 9 October, Chair of the OSCE PA's Third Committee Lucie Potuckova (Czech Republic) participated as an introducer for the Rule of Law Session. Other MPs participating in the HDC include Third Committee Vice-Chair and Rapporteur Sargis Khandanyan (Armenia) and Malik Ben Achour (Belgium), as well as Barbara Bartus, Head of Poland's OSCE PA Delegation; Irene Charalambides, Vice-President of the OSCE PA and Special Representative on Fighting Corruption; and Daniela De Ridder (Germany), Vice-President and Chair of the OSCE PA's Ad Hoc Committee on Migration.

## Special Representative on Central Asia meets with ambassadors from the region

Farah Karimi, the PA's Special Representative on Central Asia, was in Vienna last week for discussions with ambassadors from Central Asian States to the OSCE, the Charge d'Affaires of the Mongolian Permanent Mission to the OSCE, and the OSCE's CPC. Meeting with Uzbekistan's Permanent Representative Abat Fayzullaev, Kazakhstan's Permanent Representative Mukhtar Tileuberdi, Turkmenistan's Permanent Representative Hemra Amannazarov, Tajikistan's Permanent Representative Idibek Kalandar, and Kyrgyzstan's Permanent Representative Tolendy Makeyev, Karimi highlighted the importance of regional co-operation. She also met with the PA's Special Representative, Amb. Miodrag Panceski, and others from the Vienna Office.



Farah Karimi with staff from the OSCE's Conflict Prevention Centre Central Asia Desk, 6 October 2023.