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## **REPORT**

**FOR THE GENERAL COMMITTEE ON  
POLITICAL AFFAIRS AND SECURITY**

***“COMMEMORATING 50 YEARS OF THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT:  
RESPONDING TO A NEW REALITY IN THE OSCE”***

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## **REPORT FOR THE GENERAL COMMITTEE ON POLITICAL AFFAIRS AND SECURITY**

**Rapporteur: Mr. Tobias Winkler (Germany)**

This year, the OSCE is marking the 50th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act. The OSCE region faces some of the most severe security challenges since its signing. The principles enshrined in the Act – sovereignty, territorial integrity, inviolability of frontiers, refraining from the use of force, peaceful resolution of disputes and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms – are under unprecedented strain as conflicts, geopolitical tensions, and violations of international law threaten regional stability, as detailed in this Report. Reaffirming our commitment to these fundamental principles is more critical than ever for achieving lasting security and co-operation from Vancouver to Vladivostok.

### **Russian War of Aggression against Ukraine**

Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine represents the most significant test of European security and international co-operation since the signing of the Helsinki Final Act. The full-scale invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation has continued for more than three years, resulting in severe and lasting repercussions, not only for Ukraine but also for regional and global stability. However, the violations of international law and the breach of the principles of the Helsinki Final Act did not begin with the events of 24 February 2022. The conflict traces its origins back to 2014 with the illegal occupation and annexation of Crimea and the subsequent war in eastern Ukraine. What began with hybrid warfare, disinformation, and covert operations has since evolved into a brutal campaign of destruction, aimed at eradicating Ukraine's very identity. Today, Russian forces continue to commit atrocities and grave violations of fundamental principles of international law and their international commitments under the Charter of the United Nations and the Helsinki Final Act. These include targeting civilian infrastructure, forcibly deporting Ukrainian children and engaging in widespread human rights abuses, leading to far-reaching and irreparable consequences, particularly for millions of innocent civilians.

The Russian Federation's escalation continues unabated. Over the past few years, particularly during the winter periods, the incessant escalation of attacks on civilian and critical infrastructure has inflicted severe humanitarian and civilian consequences. Russia's growing military co-operation with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea – with an estimated thousands of North Korean soldiers reportedly involved in various capacities – is further complicating regional security dynamics. The aggression has a particularly devastating impact on vulnerable populations, including women and children, as well as refugees, internally displaced persons, and other civilians with specific needs, such as persons with disabilities and older individuals. The

forcible transfer and deportation of Ukrainian children, a crime that began in 2014 and intensified with the full-scale invasion, remains a significant humanitarian concern and a violation of international law, drawing widespread condemnation. Reports also highlight continued attacks on civilian infrastructure, raising further concerns about compliance with humanitarian obligations. The war also severely disrupted one of the world's most fertile regions, causing the greatest military-driven surge in global food insecurity in a century.

In addition to military actions, concerns persist regarding Russia's treatment of political prisoners and prisoners of war, including reports of torture, inhumane detention conditions, and lack of legal protections. This report would not be complete without mention of the three OSCE officials held captive for over 1,000 days: Vadym Golda, Maxim Petrov, and Dmytro Shabanov. The illegitimate legal proceedings and their arbitrary detention has drawn strong condemnation from international actors. The OSCE PA continues to advocate for their immediate release and remains committed to supporting their families during this challenging period.

The recent decision by the United States to suspend all military aid to Ukraine introduces a critical challenge to Ukraine's defence capabilities. Within the international community of supporting states, the United States is an indispensable pillar to defend the international rules-based order. This suspension threatens Ukraine's ability to protect its sovereignty and territorial integrity, principles enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act, to which all OSCE participating States have committed. Without sustained military support, Ukraine faces increased vulnerability to external aggression, potentially leading to further territorial losses. Moreover, such a development could destabilize the broader European security architecture, undermining collective efforts to maintain peace and stability in the region.

The early achievement of a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace would make a significant contribution to strengthening international peace and security. However, any negotiations regarding Ukraine's future must include Ukraine at the negotiating table. A sustainable resolution to the conflict must be based on the principles of sovereignty, adherence to international law, and the territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders, including its territorial waters. Furthermore, mechanisms for accountability must be strengthened to ensure justice for war crimes and reinforcing international norms and deterring future aggression. Against this backdrop, the U.S. decision to freeze foreign aid has already begun to undermine international efforts to hold Russia accountable for war crimes in Ukraine, jeopardizing the operations of Ukraine's Prosecutor General's Office, and forcing the closure of international research labs documenting potential war crimes. Additionally, reparation payments are essential for Ukraine to rebuild its economy, restore critical infrastructure, and address the lasting humanitarian and environmental damage caused by the war. Ongoing and future diplomatic efforts aimed at a

de-escalation, a cease fire, or a sustainable resolution must not dismiss the atrocities committed or reward Russia's aggression.

Ending Russia's war of aggression in Ukraine remains a priority for the OSCE PA until Ukraine's freedom, sovereignty, and territorial integrity are fully restored. The OSCE PA has consistently reaffirmed its support for Ukraine and Helsinki principles, condemning military aggression and war crimes, and will continue advocating for full accountability and justice for Russia's actions. While responding to the immediate crisis remains essential, building Ukraine's resilience and strengthening its institutions will be critical in the future. Strengthening Ukraine's resilience – both during this conflict and in preparation for post-war recovery – is paramount. Economic support, infrastructure rebuilding, and security guarantees will be essential in ensuring a free, stable, and prosperous Ukraine beyond the war. Support for Ukraine's resilience should be prioritized both on a bilateral level and through international alliances such as the EU, NATO and the OSCE, including through the OSCE's Support Programme for Ukraine.

Moreover, it is imperative to intensify co-operation between the OSCE and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly with respect to the elaboration of contingency strategies aimed at delineating potential roles for the OSCE against a set of plausible scenarios. An all-encompassing OSCE contingency plan is needed to address possible scenarios and foresee a role for all OSCE Executive Structures and Institutions, including the Parliamentary Assembly, in the event of temporary cease fires, a permanent cease fire, or a conflict resolution process, as well as rehabilitation, reconciliation, and reconstruction efforts.

It is imperative for the international community to reassess and reinforce its commitments to Ukraine. The suspension of military aid not only jeopardizes Ukraine's defence but also signals a potential shift in the global stance against the international rules-based order and the violation of sovereign borders. To uphold the principles of the Helsinki Final Act and ensure lasting peace in Europe, unwavering support for Ukraine's freedom, sovereignty, and territorial integrity must remain a cornerstone of international policy.

### **Protection of Critical Infrastructure and Nuclear Safety**

The protection of critical infrastructure must be addressed with the same urgency and resolve as the preservation of the rules-based international order. In today's era of hybrid warfare and increasing interconnectivity, attacks on critical infrastructure – whether through cyber means or physical sabotage – should be considered an absolute taboo, met with international condemnation and ostracism. The growing complexity of threats, both natural and human-induced, demands our attention. From power grids and healthcare systems to undersea data cables and satellite networks, our essential services are far more vulnerable than they are protectable, creating an asymmetric threat where they are easy to destroy but difficult to defend.

These infrastructures are not isolated – they are deeply interwoven into local, national, and regional systems. A disruption in one sector or region can cause ripple effects across borders, affecting public safety, economic stability, national security, and even the environment. Russia’s war of aggression in Ukraine demonstrated how quickly such disruptions can spiral, maximizing civilian hardship. Targeted attacks on thermal and hydroelectric plants deprived Ukrainian civilians of basic necessities, such as electricity, heating, or water, while cyber operations disabled railways, telecommunication services, and even satellite systems, leaving thousands without internet. In the absence of an international agreement to regulate such hybrid activities and hold perpetrators accountable – be they state-sponsored or non-state actors – we risk escalation or disproportionate response. The lack of attribution mechanisms and legal clarity only emboldens malicious actors and weakens our collective resilience.

Urgent international commitments must therefore be pursued without delay. Governments must modernize their legal frameworks, improve their attribution capabilities, and establish transparent protocols for information sharing – especially between public institutions and the private sector, which often owns and operates critical infrastructure. The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and other international bodies must lead in raising awareness, fostering inter-governmental co-operation, and advancing the development of robust international commitments to protect critical infrastructure. Should states fail to establish and uphold such shared commitments, the consequences will be felt globally, eroding trust and deepening instability. Without mutual trust in safeguarding these systems, everyone stands to lose.

On 28 January 2025, the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists set the Doomsday Clock at 89 seconds before midnight – the closest to midnight ever recorded – underscoring the urgent need for nuclear security and non-proliferation. The OSCE region, home to most of the world’s nuclear facilities, faces growing risks from geopolitical tensions, military conflicts near nuclear sites, and the potential erosion of long-standing arms control agreements. The war in Ukraine has heightened these dangers, with attacks on and occupation of facilities like the Zaporizhzhia and Chernobyl nuclear plants raising alarms about potential catastrophic consequences. The IAEA has warned that nuclear sites must never become military targets, highlighting the potential consequences of a catastrophic accident, and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly must advocate for strengthened international commitments to protect them. Additionally, increasing nuclear rhetoric and arsenal modernization challenge the notion that deterrence ensures stability, instead fuelling escalation, miscalculation, and increased proliferation risks. Given its influence, the OSCE region must lead efforts to prevent nuclear conflict, secure nuclear infrastructure, and strengthen non-proliferation commitments to ensure long-term security.

## **Regional Security and Political Challenges**

### Moldova

The impact of Russia's actions extends beyond Ukraine, with Moldova facing persistent airspace violations, energy insecurity, and the displacement of Ukrainian refugees. Moldova has faced intensified disinformation campaigns and cyberattacks designed to influence policies and destabilise its institutions. The two rounds of the 2024 presidential election and constitutional referendum were held in the context of the government addressing national security threats resulting from the war caused by the Russian Federation's invasion of Ukraine. Law enforcement authorities, many international actors and civil society have proclaimed that Moldova is the target of an ongoing "hybrid war" directed from abroad that includes various forms of manipulative interference to destabilize the country, illicit financing of political actors, disinformation campaigns, and cyberattacks. As highlighted by the international election observation mission, in which the OSCE PA participated, interference directed from abroad – including through illicit monetary incentives – undermined the conduct of Moldova's 2024 presidential elections. Similar attempts can be expected in the upcoming parliamentary elections, underscoring the need for strong international observation. Recent cyberattacks on government agencies and critical infrastructure further expose Moldova's vulnerability.

Russia's exploitation of Moldova's energy dependency as a tool of influence and the severe energy crisis in the Transdnistrian region must also be addressed, through regional co-operation, with renewed efforts towards energy diversification and cybersecurity resilience. Moldovan officials have warned that Russia has been deliberately exacerbating the country's energy crisis, particularly in Transdnistria, as a tool of political and economic coercion. By manipulating gas supplies, Moscow seeks to create instability, influence elections, and deepen regional tensions.

The continued presence of Russian troops in Transdnistria remains a clear violation of Moldova's sovereignty and OSCE principles. Russia's refusal to withdraw its troops breaches its commitments under the OSCE Istanbul Summit of 1999 and UN General Assembly resolution 72/282. In this context, the work of the OSCE Mission to Moldova remains crucial in supporting stability, promoting dialogue, and assisting the country in strengthening its democratic institutions and resilience against external threats. The OSCE remains committed to ensuring tangible progress in the settlement process, emphasizing practical solutions to improve daily life on both sides of the Dniester/Nistru River while advancing political settlement talks.

## Belarus

The security situation in Belarus remains a significant concern, with the country increasingly serving as a platform for Russian military expansion. The deployment of Russian troops, nuclear missiles, and military infrastructure not only undermines Belarusian sovereignty but also escalates regional security risks. Belarus's direct support for Russia's invasion of Ukraine, including the forcible transfer of Ukrainian children, constitutes a violation of international law and human rights. In addition, Belarus has weaponized migration by deliberately orchestrating irregular border crossings into neighboring countries, using vulnerable individuals as tools to destabilize the EU and exert political pressure on its member states. The OSCE PA should also advocate for a co-ordinated international response that prevents Belarus' instrumentalization of migration for political purposes.

Belarus continues to apply severe political repression, with approximately 1,300 political prisoners and a complete absence of free and fair elections, as seen in the fraudulent 2020 and 2025 presidential elections. The government's crackdown on opposition voices, media, and civil society highlights an ongoing pattern of authoritarian control. Despite these challenges, the international community must stand firm in supporting the Belarusian people's aspirations for democracy, human rights, and national sovereignty. Ensuring continued pressure on the regime while offering assistance to civil society and exiled opposition figures remains essential in promoting democratic values in the country

## South Caucasus

The South Caucasus has seen notable progress in peace negotiations between Armenia and Azerbaijan, particularly with the ongoing delimitation of their shared border. This development marks a positive step toward long-term stability, and both parties are strongly encouraged to continue this process in good faith. A timely and mutually acceptable resolution to the peace process is essential for regional security, reinforcing principles of sovereignty, the inviolability of borders, and territorial integrity. The OSCE PA remains ready to support dialogue and efforts toward reconciliation, ensuring a durable and sustainable peace, in particular through the mandate of the OSCE PA Special Representative on South Caucasus.

In Georgia, Russia's continued occupation of Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali Region/South Ossetia since 2008 remains a key factor undermining regional security. In line with the 2008 ceasefire agreement, Russia is obligated to withdraw its forces to pre-conflict positions and allow unimpeded humanitarian access to affected areas. Additionally, the recognition of Abkhazia and South Ossetia as independent entities further complicates the situation and prevents the safe return of tens of thousands of internally displaced persons. The presidential election held in Abkhazia on 2 March 2025 serves as a reminder of

the continued challenges to Georgia's territorial integrity. As an election conducted in a self-proclaimed territory without international recognition, it lacks legitimacy under international law. The OSCE PA must reaffirm its commitment to Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity, rejecting any attempts to legitimize so-called elections.

Domestically, the political landscape remains tense in Georgia following the October 2024 parliamentary elections, with allegations of electoral irregularities, political polarization, and democratic backsliding exacerbating divisions. The OSCE PA has emphasized the importance of upholding democratic principles, media freedom, and judicial independence, while also stressing that the right to peaceful assembly must be respected. Reports of politically motivated detentions and concerns over the treatment of protesters require close monitoring to ensure a transparent and inclusive political process in Georgia.

### Cyprus

The unresolved situation in Cyprus continues to strain relations between Türkiye and Cyprus, and the unresolved maritime disputes between Greece and Türkiye are affecting broader regional stability in the Eastern Mediterranean. At the same time, the OSCE PA co-operation with its Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation remains essential in fostering dialogue, strengthening regional stability, and promoting mutual understanding.

### South East Europe

Recent political developments in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) have raised significant concerns regarding institutional stability and human rights. Actions taken by Republika Srpska President Milorad Dodik, including proposals for a new Republika Srpska Constitution and the unilateral establishment of parallel state institutions, have been widely criticised for undermining the integrity of BiH's institutions. Additionally, the recently enacted Law on the Special Registry and Publicity of the Work of Non-Profit Organisations drew serious concerns over its potential violation of international human rights standards, restricting freedom of association, freedom of expression, and media freedoms while also stigmatising civil society organizations, journalists, and human rights defenders. Escalating political tensions have been accompanied by an increase in acts of violence, some targeting political figures, journalists, and ordinary citizens. It is crucial that all leaders refrain from inflammatory rhetoric that could further destabilise the situation.

Maintaining BiH's territorial integrity and sovereignty remains essential. A return to the legitimate parliamentary process, in accordance with the Dayton Peace Agreement, is necessary to uphold stability, prevent conflict, and ensure long-term security in the region.

Meanwhile, mass protests have erupted in Belgrade following the Novi Sad collapse, with hundreds of thousands of people demanding accountability for the disaster. These demonstrations highlight widespread public dissatisfaction and the need for transparent governance and anti-corruption measures. Authorities must manage these protests in accordance with their international legal obligations, ensuring the protection of the right to peaceful assembly and freedom of expression, while preventing further unrest. At the same time, the OSCE PA strongly condemned the violent incidents occurring during the Republic of Serbia's parliamentary session and urged parliamentarians to work together for the benefit of citizens, emphasising their duty to engage in dialogue and uphold the rule of law.

The OSCE PA's Inter-Parliamentary Forum presents a crucial opportunity for regional co-operation and dialogue among parliamentarians from South East Europe. By fostering mutual understanding and sharing best practices, the forum aims to strengthen democratic institutions, promote transparency, and address pressing regional challenges. In light of recent events, such initiatives are essential for reinforcing stability, trust in governance, and adherence to democratic principles.

### Central Asia

The OSCE PA must also keep Central Asia and Mongolia high on its agenda as a region facing unique security and development challenges, including competition over resources and unresolved territorial disputes. Given their position between major geopolitical powers, regional co-operation is essential to ensuring stability and resilience. A significant step toward regional stability was recently achieved with the signing of an historic border agreement between Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan on 14 March completing delineation and demarcation of their entire border. This agreement is a major step to the peaceful resolution of a long territorial dispute and will reduce tensions following years of sporadic border clashes. This accomplishment reflects the commitment of the governments of Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan to diplomacy and regional stability and could serve as a model for further co-operation in addressing outstanding challenges across the OSCE region. In this context, the work of the OSCE PA Special Representative on Central Asia remains instrumental in supporting regional co-operation, promoting dialogue, and strengthening stability in the region.

### Middle East

The security situation in the Middle East has direct implications for the OSCE region, influencing European security, migration patterns, and regional stability. The ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hamas, facilitated by Egypt, Qatar, and the United States, has temporarily halted over 15 months of conflict and resulted in the release of some Israeli hostages and Palestinian prisoners. While the ceasefire is a positive step, we must take all necessary steps to make

sure that all hostages are released immediately, and any violations of the agreement must be unequivocally condemned. Moreover, the ceasefire does not address the root causes of the conflict, which require sustained diplomatic efforts to ensure a lasting resolution.

As outlined in previous OSCE resolutions, ongoing instability in the Middle East presents broader security risks, including terrorism, radicalization, and the rise of hate speech, xenophobia, and Islamophobia, while widespread anti-Semitism has returned to an alarming extent. We must firmly support Israel's right to exist and defend itself in line with its rights and obligations under international humanitarian law, while we must also remain committed to the establishment of a sovereign Palestinian state, free from the influence of terrorist organizations, that can coexist peacefully alongside Israel. A balanced approach is necessary, recognizing the complexities of the region, including the destabilizing influence of Iran and its affiliated proxy groups. Furthermore, ensuring the uninterrupted flow of humanitarian aid and protecting humanitarian workers remain critical priorities.

Another key issue is the ongoing crisis in Syria, where stability and reconstruction efforts are essential, alongside the protection of human rights, particularly for vulnerable minorities. Refugees returning to Syria must be assured of voluntary, safe, and dignified repatriation, with necessary safeguards in place. The ongoing violent clashes between supporters of the previous government and the current administration's security forces have resulted in unacceptable bloodshed. It is imperative that the fighting ceases immediately, with the protection of civilians remaining a top priority, as well as the establishment of a fact-finding committee to investigate the killings and ensure accountability for those responsible. A long-term strategy for stabilization is required to prevent further cycles of conflict and displacement.

### Geopolitical Shifts and the Future of European Security

The evolving geopolitical landscape highlights the need for Europe to reinforce its strategic autonomy and commitment to international principles. Recent shifts in U.S. foreign policy, including the suspension of military aid to Ukraine and broader discussions on realignments in international alliances, have raised concerns about the future of the rules-based international order. At the same time, growing geopolitical competition in the Arctic region, marked by increased military activity and resource exploration, underscores the importance of maintaining stability through dialogue and co-operation. As a long-standing platform for security and multilateral engagement, the OSCE PA must continue its efforts to uphold international norms and prevent further regional tensions.

In light of these developments, Europe must take greater responsibility for its own security and strategic interests. The evolving global order has reinforced discussions about enhancing European autonomy, including calls for the EU to

develop a stronger and more independent role in international affairs. The recent uncertainty surrounding transatlantic commitments further underscores the urgency for Europe to bolster its defence capabilities, economic resilience, and strategic co-ordination. Strengthening these areas will be essential to ensuring that Europe remains a stable and proactive force in global affairs, committed to multilateralism and international stability.

The situation in Ukraine and recent high-level negotiations have underscored the urgent need for a stronger and more unified Europe in supporting Ukraine. The suspension of military aid risks shifting the balance of the war in Russia's favor, directly endangering Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity – principles enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act. Recent diplomatic engagements, including discussions among key global leaders, highlight the necessity of unwavering transatlantic co-ordination and a clear commitment to defending shared security interests. This moment is a crucial test of European resolve in upholding security commitments and preventing any erosion of fundamental principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity. To maintain stability and the rules-based international order, concerted efforts must focus on preventing strategic divisions and reinforcing multilateral co-operation.

### **OSCE Institutional Co-operation**

Ensuring the effectiveness of the OSCE requires a strong commitment to its executive structures, particularly its field missions, which serve as vital instruments for conflict prevention, early warning, and post-conflict rehabilitation. It is imperative that these missions receive the necessary political and financial support to fulfil their mandates effectively. At a time when multilateral engagement is increasingly under pressure, the OSCE's presence on the ground remains indispensable in promoting security, stability, and human rights across the region. The OSCE PA President's initiative to visit the countries where the OSCE has its field missions (October 2024 – Serbia, April 2025 – Tajikistan) demonstrates the Assembly's commitment to ensuring strong parliamentary support for the OSCE's executive structures. Parliamentarians have a crucial role to play in strengthening the OSCE's impact both on the ground and in diplomatic discussions in Vienna. By engaging with field missions, parliamentary representatives can amplify the OSCE's work in conflict prevention, human rights protection, and regional security co-operation. Additionally, the upcoming anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act should serve as a momentum for parliamentarians to urge their governments to increase their dedication and engagement with the OSCE.

At the same time, strengthening OSCE PA structures, like the Ad Hoc Committees and the Parliamentary Support Team on Ukraine, which continue to play a crucial role in addressing transnational security challenges, is another important aspect.

The work of the OSCE PA's Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism (CCT) remains of vital importance for the agenda of the General Committee on Political Affairs and Security. The Committee has dedicated significant efforts to examining the implications of artificial intelligence (AI) in counter-terrorism efforts, hosting several international events, and adopting one of the first international resolutions on this issue. The increasing use of AI in military applications, including autonomous weapons systems and cyber warfare, underscores the need for a balanced approach that mitigates risks while leveraging technological advancements to combat terrorism effectively. The Ad Hoc Committee on Migration continues to play a key role in addressing the ongoing challenges of migration within the OSCE region. Its work has been essential in advocating for comprehensive policies that balance security concerns with humanitarian commitments, ensuring the protection of vulnerable populations, and strengthening international co-operation to manage migration flows in a comprehensive, humane and sustainable manner.

The significance of the Parliamentary Support Team on Ukraine (PSTU) within the OSCE PA agenda cannot be overstated. As the Assembly's principal advisory and co-ordinating platform on Ukraine, the PSTU ensures compliance with OSCE PA Declarations while maintaining consistency and complementarity in its initiatives. The February 2025 visit to Ukraine by the PSTU and OSCE PA Bureau members represents a landmark initiative, as the first multilateral institutional meeting on Ukrainian territory since February 2022. It reinforced the Assembly's support for Ukraine's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity in line with relevant Declarations and *acquis* while enabling fact-finding and awareness on Ukraine's immediate challenges, high-level consultations, and discussions on new avenues for co-operation with Ukrainian institutions, governmental authorities and civil society. The OSCE PA's Bureau and PSTU members also agreed to submit key policy questions to their respective Ministries of Foreign Affairs regarding references in the Bucharest Declaration and the broader implications stemming from Russia's invasion and aggression against Ukraine. The PSTU aims to deepen co-operation with the Verkhovna Rada, particularly in strengthening Ukraine's resilience. With resilience at the core of its work, including through its three Special Rapporteurs, PSTU efforts will focus on supporting Ukraine's recovery and pre-empting future threats to territorial integrity, sovereignty, and stability in the broader region.

Additionally, the Special Representatives working on various security-related issues in their regional or thematic portfolios continue to provide valuable expertise and engagement, further strengthening the OSCE PA's capacity to respond to pressing security concerns. Their contributions ensure that comprehensive security remains a central focus within the OSCE framework, reinforcing efforts to uphold peace and stability across the region.

## **Conclusion**

Russia's ongoing war of aggression against Ukraine remains the most serious threat to European security in decades, with profound implications for regional stability and the international rules-based order. The war's continuation, coupled with heightened military activity near Ukrainian nuclear facilities, underscores the urgency of reinforcing nuclear safeguards and preventing further escalation. Ensuring accountability for war crimes, upholding Ukraine's freedom and sovereignty, and supporting its long-term resilience must remain top priorities – while any decisions about Ukraine's future must be made with Ukraine as an active participant in the negotiations.

The protection of critical infrastructure must be recognized as a top priority in today's interconnected world, where hybrid warfare presents a growing and unpredictable threat. The vulnerabilities of critical systems - from energy grids to healthcare - require swift and co-ordinated international efforts to prevent their exploitation for malicious purposes. Without a renewed commitment, the consequences will reverberate all over the world, undermining trust, escalating conflict, and threatening the very foundations of our societies.

Beyond Ukraine, security concerns extend across the OSCE region. Moldova faces cyberattacks, energy insecurity, and foreign interference, while Belarus has become a staging ground for Russian military operations, further destabilizing the region. In the South Caucasus, recent progress in Armenia-Azerbaijan border delimitation presents an opportunity for long-term stability, but tensions persist. Meanwhile, the presence of Russian forces in Georgia's occupied territories remains a direct challenge to its sovereignty. Against this backdrop, Europe must reinforce its strategic autonomy and uphold international principles to maintain stability and security across the region.

Recent shifts in geopolitical alliances highlight the growing necessity for unified action to uphold OSCE values and principles. The emergence of new security and economic partnerships, alongside increasing competition among global powers, presents both opportunities and challenges for regional stability. In this evolving landscape, reinforcing multilateralism and maintaining a strong commitment to the principles of the Helsinki Final Act will be crucial in preserving peace, security, and co-operative dialogue within the OSCE region. The OSCE PA must rise to the challenge and be strengthened as a key diplomatic platform for dialogue, helping to navigate these challenges and promote continued co-operation.

The current security landscape within the OSCE region and beyond emphasizes one conclusion that stands very clear: the principles of the Helsinki Final Act remain central to addressing these challenges. This foundational document serves as a shared commitment by all signatory states to democracy, co-operation, and respect for human rights. It is our responsibility, as the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, to uphold these values and work tirelessly to promote comprehensive and lasting security – from Vancouver to Vladivostok – for this and future generations.