



REPORT OF OSCE PA PRESIDENT
PERE JOAN PONS SAMPIETRO
AUTUMN MEETING



17 November
2025



Dear colleagues,

As we gather in Istanbul, the Assembly comes together at a defining moment for safeguarding security, stability and cooperation across the OSCE region and beyond. Europe today faces a critical juncture as conflict has returned to its core, and in recent months we have witnessed incidents such as Russian violations of national airspaces, underscoring the fragility of our regional security and the spillover risks of the ongoing war, reminding us that no participating State is immune to its consequences. At a time when global crises are straining the foundations of peace and dialogue, the OSCE PA must continue to serve as a high-level political voice – principled, forward-looking and actively engaged in upholding our shared principles and commitments. Strengthening our collective voice on the most urgent security priorities remains essential to safeguarding peace and democracy across the OSCE area.

This requires renewed attention to the security environment across our region – from hybrid warfare and cyberattacks to terrorism and other emerging threats that undermine peace and public trust and calls for a comprehensive approach to security that fully integrates gender equality and women’s participation as essential to stability, resilience, and lasting peace.

Since my election as OSCE PA President in Porto, the Assembly has worked to become a more relevant and responsive political force within the international security architecture, in line with the governance agenda and action plan. The geopolitical situation remains extremely challenging across the OSCE region and beyond. After four years of defending against Russian aggression, Ukraine continues to face severe military and humanitarian pressures, with no end to this devastating war in sight. In the Middle East, multiform conflicts, protracted wars, and humanitarian crises are deeply testing international commitments to peace and human rights. Developments in the South Caucasus remain complex and fragile, shaped by shifting regional power dynamics and external influences. The situation echoes the delicate position of Central Asian countries, which also face significant geopolitical pressures in the context of the ongoing war in Ukraine and broader regional uncertainties.

As the global community convenes this November for the COP climate conference, it is critical to recognize that climate change and environmental security are increasingly intertwined with international stability and peace. From unprecedented heatwaves in Europe to water scarcity in Central, environmental stress is reshaping the security landscape. The OSCE PA will continue to emphasize that security and sustainability are inseparable, and that environmental accountability and green recovery must be central to peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction. We also recognize that climate insecurity often deepens existing inequalities, disproportionately affecting women and marginalized communities, whose voices must be part of climate action and decision-making. These themes are further developed in the Special Representative on Climate Change's Report to the Standing Committee on Climate Change, which underscores the Assembly's commitment to addressing climate-related risks as core security challenges.

Adding to these security challenges, the growing number of elections across the OSCE region faces intensified threats from sophisticated foreign interference campaigns. These efforts, including cyberattacks, disinformation, illicit funding, and covert influence operations, aim to undermine democratic processes, weaken public trust and destabilize political systems, highlighting the urgent need for electoral resilience and coordinated international responses.

Reinforcing Our Voice on the Global Stage

Since Porto, our Assembly has asserted itself as a distinct, high-level political voice amid a turbulent international landscape. Our engagement is defined not by the frequency of visits but by sustained, principled attention to the most urgent geopolitical challenges confronting our region.

At the heart of these challenges lies Ukraine, which remains central to our mission, as reaffirmed by my first presidential visit. Guided by the Porto Declaration, we have repeatedly condemned Russian aggression and reiterated the Assembly's unwavering support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Our backing is reflected through the Parliamentary Support Team for Ukraine and the appointment of a Special Envoy advocating for the return of abducted Ukrainian children. Our actions must

aim to build political momentum for justice and accountability, making our Assembly a driving force for global solidarity.

Beyond Ukraine, the crisis in the Middle East has further tested our commitment to human rights and humanitarian law. My interventions have consistently pressed for peace, justice and the protection of civilians wherever international law is threatened. The humanitarian situation in Gaza remains deeply alarming, with more than 68,000 people killed as a result of Israeli attacks and the vast majority of the population displaced or facing severe shortages of food, water, and medical supplies. As I underlined in Vienna during the Ministerial Council in September 2025, each passing day brings new reports of suffering among innocent civilians in Gaza – children and vulnerable groups are paying a particularly heavy toll. The Assembly has consistently called for the immediate cessation of hostilities, full respect of international humanitarian law, the protection of civilians and the establishment of safe and sustainable humanitarian corridors. As reaffirmed in the Porto Resolution, the OSCE PA continues to support the vision of a just and lasting peace based on the coexistence of two states, Israel and Palestine, living side by side in security and mutual recognition. Events in our wider neighborhood carry direct implications for the OSCE's stability, security and values. Crises beyond our immediate borders necessarily influence our commitment and the priorities we set. I therefore support the proposal to establish an Ad Hoc Committee on the Middle East and Afghanistan, ensuring that our Assembly contributes meaningfully to dialogue and stability.

Closer to home, just a few weeks before the Autumn Meeting, our field visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina, which included a solemn commemoration in Srebrenica marking the 30th anniversary of the genocide, profoundly deepened our understanding of the OSCE's vital on-the-ground work supporting reconciliation, human rights, and peacebuilding in the Western Balkans. The memory of Srebrenica reminds us of the catastrophic consequences of unchecked hate and violence, a tragic history whose lessons resonate painfully today, reinforcing our commitment to conflict prevention, justice, human dignity, and peacebuilding across all OSCE participating States.

Democracy remains the cornerstone of our collective security, as

demonstrated by our highly visible election observation mission to Moldova, among others, which reaffirmed the Assembly's deep commitment to democracy across our region. Throughout this mission, our observers carefully evaluated unprecedented challenges, including foreign interference, cyberattacks, illegal funding and widespread disinformation. Increasingly, threats to democracy are compounded by a new and alarming trend, the concentration of political, technological and financial power in the hands of a few, creating what has been described as a form of "technocratic capture." This convergence, highlighted in recent analyses such as Francesca Bria's recent report "The Authoritarian Stack*", represents a profound challenge to democratic accountability and transparency. By documenting these risks and upholding transparency, we help strengthen democratic resilience and public trust. It stands as a testament to our unwavering dedication to the Helsinki principles and our active support for free, fair and transparent elections as the cornerstone of lasting peace and security.

In the same spirit of constructive engagement and in response to the complex political developments following the recent local elections in Georgia, quiet but active diplomacy has been pursued with representatives from across the political spectrum to explore how the Assembly's unique tools and mandate can be used to de-escalate tensions and foster dialogue. This approach is firmly rooted in the OSCE PA's traditions of impartial mediation, consensus-building and respect for democratic principles, ensuring that our actions reflect both our institutional DNA and our enduring commitment to regional stability.

With recent steps towards dialogue between Armenia and Azerbaijan, there is renewed hope for lasting peace and reconciliation in the South Caucasus. The OSCE PA stands ready to support both sides in advancing confidence-building measures, reconstruction and humanitarian cooperation, recognizing that durable peace must rest on dialogue, accountability and mutual respect.

As we meet in Istanbul, it is also timely to recall the importance of strengthening our shared commitment to preventing and combating

* [The Authoritarian Stack](#), Francesca Bria, 2025

violence against women and girls. The principles embodied in the Istanbul Convention remain a vital reference point for advancing equality, dignity and the protection of fundamental rights across the OSCE region. Our Assembly must continue to champion these goals through dialogue, legislation and the empowerment of women in all spheres of public life, calling on participating States to fully implement the Istanbul Convention as a concrete step toward eradicating gender-based violence. These commitments are not peripheral but central to the OSCE's comprehensive security concept.

Together, the work of our Special Representatives, as well as our general and ad hoc committees, remains vital in supporting these priorities. By embodying the enduring relevance of the Helsinki principles in today's security environment and through robust parliamentary diplomacy and principled dialogue, the OSCE PA should aim to be an increasingly influential force in shaping global responses to conflict and crisis.

Renewal of OSCE PA Leadership

When we met in Porto to mark the 50th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act, the Assembly expressed its determination to reinvigorate its role as a political voice for democracy, security and human rights. The changes that we have pursued since then, from updating internal governance to renewing our leadership portfolio, are now taking shape.

In recent months, a balanced and diverse team of Special Representatives has been appointed, reflecting our pledge to gender equality, regional diversity and specialized expertise. Data recently published by the Secretariat, which highlights the country of origin of OSCE PA elected and appointed positions, will guide our ongoing efforts to ensure the Assembly truly represents its diverse membership and upholds gender equality as a priority. Since taking office, women have represented over 57 per cent of the appointments I have made, despite only forming one-third of our membership. Prioritizing gender equality and youth inclusion is not only a matter of fairness, but also brings new perspectives, creativity and legitimacy to our work. This diversity equips the Assembly to respond more effectively to complex challenges and strengthens our credibility as

a champion of inclusive governance.

New Members have been appointed to lead our election observation efforts, which are among the Assembly's clearest expressions of its values and ongoing commitment to defending democratic processes.

From Vision to Action: Governance and Reform

The Governance paper on Democratic Reform presented to you during this Autumn Meeting, offers a clear framework for transparency and inclusion within our Assembly. It builds on more than two years of in-depth discussions within the Bureau under the previous presidency. We are committed to implementing these reforms that promote accountability, gender parity and rotation within our leadership structures. I want to express my sincere thanks for the input and ongoing support from the Bureau, which has played a crucial role in shaping these proposals.

Complementing this, the Presidential Action Plan 2025–2027 provides concrete priorities for reform and relevance. It emphasizes reinforcing political leadership and building financial sustainability, alongside strengthening the Assembly's capacity to address emerging challenges. All delegations are encouraged to lend their support to these efforts, as the success of this agenda depends on our collective commitment and co-operation.

At the same time, I am also engaged in ongoing conversations with the OSCE PA Secretariat to adapt our outreach tools for greater impact. We are reinforcing multilingualism and enhancing responsive services to Members, which is a necessity given the Assembly's considerable linguistic diversity. These steps respond to feedback we have received from Members prior to the Porto Annual Session and since my election, reflecting our commitment to inclusivity and effective communication.

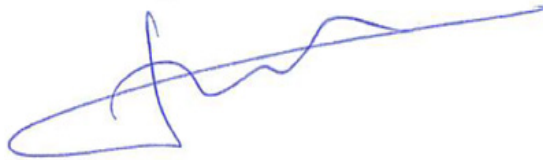
Charting a Path Forward

Despite the challenges ahead, the opportunities are substantial. As the geopolitical landscape continues to evolve with complexity and uncertainty,

the role of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly has never been more vital. Our region faces not only the enduring challenge of war but also an expanding spectrum of hybrid and transnational threats – from cyber warfare and disinformation to terrorism, technocratic concentration of power and energy insecurity. These realities call for renewed cooperation and shared vigilance among participating States.

Members' continued engagement and commitment will be key to advancing our shared mission. United in purpose and strengthened by our diversity, we can unlock the full potential of the OSCE PA as a dynamic, innovative and principled force championing peace, democracy, human rights and justice from Vancouver to Vladivostok.

President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly
Pere Joan Pons Sampietro
Istanbul, 17 November 2025





Volodymyr Zelensky and Pere Joan Pons, Kyiv, 7 October 2025

Visit to the
Srebrenica
Memorial
Centre and
Museum,
7 November
2025



President Pere
Joan Pons
addresses the
OSCE Permanent
Council in
Vienna,
11 September
2025





Feridun H. Sinirlioğlu and Pere Joan Pons, 50th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act, 1 August 2025



Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya and Pere Joan Pons, 50th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act, 1 August 2025



Youth Event "Pact for the Future: A New Order of International Cooperation That Delivers a Better Present and Safeguards the Future?", 10 July 2025

List of activities

Date	Event	Location
2025		
10 July	OSCE Youth Event	Vienna, Austria
30 July - 1 August	50 th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act	Helsinki, Finland
3 September	Working visit to the International Secretariat	Copenhagen, Denmark
11 September	Meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council	Vienna, Austria
23 September	Meeting of the OSCE PA Bureau	Online
6 October	Human Dimension Conference	Warsaw, Poland
7-8 October	Presidential visit to Ukraine	Kyiv, Ukraine
13 October	Meeting with OSCE PA Special Representatives and Chairs of Ad Hoc Committees	Online
5-8 November	Field visit to Bosnia-Herzegovina	Sarajevo & Srebrenica, Bosnia-Herzegovina
17-19 November	OSCE PA Autumn Meeting	Istanbul, Türkiye
23-24 November	Fourth Parliamentary Summit of the International Crimea Platform	Stockholm, Sweden
26 November	10 th Anniversary of the Safety of Female Journalists Online (SOFJO) Project	Vienna, Austria
3 December	Meeting of the OSCE PA Bureau	Vienna, Austria
4-5 December	OSCE Ministerial Council Meeting	Vienna, Austria

List of Special Representatives and Ad Hoc Committee Leadership

Special Representative	Name	Country
Special Representative on the Arctic and High North	Mr. Mark Pritchard <i>(since 2023)</i>	UK
Special Representative on Artificial Intelligence	Ms. Federica Onori <i>(since 2025)</i>	Italy
Special Representative on Central Asia	Mr. Angelos Syrigos <i>(since 2025)</i>	Greece
Special Representative on Climate Change	Ms. Ainur Argynbekova <i>(since 2025)</i>	Kazakhstan
Special Representative on Combating Organized Crime	Mr. Eugenio Zoffili <i>(since 2023)</i>	Italy
Special Representative on Demographic Change and Security	Ms. Gudrun Kugler <i>(since 2024)</i>	Austria
Special Representative on Disinformation and Propaganda	Mr. Oscar Mina <i>(since 2023)</i>	San Marino
Special Representative for Mediation and Election Observation	Ms. Pia Kauma <i>(since 2025)</i>	Finland
Special Representative on Fighting Corruption	Ms. Irene Charalambides <i>(since 2019)</i>	Cyprus
Special Representative on Gender Issues	Ms. Hedy Fry <i>(since 2010)</i>	Canada
Special Representative on Human Trafficking Issues	Mr. Christopher Smith <i>(since 2004)</i>	USA
Special Representative on Mediterranean Affairs	Mr. Pascal Allizard <i>(since 2017)</i>	France
Special Representative on Political Prisoners	Mr. Steve Cohen <i>(since 2022)</i>	USA
Special Representative on Racism, Anti-Semitism, Xenophobia and Discrimination	Ms. Timea Szabo <i>(since 2025)</i>	Hungary
Special Representative on South Caucasus	Mr. Luis Graca <i>(since 2024)</i>	Portugal
Special Representative on South East Europe	Mr. Kyriakos Hadjiyianni <i>(since 2023)</i>	Cyprus
Special Representative on Youth Engagement	Ms. Lucija Tacer <i>(since 2025)</i>	Slovenia
Special Envoy on Russian Abductions and Deportations of Ukrainian Children	Ms. Carina Odebrink <i>(since 2025)</i>	Sweden

Group	Leadership
Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism	Mr. Kamil Aydın (Türkiye), Chair Mr. Emanuele Loperfido (Italy), Vice-Chair
Ad Hoc Committee on Migration	Ms. Farah Karimi (Netherlands), Chair Mr. Kemal Çelik (Türkiye), Vice-Chair Mr. Alessandro Alfieri (Italy), Vice-Chair
Parliamentary Support Team for Ukraine	Ms. Sharon Hodgson (United Kingdom) (Chair) Mr. Mykyta Poturaiev (Ukraine) (Co-Chair) Mr. Joe Wilson (United States) (Co-Chair)
Sub-Committee on the OSCE PA's Rules of Procedure and Working Practices	Mr. Pascal Allizard (France) (Chair)

Democratic governance and reform in the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

1. General Principles and Mandates

The overarching principle of the organization should be to make full use of the expertise and geographic diversity available within the Assembly. This will effectively be implemented through a “one person, one institutional representation” policy.

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly shall foster an inclusive and respectful environment and be fully LGTBI+ friendly.

2. Special Representatives

Special Representatives shall be appointed for a two-year term at the beginning of the presidential mandate. At the end of the two-year term, the position expires and may be renewed by the incoming President. Regulatory reforms that prioritize turnover and ensure their accountability, particularly in cases of reappointment, shall be pursued.

In all appointments, the President will take into account both gender and regional balance.

3. Envoy for Mediation, and Electoral Observation

The President Emeritus, in respect of the significant experience acquired and service provided, shall serve as a senior Presidential Envoy for Mediation.

The President Emeritus will also contribute to and help lead Assembly discussions related to challenges to democracy and processes related to election observation, in co-ordination with Assembly colleagues.

4. Elected Positions

Regulatory reforms shall be pursued leading to elected committee positions having a two-year mandate, with appropriate limits on continued service in the same role.

5. Roles and Compatibility

Vice-Presidents may serve as Special Representatives and lead electoral missions but may not concurrently hold appointed or elected positions in general or ad hoc committees.

The President shall not serve as a Special Representative but may lead electoral missions.

6. Structure and Functioning of Committees and the Bureau

Ad hoc committees' leadership may be invited to Bureau meetings upon the President's request, or request by a majority of Bureau Members.

As a general principle, balance will be sought and overrepresentation of countries in an ad hoc committee shall be avoided. Reforms shall be pursued leading to limits in the size of membership of these committees, and ensuring respect for gender balance.

7. Bureau Meetings and Composition

The Bureau shall meet throughout the year as needed particularly to prepare for our three main statutory meetings in the summer, autumn, and winter. Meetings in April, July and December shall be held in person, and additional meetings may be held at the discretion of the President, including on-line.

The President will encourage gender parity and territorial diversity in voting for Bureau Members.

In order to contribute to discussions, the President may invite a limited

number of representatives to attend Bureau meetings in an observer capacity, subject to approval by the Bureau.

Should the President chair a commission—such as in the exceptional case of the Parliamentary Support Team on Ukraine—they shall step down from this role at the end of their term, and the position will automatically be assumed by the incoming President.

8. Working Groups and Presidential priorities

The President will propose to the Standing Committee the establishment of up to two Working Groups to address specific issues of concern.

In advance of the next presidential election, the President will ensure that candidates are provided opportunities to present their ideas and platform including strategic priorities and policies regarding gender representation.

9. Secretariat and Institutional Policies

The Secretariat will be asked to adopt a Gender Action Plan and an overarching gender policy. It shall also implement mechanisms to address any form of sexual abuse within the organization.

Presidential Action Plan 2025–2027

Rooted in the overall principles outlined in the President's paper on 'Democratic governance and reform in the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly', and following consultations with Assembly leaders, this Action Plan lays out priorities and plans through which the President intends to lead the OSCE PA.

This Action Plan is intended to focus discussion on key priorities leading to consensus on reforms and actions that can strengthen the Organization. It serves as a framework for accountability over the President's two-year mandate.

Eight key priorities are highlighted for the 2025–2027 period.

Vision: To serve as a more democratic and transparent platform for promoting peace, security and dialogue.

Mission: Through parliamentary dialogue and cooperation, the OSCE PA shall promote peace, prevent conflicts, strengthen democracy and enhance security across all OSCE participating States, and enhance parliamentary engagement in OSCE affairs and interparliamentary collaboration throughout the OSCE region.

1. OSCEPA Leadership: Towards a More Political Organization

As in 2025 we commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act, it is imperative to reinforce our political leadership for the next two coming years.

promoting democratic principles (with strengthening electoral observation work as a key priority).

This geopolitical framework will focus on three strategic pillars:

- i. **Security in the 21st Century:** Priorities will center on conflict prevention and mediation, reconciliation processes and enhancing regional security cooperation.
- ii. **Climate change as a Global Emergency and security threat:** Priorities will focus on addressing climate change and energy transition, and exploring the possibilities for a zero-emissions plan for the Secretariat.
- iii. **Dialogue, and democracy challenges:** Undoubtedly, as a parliamentary organization, we must prioritize addressing the growing threats and challenges facing our democracies. These include the spread of disinformation and fake narratives, the influence of social media and artificial intelligence, the rise of techno-autocracy, threats to media freedom, foreign interference in elections, the impact of technology on electoral processes, and broader concerns such as political pluralism, multiparty systems, and the overall quality of democratic governance.

2. Budget and Financial Sustainability: Stability as a Catalyst for Growth

One of this Presidency's goals is to enhance financial sustainability and support organizational growth in support of Assembly work.

We will advocate for more **equitable financial contributions** from all participating States, especially those whose relative wealth is not well reflected in the existing contribution scales. The Presidency also aims to reverse the current "zero-growth" budgetary trend which is restricting Assembly potential.

Additionally, we will explore innovative funding mechanisms, including partnerships for election observation missions. The potential for public-private funding to support new initiatives will also be assessed.

3. Gender Equality: Building a More Inclusive OSCE PA

This Presidency is committed to promoting gender equality as a cross-cutting priority. Key initiatives will include:

- Strengthening the Gender Policy unit within the Secretariat
- Implementing mechanisms to prevent sexual misconduct or harassment
- Achieving gender balance in leadership roles and within the Bureau (target: 50/50)
- Promoting LGTBI+ inclusivity and a safe working environment
- Mainstreaming gender perspectives across all reports and official documents

4. Addressing Regional Challenges: Understanding that our world is going East

Responding to the interests of numerous parliamentarians, this Presidency will support efforts to **enhance engagement and dialogue on Middle Eastern affairs.**

The President will support the proposed creation of a Working Group on

the Middle East and Afghanistan intended to provide in-depth analysis and develop recommendations on regional developments that directly affect the OSCE area.

The Presidency will also explore the appointment of an envoy for the Middle East crisis.

5. Enhancing Cooperation: Strengthening Political and Operational Tools

Interparliamentary cooperation is essential to boosting the OSCEPA's visibility and effectiveness.

The Presidency aims to:

- Strengthen Assembly engagement and impact on work of the OSCE Governmental side.
- Enhance collaboration with regional platforms such as the Mediterranean Forum, Silk Road Forum, Arctic Council, Transatlantic tools, and the OSCEPA Youth Network
- Partner regularly with COP climate conferences
- Hold an Assembly event in an observer country at least every four years
- Deepen collaboration with civil society, the Council of Europe, NATO PA, and international organizations.
- The President will pursue engagement, including in Bureau meetings, on the following priority topics:
 - Kyiv: A vision paper on Ukraine's future
 - Armenia/Azerbaijan: Supporting peace momentum
 - Middle East/Mediterranean: Enhancing dialogue
- Additional initiatives to be considered include:
 - Enhancing parliamentary dialogue among and with Central Asian parliaments
 - Dialogue with Russian and Belarusian democratic opposition groups
 - Increased trans-Atlantic dialogue

6. Communication Strategy: A More Political Narrative

The Presidency will lead efforts to implement a renewed Communication Strategy to reflect our political activities.

Priorities in enhanced communication efforts will include:

- Launching a comprehensive 2-year communication plan to better position the OSCE PA globally
- Holding more on-site press briefings and one-to-one interviews
- Securing funding to strengthen the Communications Department
- Upgrading the OSCEPA website and increasing video content on social platforms
- Mainstreaming gender-sensitive considerations within the Communication Strategy
- Increasing multilingual outreach through all official languages

7. Democracy and Field Engagement: Forecasting the Future

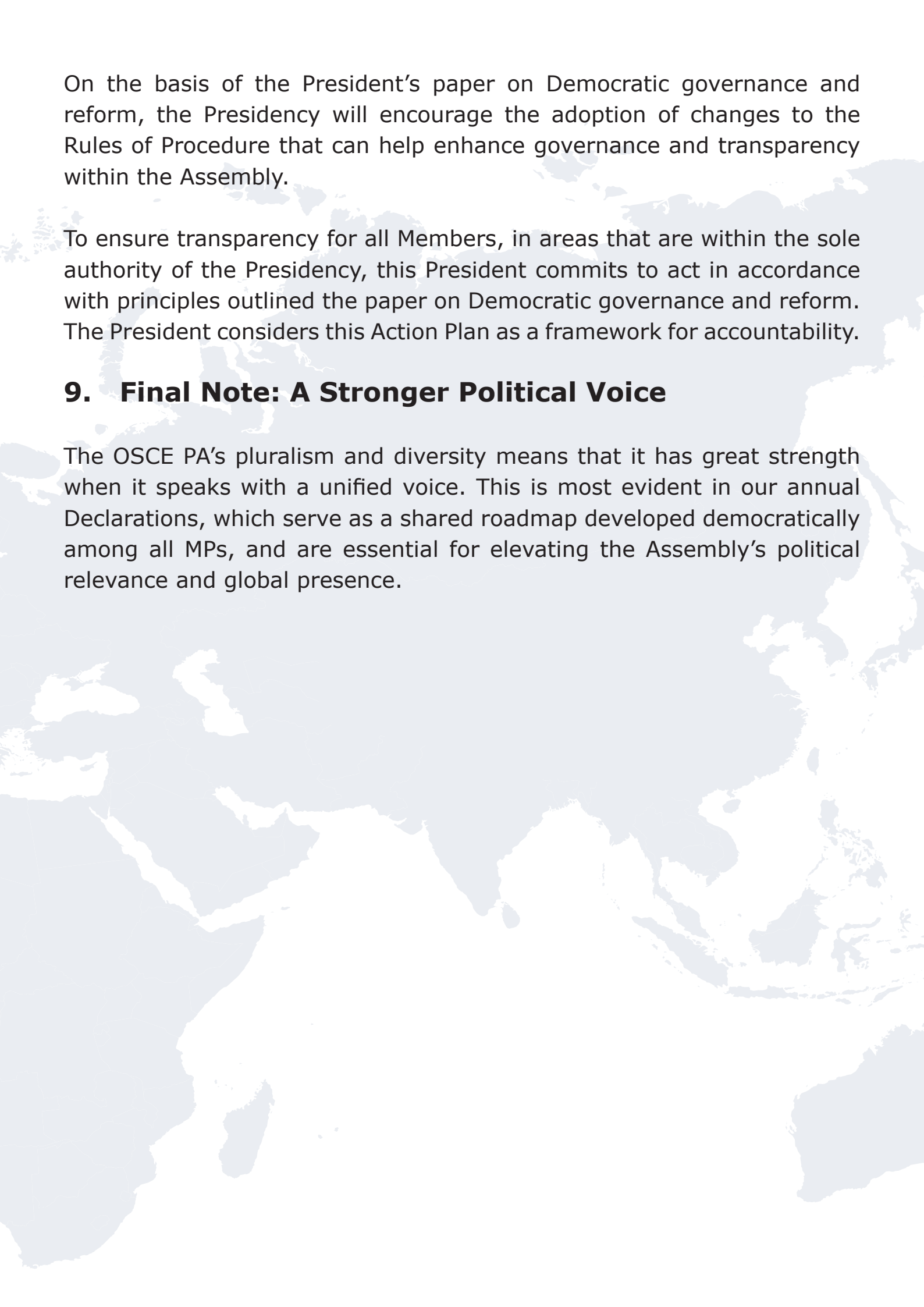
To respond effectively to evolving democratic challenges, the Presidency will propose to the Standing Committee the creation of a Working Group on the Future of Democracy, which will monitor these developments and serve as a focused discussion forum for such challenges. This will be coordinated with our election observation work, General Committee work and the efforts of Special Representatives.

Tasks will include:

- Producing analytical reports on challenges to elections and democracy in the OSCE Region
- Conducting field visits and bilateral meetings
- Contributing to and strengthening electoral observation work

8. Transparent Governance: Enhancing Accountability

Transparency and accountability are central to democratic governance.



On the basis of the President's paper on Democratic governance and reform, the Presidency will encourage the adoption of changes to the Rules of Procedure that can help enhance governance and transparency within the Assembly.

To ensure transparency for all Members, in areas that are within the sole authority of the Presidency, this President commits to act in accordance with principles outlined the paper on Democratic governance and reform. The President considers this Action Plan as a framework for accountability.

9. Final Note: A Stronger Political Voice

The OSCE PA's pluralism and diversity means that it has great strength when it speaks with a unified voice. This is most evident in our annual Declarations, which serve as a shared roadmap developed democratically among all MPs, and are essential for elevating the Assembly's political relevance and global presence.