

## Ongoing preparations ahead of the OSCE PA 30th Annual Session



President Cederfelt with Hon. George Furey and Hon. Anthony Rota

Preparations are ongoing for the OSCE PA 30th Annual Session, taking place in Vancouver from 30 June to 4 July 2023, with last week's preparatory visit of President Margareta Cederfelt in Canada and Special Representative on Civil Society Engagement Kyriakos Hadjiyianni's consultation call with representatives from civil society across the OSCE region.

Last week Cederfelt was in Ottawa, where she met Dr. Hedy Fry, Head of the Canadian Delegation and Special Representative on Gender Issues, and Urban Ahlin, Ambassador of Sweden and former Member of the Swedish Delegation to the OSCE PA and Speaker of the Parliament of Sweden. Following her meetings, the President signed 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.

"I thank the Parliament of Canada, and all Canadians, for hosting our Annual Session this year," said Cederfelt. "Canada has long been a strong supporter of the OSCE and its Parliamentary Assembly, with an active delegation of committed parliamentarians. We look forward to continued co-operation."

On 31 March, Special Representative on Civil Society Engagement Kyriakos Hadjiyianni and officers of the PA's general committees held a consultation call with dozens of representatives from civil society. Committee rapporteurs presented ideas for their reports and draft resolutions and listened to feedback to consider ahead of the Annual Session.

"With this consultation call, our goal is to replicate what parliamentarians do at the national level when consulting civil society representatives as part of the legislative processes," Hadjiyianni noted when opening the meeting.

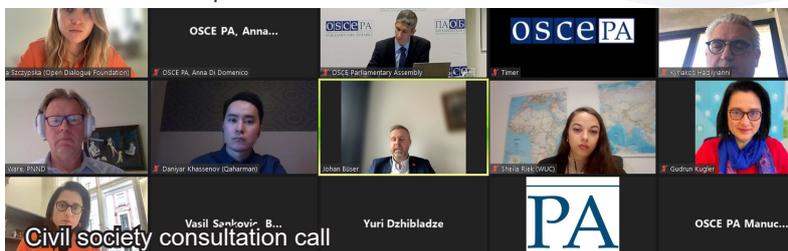
The Russian Federation's war against Ukraine featured prominently in discussions, with participants noting that it has caused immense suffering in terms of death, abuse, displacement and other traumas. Among other top concerns raised by NGO representatives were issues related to nuclear weapons, freedom of the assembly and association, and the persistence of politically-motivated imprisonments. Participants also discussed how the OSCE could be strengthened.

Johan Büser, Rapporteur of the Third Committee, stated that in his report and draft resolution he plans to focus on four broad groups of challenges and intends to propose implementable recommendations to the current challenges in the region.

Rapporteur of the Second Committee Gudrun Kugler outlined that she intends to address demographic changes, the impact of corruption, and potential security threats from new technologies. She also stressed the importance of stable, resilient economies.

Laurynas Kasciunas, Rapporteur of the First Committee, had shared remarks noting that the OSCE participating States have been working over the years to strengthen mutual trust, transparency and predictability, to mitigate risks, and to promote stability and security in the OSCE area.

Taking into account the input from civil society, the OSCE PA committee officers will now begin finalizing the reports and draft resolutions to be presented at the Annual Session.



## OSCE PA webinar advocates for the rights of future generations



The OSCE PA hosted today an online event on "Dialogue on Future Generations", jointly organized by Special Representative on Youth Engagement and Vice-Chair of the Third General Committee Farah Karimi and Vice-President and Special Representative on Sustainable Development Goals Askar Shakirov.

Participants reiterated the urgent need to develop long-term policies and solutions to current emerging crises to ensure safety and welfare of future generations.

Karimi emphasized the important role that young people can play in the transformation of our institutions, and the necessity to invest on mechanisms of inclusion of young people in deci-

sion-making to create a social cohesion for a longer term. Shakirov stressed the important linkages between implementation of Sustainable Development Goals and creating a safer and better planet for future generations. President Margareta Cederfelt expressed hope that these efforts can generate sufficient political will to agree on a UN Declaration on Future Generations.

Guest speakers included Ambassador Yoka Brandt, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the United Nations; Thomas Hale, Professor of Global Public Policy in the University of Oxford; Cat Zuzarte Tully, Director of the School of International Futures; and Jacob Ellis, Lead Change Maker in the Office of the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales.

Participants discussed the prospects for adoption of a Declaration on Future Generations, exchanged views on possible transformation of legal institutions and decision-making mechanisms, and deliberated about the role of young people in shaping future policies. They also agreed to continue and intensify the work of the Assembly in this domain and discussed the possibility to propose a Supplementary Item to PA's Vancouver Declaration.