

PA and Azerbaijan's Parliament hold conference on sustainable development and connectivity



Conference in Baku, 22 May 2023



Margareta Cederfelt and Roberto Montella meet with Ilham Aliyev on 23 May 2023. (Photo: Office of President of Azerbaijan)

Organized jointly by the Milli Majlis of Azerbaijan and the OSCE PA, the conference on “The role of national parliaments in promoting security and stability through green economy, connectivity and sustainable development” took place on 22-23 May in Baku. Offering a platform for the parliamentary exchange of best practices, the conference explored the role of green technologies, trade and international co-operation in achieving sustainable development and fostering economic growth.

Opening the conference, Speaker of Milli Majlis Sahiba Gafarova underscored the vital role of dialogue and the exchange of perspectives in fostering innovative ideas for a brighter future. OSCE PA President Margareta Cederfelt (Sweden) focused her remarks on the implications of the war in Ukraine for the economic and environmental security across the OSCE region, highlighting the need to find comprehensive and joint solutions to multiple interconnected security challenges. Second Committee Chair and Head of Azerbaijan’s Delegation Azay Guliyev, who moderated the opening session, emphasized the need for parliamentarians to identify new possibilities and leverage them.

Further discussions, moderated by Second Committee Rapporteur Gudrun Kugler and Vice-President and Special Representative on Sustainable Development Goals Askar Shakirov, addressed the need to strengthen the resilience of supply chains through international transport, as well as the role of digitalization in economic recovery. Keynote speakers shared their national

perspectives in promoting the green economy.

On the sidelines, President Cederfelt and Secretary General Roberto Montella met with President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev and Speaker Gafarova. During both meetings, the interlocutors briefed the Delegation on the recent developments in the region and explored the role of the OSCE PA in supporting peace efforts aimed at bringing stability and security to the South Caucasus region. Cederfelt and Montella further commended the active work and contribution of the Delegation of Azerbaijan to the OSCE PA.

Secretary General Montella, who delivered remarks at the opening and closing of the conference, thanked the hosts and highlighted that economic and environmental challenges facing the OSCE region can only be addressed through collective effort.

The conference concluded on 23 May, following a field visit, during which the 100 participants from 27 countries and four international organizations had the opportunity to learn about the best practices in implementing green concepts and technologies for building a sustainable future. They were able to get acquainted with relevant projects focused on constructing “smart villages” and green energy infrastructure in the village of Aghali and the Zangilan region.

Today, President Cederfelt has met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan, Jeyhun Bayramov, as well as with the Delegation of Azerbaijan to the OSCE PA to discuss the current challenges facing the Organization.

Annual Session deadlines reminder

The 30th Annual Session of the OSCE PA will be held from 30 June to 4 July 2023 in Vancouver, Canada. The theme for the Annual Session is “Strengthening Regional Security by Fostering Democratic and Inclusive Societies: The Role of the OSCE PA”.

Delegations are kindly asked to register via the OSCE PA online registration system no later than Friday, 26 May 2023. Other approaching deadlines are provided below:

- Supplementary Items: 26 May 2023
- Amendments to the three General Committee Draft Resolutions: 16 June 2023
- Amendments to Supplementary Items: 23 June 2023

DSG Pallares addresses meeting of the Organization of American States

On 19 May, OSCE PA Deputy Secretary General Gustavo Pallares remotely addressed a Special Permanent Council Meeting of the Organization of American States (OAS) held in Washington, DC. This meeting was devoted to analyzing best practices and recommendations for enhanced inter-American parliamentary dialogue and co-operation. Pallares described in detail the objectives and work of the OSCE PA in the context of European security and provided input on the importance of parliamentary diplomacy in increasing the effectiveness and visibility of international organizations.

The experience of the OSCE PA, as the parliamentary branch of the OSCE, can serve as a model, as proposed by United States Senators Ben Cardin and Roger Wicker, in any parliamentary process initiated in the OAS, Pallares noted.

Pallares referred to the specific actions of OSCE parliamentarians in the context of the Russian Federation’s current war against Ukraine. A delegation of parliamentarians from the Americas, representing the ParlAmericas organization, is expected attend as observers the upcoming Annual Session of the OSCE PA in Vancouver.