



**REPORT OF SECRETARY GENERAL
ROBERTO MONTELLA**

**TO THE OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
STANDING COMMITTEE**

5 JULY 2021

For the second year in a row, we approach our most important event of the year – the Annual Session – without being able to all meet face-to-face. Nevertheless, I am glad that this year we could organize a hybrid session, with the Assembly’s Standing Committee, Bureau and Special Representatives meeting in Vienna and with a new electronic system allowing online voting of Assembly Officers. In February, during the Winter Meeting, I presented a comprehensive report covering one year of OSCE PA activities adapting to the new pandemic reality¹: the 2021 Remote Session, while in hybrid format and shorter than usual, is another step in this direction. **Its modalities reflect a careful balance between the crucial need to hold a fully-fledged statutory meeting and the technical and security constraints of the hybrid format, alongside ongoing restrictions for big in-person events.** I am proud that, through innovative formats, we continue to keep the political dialogue within our Assembly well alive, despite not being able to vote on resolutions. I thank our President Peter Lord Bowness and the entire Bureau for providing us with clear guidance and strong **political leadership**, as well as the International Secretariat Staff for their dedication and commitment.

I – Activities²

Election Observation

During the Spring, our election observation activity has almost returned to normal and, against the backdrop of many restrictions and constraints, we have deployed full-scale missions to observe the parliamentary elections in **Bulgaria**, on 4 April, in **Albania**, on 25 April, and in **Armenia**, on 20 June, with a degree of participation that resembled the pre-pandemic numbers³. This has not come without **increased and innovative efforts**, including new online briefing formats and extensive COVID countermeasures in place. In May, leaders of the observer mission to the 2020 US elections also held a meeting with Members from the US Delegation on potential follow-up on recommendations from that Mission. This is an area of work that could be further explored in the future also in other countries and provide an additional added value to our efforts. We will now deploy two missions simultaneously on 11 July, to observe the snap parliamentary elections in Moldova and in Bulgaria, and we will soon be moving forward with preparations for observing the important parliamentary elections in the Russian Federation in September. Moreover, I intend to host a retreat with election observation partners in the Autumn to further enhance our excellent cooperation.

General Committees, Ad Hoc Committees and Special Representatives

The cycle of thematic **Parliamentary Web Dialogues** which we launched after the outbreak of the pandemic has underlined the usefulness of this virtual tool, providing an additional platform for political dialogue on topics of key interest for the work of our Assembly. Under the auspices of each of our three General Committees, we organized other four web dialogues: on military transparency, on the interlinks between environmental security and public health (a topic of high priority for the 2nd Committee), on human rights in conflict zones, and on health as a human right (in cooperation

¹ <https://www.oscepa.org/en/documents/international-secretariat/secretary-general-s-report/4157-report-of-secretary-general-roberto-montella-to-the-standing-committee-vienna-20-february-2020-eng/file>

² See the full list of OSCE PA Activities in the reporting period in Annex I

³ Registered Members to EOMs: 44 in Bulgaria, 60 in Albania, 73 in Armenia. Total number of OSCE PA Observers participating in EOMs since the outbreak of the COVID-19 Pandemic: 310 in 8 Missions.

with the UHC2030 initiative, under the umbrella of the UN and WHO). These webinars proved instrumental not only in preparation for the Remote Session - providing inputs for the Reports of the three General Committee's rapporteurs – but also for the work of our members in their national Parliaments. The leadership of the Committees also engaged with relevant counterparts in the OSCE executive structures, thereby injecting policy and reinforcing the parliamentary-governmental exchange.

Ad Hoc Committees also remained very active. The **Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism (CCT)** held an online hearing with representatives of the Kazakh authorities on their experience on prosecution, rehabilitation, and reintegration of foreign terrorist fighters, making full use of our Assembly as a hub to share best practices. The CCT also co-organized the successful International Parliamentary Conference on terrorism and violent extremism in the context of COVID-19, together with PACE, IPA-CIS, PAM and UNOCT, and contributed to the 2021 OSCE-wide Counter-terrorism Conference on “Reinforcing a Comprehensive Approach in Preventing and Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism and Radicalisation that Lead to Terrorism in a Changing Landscape. The **Ad Hoc Committee on Migration** held several online briefings on the worrying situations in Greece, Spain and in Bosnia and Herzegovina. A particular focus was given to the impact of the pandemic on migrants and refugees. The Committee also contributed to two further web-conferences of the UK House of Lords, in cooperation with counterparts at PACE, focusing on the protection of vulnerable refugees and responsibility sharing, and the exchange of strategies and proposals for action. We are now looking forward to resuming fact-finding visits as soon as health conditions will allow, including the visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina of the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, which the Committee was invited to join following our constructive cooperation.

Several **Special Representatives** also actively engaged on behalf of the Assembly. The Special Representative on **Gender Issues** co-organized, together with ODIHR and the OSCE Secretariat, a timely event on law-making to prevent and combat violence against women. Other Special Representatives placed specific developments in the OSCE region under focus, including on **human trafficking**, SDGs in **Central Asia**, political developments in **Eastern Europe**, the climate emergency in the **Arctic**, and the **Mediterranean**.

Parliamentary Diplomacy

The Secretariat has continued to **support the Assembly's efforts to serve as a platform for dialogue to discuss the most pressing security issues in the region**. Promoting confidence building through an impartial approach aimed at reconciling the expectations of all Delegations represents the key guiding principle of our approach. Unfortunately, conflicts and tensions continue to generate mistrust between States, and we keep witnessing worrying violations of fundamental human rights, which led to several public statements by our leadership. In the future, we hope to also engage more actively with the delegations of involved participating States. Parliamentarians - with their representation, legislation and oversight assets – can greatly contribute to foster dialogue and defuse tensions, and in this regard, we keep coordinating on crisis dossiers with our OSCE counterparts and external partners. For instance, I joined our President in a useful hearing with the European Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee and I am in regular touch with my counterparts in other parliamentary assemblies. We also remain involved on the situation in Belarus, promoting dialogue

as well as the other OSCE's values and toolbox. Based on this, I recently addressed an event hosted by the exiled opposition leader Tsikhanouskaya, and we are planning to co-organize a joint event, with the Finnish Institute of International Affairs and the Russian International Affairs Council, inviting authorities to present the ongoing important constitutional reform process and to facilitate constructive and unbiased discussions.

II – The OSCE PA and the OSCE

Cooperation

The appointment of a new Secretary General and of new Heads of Institutions has offered an opportunity to reset our cooperation with the governmental branch enabling us to finetune the already excellent and frequent coordination. With growing cooperation, we are slowly but gradually strengthening the notion of a **collective OSCE-wide corporate responsibility**. It is with this in mind that I hosted at the end of May at our headquarters in Copenhagen a **visit of the ODIHR Director**, where we discussed cooperation on a wide range of portfolios, including election observation, democratization, gender and youth. These discussions were already bearing fruit a couple of weeks later during the EOM to Armenia, and will continue to do so. A few days later, I hosted in Helsingør a two-day **retreat of OSCE Heads of Institution**, with informal and productive discussions which enabled a useful exchange of views and ideas on avenues to best support the Organization's efforts to maximize its relevance on the international arena while also reconciling the expectations of its membership. It is with the same logic that I have expanded and reinforced the **Vienna Liaison Office** so as to enable it to best represent us and act as our interface vis-à-vis the governmental branch, not least the Permanent Council and the OSCE Secretariat.

Call for Action – Helsinki +50 Process⁴

The initiative we launched last year with the aim of **mobilizing our parliamentary delegations**, including in their national Parliaments and vis-à-vis their governments, **to bring back the political attention and thrust that the OSCE needs both east and west of Vienna**, is well running and receiving growing interest. Under the coordination of Ambassador Zannier, we are now holding a cycle of targeted thematic meetings on the most crucial issues on the functioning of the OSCE. We have started with two thought-provoking meetings on the rule of consensus and on revitalizing dialogue. The workplan for the next 12 months is annexed to this report and will be circulated to all delegations. Summaries of discussions are being collected in perception and food-for-thought papers and will help formulate concrete proposals in the coming months. Under the auspices of this initiative, in May we also held an interesting **meeting with young parliamentarians and politicians**, as part of a broader effort to promote youth empowerment in international relations.

III – Administration

Offices

As we continue to closely monitor the evolution of the COVID-19 epidemiological situation as well as regulations of the authorities in our host countries, Staff in both offices in Copenhagen and Vienna

⁴ <https://www.oscepa.org/en/activities/toward-helsinki-50>

remain in **telecommuting** working modality. The offices remain however open, with strict internal rules, in case of need. I am also very proud to announce that we have finalized the agreement with Austrian authorities – to whom goes our deepest gratitude - on the **new premises for our Vienna Liaison Office**, which will be fully operative after the summer and officially inaugurated in conjunction with the President’s address to the OSCE Permanent Council in Autumn. The new office provides an adequate, professional environment which also reflects the grown importance of the office within the OSCE Vienna reality.

ICT

The last few months have been extremely important in terms of digital innovation. After a year of preparatory work and staff training, our **new tailored-made software for online registration** has been put to use. This platform will be used for all PA events, including statutory meetings and EOMs, and it integrates registration capacity with database, voting registration and APP functions, providing for a modern and user-friendly tool. The Remote Session will also feature the first **electronic voting** in the history of our Assembly. The system has been carefully chosen out of several separate offers on the basis of cost-efficiency analysis and for combining high-security with accessibility. Moreover, I am very glad to announce that as of July the OSCE PA **website will be available in two languages** – English and Russian. This is part of a wider project to ensure that all our media products are at minimum bilingual.

Budget

The International Secretariat has worked closely with our Treasurer on the **2021/2022 budget proposal**, which reflects very well the evolving dynamics of our Assembly. Among these, the increased needs in terms of ICT, the new VLO premises and the expansion of the JPO programme. Moreover, I wish to thank our delegations for sending their contributions for this year’s budget in a timely fashion, which is enabling us to fulfill our mandate at the best of our abilities. I also wish to express our continued **gratitude to the Danish Parliament** for hosting our Headquarters and to the **Austrian Government** for its financial support for the VLO premises, as well as to the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Italy and Germany for seconding two members of our Staff. I renew my call to other participating States to consider the **secondments** option.

Staff

I wish to praise, in the strongest of terms, the hard work, **commitment** and passion that all colleagues have shown during this challenging pandemic period, alongside a greatly appreciated capacity to adapt, with flexibility and dedication, to new circumstances. I am honored to serve this small yet talented and dynamic Secretariat. In my report in February, I noted how we were able to reach gender parity in our staff. I am committed to continuing to improve **gender equality** in the Secretariat, including at managerial level. In turn, gender parity will also catalyze better gender mainstreaming in our activities. Even if there will be other occasions for formal farewells, as this is his last Annual Session before retirement, I wish to pay words of special tribute to Ambassador Nothelle, a bedrock of our Assembly since its founding. Thank you also to Marc Carillet, who left the PA VLO at the end of May after many years of dedicated work.

IV - Upcoming months

In the coming months, we will continue to assess the epidemiological situation in the OSCE area and plan our activities and their format accordingly. Despite the **unfortunately necessary cancellation of our in-person Autumn Meeting** originally scheduled in Dublin – which will be postponed to 2024 – I still hope we can gradually go back to more face-to-face activities, in addition to the EOMs, which we plan in the Russian Federation and in Uzbekistan. We will explore the possibility to hold a hybrid Autumn Meeting along the same modalities of the July Remote Session and will inform delegations accordingly in the coming months. I look forward to the engagement in the many other activities, conferences and events which will, as usual, fill up our schedule and continue to make this Assembly a dynamic and active body on the main issues of the international security agenda.

There are many challenges in front us and one of the greatest assets of the OSCE PA is its capacity to move its political focus on the most pressing issues at stake. The international agenda is now asking us, for instance, for enhanced efforts on two crucial issues: **Environmental protection** has emerged as a security priority, can catalyze convergence among delegations, and will inevitably require us to step up our support to our membership, especially the Second Committee. It is with this in mind that I have supported a project to provide our VLO with a zero-emission urban transportation option for commuting to meetings in Vienna: with the purchase of two electric bicycles and relevant expert training, our Secretariat is trying to contribute by implementing its fair share of commitments to address climate change and also concretely support the UN SDGs agenda. The initiative aims to develop awareness in policy-making circles and among the general public on the interlinkages between climate change and security, particularly highlighting the nexus between environmental degradation, air pollution and public health as exposed by the COVID-19 crisis. We also hope to trigger increased interest among the international community in Vienna by introducing initiatives that promote and strengthen the image of the Organization with the potential to examine the development of a corporate social responsibility policy in the post-covid era.

Progressing on **Gender Mainstreaming** will remain high on our agenda and should not be limited to arithmetical considerations or checklists. While these are very important safeguards, gender mainstreaming should be an integral and genuine element of our decision-making process, beyond numbers: a matter of consciousness. With the Swedish OSCE Chairpersonship and with the new OSCE Secretary General we have a unique opportunity to mark meaningful progress, not least in engaging women in all elements of the conflict cycle.

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In conclusion, I wish to express my **deepest gratitude to the outgoing OSCE PA President and Bureau**. Together we have navigated through an unprecedented global crisis, and together we are coming out of it as an even more relevant organization. Thank you for your passion and belief in politics and in multilateral cooperation, it has been a privilege working with and for you. The International Secretariat and I personally will continue - with unchanged commitment and dedication - to work to support the new President, Bureau and the entire Assembly. Finally, allow me for a plea: the OSCE is all about multilateralism and inclusivity, this Assembly needs to be a body where all participating States engage on an equal footing – from Vancouver to Vladivostok. It is our biggest added value, and we need to make full use of it. Thank you for believing in multilateralism and parliamentarism.

Annex I – OSCE PA Activities in the reporting period (March – June 2021)

This table refers to OSCE PA events (highlighted in blue) and external outreach activities conducted by the International Secretariat autonomously or in direct support to PA Members. It does not include routine coordination meetings, daily and office-based work on a number of further projects and activities, public statements, nor the OSCE meetings regularly attended by the Vienna Liaison Office Staff.

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| OSCE PA Winter Meeting (Committees, Plenary, Standing Committee) | 24-26 Feb. |
| Participation in the UK House of Lords conference on humanitarian crises, resettlements and assisted voluntary returns | 5 Mar. |
| 2nd Meeting of the OSCE PA Call for Action - Helsinki +50 Process | 10 Mar. |
| Informal Bureau Meeting | 11 Mar. |
| Web Dialogue initiated by the 3 rd Committee on Humanitarian protection & human rights in conflict zones | 12 Mar. |
| President's address to the Kalinowski Conference | 22 Mar. |
| Chair of Migration Committee and OSCE SR CTHB Joint Meetings (online visit) on Bosnia and Herzegovina | 22-25 Mar. |
| Address of the Chair of the 1 st Committee to the OSCE FSC | 24 Mar. |
| Election Observation Mission to Bulgaria | 4 April |
| Informal meeting with Members of the European Parliament on Migration | 13 April |
| Meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on Migration | 14 April |
| Address of the Special Rep. on Arctic Issues to 14 th Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region | 14 April |
| Participation of the SG in the OSCE Heads of Institution Meeting | 14 April |
| International Parliamentary Conference on “Global Challenges and Threats in the Context of the COVID-19 Pandemic: Terrorism and Violent Extremism” (OSCE PA, PAM, IPA CIS and UNOCT) | 15 April |
| OSCE PA Bureau Meeting | 19 April |
| Address of the Special Rep. on Gender Issues to OSCE Human Dimension Committee | 20 April |
| Keynote address of the CCT Chair to the 2021 OSCE-wide Counter-terrorism Conference on “Reinforcing a Comprehensive Approach in Preventing and Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism and Radicalisation that Lead to Terrorism (VERLT) in a Changing Landscape” | 20-21 April |
| Presentation of the DSG on the OSCE PA to the Danish Institute Security | 21 April |
| SR Eastern Europe Call on Moldova | 22 April |
| Election Observation Mission to Albania | 25 April |
| President Address to ODIHR SHDM on Democratic Law-Making | 26 April |
| Participation in the Needs Assessment Mission (NAM) to Armenia | 28-20 Apr. |
| Meeting of the Special Rep. on Arctic Issues with the Sami Council | 3 May |
| Briefing with PA Secretaries of Delegation | 4 May |
| 3rd Meeting of the OSCE PA Call for Action - Helsinki +50 Process | 5 May |

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| Address of the 2nd Committee Rapporteur to the OSCE Economic and Environmental Committee meeting on environment, sustainable economic development and security | 12 May |
| SG address to IPA CIS Conference on Election Observation | 13 May |
| CCT Hearing on Prosecution, Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTFs) - the Kazakh Experience | 18 May |
| Joint OSCE PA-ODIHR-OSCE Gender Section Webinar on gender violence | 19 May |
| Follow-up meeting with the US Delegation on US EOM | 19 May |
| Special Rep. on Central Asia meeting with Central Asian ambassadors to OSCE | 19-20 May |
| Special Rep. on Arctic Issues informal meeting with PA Arctic Delegations | 21 May |
| PA Web Dialogue initiated by the 2nd Committee on Framing the Environmental Security – Public Health Nexus | 25 May |
| President Meeting with Uzbekistan Ambassador to OSCE | 25 May |
| Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Migration Meeting with Spanish Delegation | 26 May |
| President Address to the European Parliament Foreign Affairs Committee - AFET | 26 May |
| PA Meeting with young political leaders (in the framework of the Call for Action) | 27 May |
| Visit of ODIHR Director and Head of Elections to the International Secretariat | 28 May |
| Informal Retreat of OSCE Heads of Institution hosted by the PA SG | 31 May - 1 June |
| Visit of the Special Rep. on Mediterranean Affairs to Vienna/OSCE | 2-3 June |
| Participation in the Needs Assessment Mission (NAM) to the Russian Fed. | 2-5 June |
| Address of the 2nd Committee Rapporteur to the Regional Growth Conference in Patras (Greece) | 3 June |
| Participation in Meeting of the OSCE Group of Friends of Youth and Security | 4 June |
| Web Dialogue initiated by the 3 rd Committee on Health as Human Right | 4 June |
| Migration Committee follow-up meeting on Lesbos | 7 June |
| Meeting of the OSCE PA Bureau | 10 June |
| PA Web Dialogue initiated by the 1 st Committee on Transparency and Predictability in Military Affairs | 14 June |
| Address of the Special Rep. on Human Trafficking to the OSCE Alliance against Trafficking Meeting | 14-15 June |
| Address of the Chair of the 3 rd Committee to the OSCE HDC | 15 June |
| Address of the CCT Chair at the Inauguration ceremony of the UNOCT Programme Office on Parliamentary Engagement in Preventing and Countering Terrorism in Doha, Qatar | 16 June |
| Participation in the UK House of Lords Conference on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of Refugee Convention and World Refugee Day 2021 | 18 June |
| Election Observation Mission to Armenia | 20 June |
| Address of the PA President and the Special Rep. on Central Asia to Interparliamentary Forum on UN SDGs in Uzbekistan | 23 June |

Annex II – Work Plan of the Call for Action – Helsinki +50 Initiative

A Parliamentary Contribution to Restoring OSCE Effectiveness

a. Background

In July 2020, after participating States failed to reach consensus on the reappointment of OSCE Heads of Institution, it was acknowledged that, while some of the challenges facing the Organization are of a political nature and due to the broader crisis of multilateralism, others are specific to the OSCE: different visions on the purpose and function of the Organization and its executive structures, increasing mistrust between participating States, a loss of focus as a result of the ever increasing expansion of the agenda, lack of investment and resources and consequent micromanagement and, more broadly, an overarching lack of strategic political interest by governments.

In a process triggered by former President George Tsereteli, the OSCE PA offered its contribution - especially by leveraging its added value and its ability to promote dialogue and generate public awareness - to revive the work of the OSCE and bring back high-level political attention. One important way to achieve this is to mobilize national parliamentary delegations, encouraging them, in their interaction within national Parliaments and vis-à-vis governments, to foster a more central role for the OSCE in the current international security environment. In the perspective of the 50th Anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act in 2025 (H+50), this would help increase political interest in the OSCE by participating States, enhancing the effectiveness of the Organization by bringing the parliamentary and governmental sides closer to each other for added value.

Parliamentarians can play an instrumental role in helping to place a number of complex political and security issues on the agenda of the Organization. These can be addressed using the toolbox of the OSCE, simultaneously encouraging the necessary modernization of this toolbox, and stressing the need to ensure full respect of commitments by all or questioning, wherever appropriate, the level of engagement of respective governments in the OSCE or the reasons behind specific decisions. The Call for Action initiative is based on a principle of complementarity of all OSCE components and aims at providing the Organization with the required parliamentary support. In this way, the OSCE can truly “deliver as a whole”, in the words of OSCE Secretary General Helga Schmid.

OSCE PA Secretary General Montella appointed Ambassador Lamberto Zannier as High-Level Expert to coordinate these efforts within the International Secretariat, under the leadership of the PA President, the Bureau and the Standing Committee.

b. Key documents

Call for Action document

The **Call for Action (CfA) document** was initially illustrated during a parliamentary event marking the 30th Anniversary of the Charter of Paris and formally launched at an event in the margins of the Tirana OSCE Ministerial Council. Signed by 52 current and former OSCE leaders, the document points to the need to strengthen the role of the OSCE in addressing contemporary challenges and to enhance its effectiveness, including through the promotion of genuine political dialogue. Its aim is to serve as a basis for further work, focusing on the role of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

“OSCE Call for Action: Reaffirming a Common Purpose” Non-Paper

On the basis of the Call for Action document, a **Non-Paper** laying out in more detail the main challenges the OSCE is facing was developed by the Secretariat and circulated to all PA delegations, all signatories of the Call for Action and other participants of the targeted meetings.

c. Activities

1. Targeted General Meetings

After a first general meeting to discuss the key objectives of the process, held on 27 January 2021, on the basis of the Secretariat non-paper, a number of targeted meetings were held to address each of the points raised by the participants and to discuss how the PA can contribute more specifically. Such events have initially been held online, but there is the intention to organize some in selected capitals when conditions allow. Issues identified as a priority in the discussions among Parliamentary delegations include the following: managing consensus; enhancing dialogue; strengthening implementation review mechanisms; promoting better gender mainstreaming; ensuring timely and sufficient resources for the Organization; improving interaction with the civil society; streamlining and reprioritizing the OSCE agenda.

General meetings

27 January 2021 First CfA Meeting

Current challenges facing the OSCE, in particular the lack of recognition at the highest levels and the poor level of implementation of commitments, were highlighted as factors of concern. Having observed the failure to improve the functioning of the Organization as repeatedly recommended by groups of eminent experts, the CfA initiative should help clarify some of the complexities and mobilize the political will to undertake possible initiatives to make the Organization stronger, more relevant and more visible. Parliamentarians, with their connection with ministers and other policymakers and their ability to engage with civil society, could play a critical role in advocating on behalf of the OSCE commitments and values and in increasing attention to the Organization. Promoting the OSCE’s field work and focusing on its comparative advantage were highlighted as essential.

10 March 2021 Second CfA Meeting on Consensus rule

Participants noted that the consensus rule, although essential for the sake of legitimacy of decisions and equality between all participating States, can be abused to obstruct key meetings and used as a bargaining chip. This problem not only complicates decision-making on issues of importance to the broader OSCE community but also threatens the Organization’s ability to fulfil its mandate. Against this backdrop, participants suggested a number of reforms of the consensus rule, identifying the areas where consensus may not be necessary, encouraging Chair/Troika to take decisions directly in relation to organizational/administrative matters not requiring additional financial resources, and promoting the establishment of an accountability mechanism compelling the vetoing party/ies to provide reasonable justifications. It was also agreed that MPs could play a crucial role in raising interest in the OSCE agenda in their national governments and could potentially hold the governments to account with regard to the decisions adopted or objected to.

5 May 2021 Third CfA Meeting on Revitalizing Dialogue

Participants and speakers alike stressed the need for parliamentarians to promote the Organization’s work in capitals, in order to improve the level of awareness and accountability. The respect of common values was deemed essential in developing meaningful dialogue, which is obviously affected by the overall, difficult political climate. Key topics raised included: a stronger connection with the civil society, including encouraging the establishment of national “Helsinki Committees” focusing on all aspects of the OSCE agenda and providing their inputs to Parliaments and governments; ensuring the ability of the Organization to deploy its toolkit wherever necessary; upholding key principles of a rules-based order.

2. Involving youth

Considering the importance of the role young people play in building lasting peace and security, youth perspectives should be a key component of the initiative. To that end, a first youth event took place on 27 May 2021, to provide young parliamentarians and other young political leaders with a space to exchange views on their vision of the OSCE, set forth their priorities for such a regional cooperation mechanism and reflect on the added value they bring to the table as current and future legislators. A follow-up meeting is foreseen after the summer, also with a view to exploring possible future youth contributions to the CfA process.

3. Focused meetings with individual Parliaments

In addition to the targeted general meetings, focused parliamentary meetings will be organized in individual participating States with the aim of discussing how to raise the profile of the Organization in each respective country in light of national perceptions. This activity will start in Vienna, with a first meeting in July 2021, back-to-back with the OSCE PA Summer Session.

d. Calendar of events

b. in 2020

| Date | Event Description | Venue |
|-----------------------|--|--------------|
| 2 Sept 2020 | Initial OSCE PA internal Brainstorming with the PA President and the Secretariat. | Helsingor |
| October-December 2020 | Development and presentation of the initiative to the OSCE PA Bureau and Standing Committee and discussion. Consultations with prospective CfA signatories on the possible contents. | Online |
| 20 November | Event marking the 30th Anniversary of the Charter of Paris – Initial presentation of a detailed concept for the “Call for Action” | Paris/online |
| 3 Dec 2020 | OSCE PA side event introducing “OSCE Call for Action: Reaffirming a Common Purpose” document at the margins of the OSCE Tirana Ministerial Council | Online |

c. in 2021/22

| Date | Event Description | Venue |
|--------------------|---|------------------------------|
| 27 Jan 2021 | First meeting to launch of the CfA/H+50 Process | Online |
| 10 Mar 2021 | Second meeting of the CfA/H+50 Process (consensus) | Online |
| 5 May 2021 | Third meeting of the CfA/H+50 Process (revitalizing dialogue) | Online |
| 27 May 2021 | OSCE PA meeting with Young Political Leaders | Online |
| 7 Jul 2021 | Focused bilateral meetings with individual countries: AUSTRIA | Vienna |
| Sep 2021 | Thematic meeting on the role of women in Parliament in promoting peace and security | Online |
| Sept/Oct 2021 | Follow-up Youth event | Online |
| Oct 2021 | Thematic Meeting focusing on the Human dimension in the OSCE | Hybrid Vienna/onli ne |
| Nov. 2021 | Focused meeting with an OSCE PA member state Parliament | TBC |
| Nov. 2021 | Thematic Meeting on PA contribution to improving the effectiveness of the Organization: i.a., financial and human resources, legal personality. | Online TBC |
| Dec. 2021 | Report to the MC by the OSCE PA President and possible side-event | OSCE MC |
| January 2022 | Reviewing interaction between the governmental and the parliamentary side of the OSCE | Online TBC |
| February 2022 | Focused meeting with an OSCE PA member state Parliament | TBC |
| Winter/Spring 2022 | Streamlining and prioritizing the agenda of the OSCE: separate meetings of the 3 OSCE PA Committees in a CfA/H+50 mode. | TBC |
| Spring 2022 | Interaction of parliaments with civil society and the role of civil society in the OSCE. | Online TBC |
| May 2022 | Focused meeting with an OSCE PA member state Parliament | TBC |
| July 2022 | Presentation of a report to the Summer Session for a discussion on the way forward towards the 50th Anniversary (OSCE Summit?) | OSCE PA Summer Session |