

News from Copenhagen

Kanerva addresses IPU Conference and holds meetings in New York



PACE President Anne Brasseur and OSCE PA President Ilkka Kanerva



Speaker of the Georgian Parliament David Usupashvili, PA President Ilkka Kanerva and PA Secretary General Spencer Oliver



Incoming UN General Assembly President Mogens Lykkesøft and President Ilkka Kanerva

OSCE PA President Ilkka Kanerva (MP, Finland) spoke before leaders from some 140 countries gathered at the Inter-Parliamentary Union's World Conference of Speakers of Parliament at the United Nations headquarters in New York on Tuesday. Calling better co-operation among parliaments and inter-parliamentary bodies necessary to meet economic, environmental, human rights and security challenges, President Kanerva urged the international community to pursue humane development programmes as called for in the Sustainable Development Goals to be launched later this month.

"Are we moving towards more a secure world, with Sustainable Development Goals taken seriously, or are we moving towards more confrontation, or even war? The answer to that question depends on us and on our ability to deepen our co-operation and to tolerate each other in order to secure peaceful and humane international development," the OSCE PA President said.

President Kanerva also noted the parallel between sustainable development pledges and the commitments contained in the Helsinki Final Act, the OSCE's founding document. In the end, "keeping our word" is key, he said.

While in New York, Kanerva met with incoming UN General Assembly President and former Speaker of the Danish Parliament Mogens Lykkesøft. He also met bilaterally with Speaker of the Georgian Parliament David Usupashvili, who will host the 2016 OSCE PA Annual Session, for discussions that focused on the situation regarding Abkhazia and South Ossetia as well as Georgia's EU and NATO aspirations.

President Kanerva, who was accompanied by PA Secretary General Spencer Oliver, also met with PACE President Anne Brasseur; Speaker of the Montenegrin Parliament and OSCE PA President Emeritus Ranko Krivokapic; Ambassador Yuriy Sergeyev, the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the UN; Ambassador Milan Milanovic, the Permanent Representative of Serbia to the UN; high-level UN security experts; and representatives of several leading NGOs.



PA President Ilkka Kanerva delivering address at UN headquarters.

14th OSCE PA Autumn Meeting to take place in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia



The 2015 Autumn Meeting of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly will be held on 15-18 September in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. The theme for this year's Meeting is "Addressing security challenges for the OSCE region and beyond: the role of parliamentarians in fostering regional co-operation."

Parliamentarians from across the OSCE's 57 participating

States are expected to attend, discussing security issues within the politico-military, environment-economic and democracy-human rights dimensions.

Keynote speakers scheduled to address the PA include Chairman of the State Great Hural (Parliament) of Mongolia Enkhbold Zandaakhuu, Head of the Mongolian Delegation to the OSCE PA Migidorj Batchimeg, other leading Mongolian parliamentarians and representatives of the United Nations and other international organizations at work in the region. The Meeting will also feature a special roundtable on Central Asia with the Heads of OSCE field presences in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

Mongolia, the most recent country to become an OSCE participating State, will be hosting an OSCE PA meeting for the first time.