

## REPORT BY MR ILKKA KANERVA, OSCE PA SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE ON MEDIATION

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In September 2016, I was appointed as Special Representative on Mediation by the President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Christine Muttonen.

The mandate of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's Special Representative on Mediation covers:

- To act as the primary point of contact within the PA on mediation and the conflict cycle;
- To coordinate the PA's efforts and activities aimed at strengthening the PA's preparedness for mediation and dialogue facilitation;
- To present concrete initiatives and activities as a follow-up to the OSCE PA Resolution on the Development of Mediation Capacity in the OSCE area adopted in Baku in 2014;
- To follow developments in the international security situation, with a special emphasis on protracted and emerging conflicts;
- To liaise with the OSCE, its independent Institutions and field operations on all issues pertinent to the conflict cycle;
- To increase the contribution of parliamentarians to mediation activities conducted by the OSCE with a special emphasis on strengthening the ties between the PA and the governmental side of the organization;
- To liaise with other international organizations dealing with mediation issues, promoting the role of parliamentary diplomacy in conflict prevention and resolution;
- To report to the President on all activities in a timely manner and to present a report to the Assembly and its Standing Committee as needed.

Hereby I am providing the third review of my work when acting as the primary point of contact within the Parliamentary Assembly on mediation and the conflict cycle.

During the reporting period, I focused on liaising with relevant OSCE structures on issues concerning the conflict cycle as well as on increasing the contribution of OSCE PA to mediation activities with a special emphasis on strengthening the ties between the PA and the governmental side of the organization. This has provided me with a possibility to look into concrete cases in which an inter-parliamentary dialogue could complement the on-going OSCE mediation efforts.

#### **Co-operation with the relevant OSCE executives**

Mediation actions facilitated by the OSCE PA are directed to complement the on-going OSCE mediation processes. Inter-parliamentary dialogue plays an important role in providing benefit to all phases of the conflict cycle as it helps to build trust, produce new ideas as well as lay solid foundations for closer co-operation. It is valuable instrument in conflict prevention but also serves as a supportive tool to complement conflict resolution processes.

Further enhanced co-operation and coordination between the OSCE PA and other relevant OSCE structures is vital in order to obtain wanted results in our joint OSCE work. Only through cooperation, we can identify when and where inter-parliamentary dialogue can play a prominent role in addressing an on-going or emerging conflict situation. Therefore, I remain to be engaged in close cooperation and coordination of mediation efforts with relevant OSCE structures.

On September 20, I traveled to Vienna to hold discussions with the OSCE Chairmanship, the Office of the OSCE Secretary General, the OSCE Secretariat as well as with representatives of the governmental side of the OSCE. The objective of my visit was to strengthen the cooperation on mediation between the Assembly and other OSCE structures and exchange views on how the parliamentarians can support the priority areas of work for the OSCE, including on-going OSCE conflict mediation processes. The meetings provided me with a lot of invaluable food-for-thought as regards possible parliamentary actions in mediation. I also used the meetings as an opportunity to invite the OSCE executive structures to make better use of the OSCE PA in the field of mediation as well as to involve the OSCE PA in activities pertaining to the prevention of future crises.

Additionally, I have followed changes in the security situation in the OSCE area, paying particular attention to the on-going and protracted conflicts. I have discussed about specific conflicts, such as in Cyprus, Moldova and Ukraine, with representatives of the OSCE parliamentary assembly and relevant OSCE partners.

### **Strengthening mediation capabilities of the OSCE PA**

In my capacity as OSCE PA Special Representative on Mediation, I strive to enhance mediation capabilities of the Assembly. I pay particular attention to finding synergies with other Special Representatives as well as ad hoc –groups.

Additionally, I am interested in setting up a Mediation Standby –team within the Assembly and currently assessing a feasibility of the idea. Mediation standby –team would provide an instrument to further enhance the Assembly`s reaction capability to crises. A team, trained by mediation specialists, could be sent to field in times of crisis to support in assessing the situation and the needs, as well as making policy recommendations to the OSCE executive bodies for future action.

### **Gender inclusiveness in mediation**

I would like to emphasize the importance of gender inclusiveness in the OSCE mediation efforts. Women and men play important roles in consolidating peace. Unfortunately, women remain underrepresented in mediation efforts, also in the OSCE.

Women`s participation in mediation efforts is a matter of equality. However, it has a practical side too: by embracing gender inclusiveness in mediation, we are able to bring a perspective of both genders into the peace process, contribute to a more comprehensive peace agreement and accordingly, strengthen the prospects for sustainable peace. Therefore, it is our common interest to make the OSCE mediation efforts more efficient and sustainable.

Adopting the Resolution on Promoting Gender Inclusive and Responsive Mediation as a part of the Minsk Declaration of the OSCE PA is an important step forward and sends a prominent political signal. I would like to thank the Assembly for its support and encourage all of us to continue the work in bringing the points of the resolution into practice.

I would like to conclude my report by expressing high appreciation for the leadership of the OSCE PA and the OSCE PA Secretariat both in Copenhagen and in Vienna. Your support to the implementation of my mandate is invaluable and I remain deeply grateful of it.