



Delegation of Canada
to the OSCE

Délégation du Canada
auprès de l'OSCE

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR JOCELYN KINNEAR
IN RESPONSE TO THE ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF
THE OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
1408th MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

26 January 2023

Thank you Mr. Chairperson,

Canada would like to thank the President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Margareta Cederfelt, for her address to the Permanent Council. The Parliamentary Assembly brings an important and complementary perspective to the issues we are discussing within the OSCE and we will continue to follow closely its work over the course of the year. We particularly look forward to hosting the Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in Vancouver.

President Cederfelt,

We commend the strong advocacy role you are playing in support of Ukraine, in support of accountability, and in support of OSCE principles and commitments. We could not agree more with your statement at the Ministerial Council in Lodz that there can be no impunity for crimes committed in Ukraine.

Mr. Chairperson,

We also welcome the strong support that parliamentarians expressed, during the Fall meeting in Warsaw, for Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, and their calls for the Russian Federation to end its war of aggression. Likewise, we welcomed the OSCE PA visit to Georgia last year, we share your regret that at the shortened extension of the OSCE Mission in Moldova, and we join your call for the immediate release of Vladimir Kara-Murza and of the three detained SMM monitors. We will closely follow Parliamentary Assembly discussions on these issues at the upcoming Winter Meeting.

I would like to join my UK colleague in commending the PA's work in advancing gender equality. The OSCE has a key role to play in implementing the Women, Peace and Security agenda (WPS) and we welcome the PA's commitment in support of the full, equal, and meaningful participation of women in parliamentary activities in the OSCE region.

As a final point, we welcome the Parliamentary Assembly's continued commitment to observing elections and promoting democracy, human rights and the rule of law in all OSCE participating States. Democracy and security go hand in hand and for this reason, and in line with the OSCE comprehensive approach to security, we must ensure that ODIHR is appropriately resourced to achieve its mandate, including through its partnership with the OSCE PA, in order to support us all as participating States.

Thank you Mr. Chairperson.