



Nuclear threats and common security in Europe in light of the Russian invasion of Ukraine

Background and recommendations to the 30th Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

June 7 updated version

Background

The Russian invasion of Ukraine - in violation the UN Charter and OSCE commitments and principles – has resulted in a humanitarian catastrophe in Ukraine, a refugee crisis in the wider region, and a severe erosion of security and trust in Europe. It has elevated the risks of further escalation of armed conflict and of nuclear war. And it has impacted negatively on a range of other security issues including energy supply, climate change, public health/covid management and implementation of the sustainable development goals. Addressing this issue should be a priority for the OSCE and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

Roles of the OSCE and other security bodies

[PNND's recommendations to the OSCE PA](#) are based on the specific security roles that the OSCE plays, in recognition of the different but overlapping roles played by other security bodies such as the United Nations, NATO and European Union.

* **The UN** was established as a **global security organization** to prevent war and advance social development. It serves as the primary body for ensuring peace, security and adherence to international law.

* **NATO** was established as a **collective defence organization**. Its primary role is to deter aggression against its members and respond collectively if attacked.

* **The EU** was established as a **collective security organization**. Its primary role is to advance economic and human security amongst its members, but it also includes a [collective defence agreement](#) and military cooperation amongst its members.

* **The OSCE** was established as a **common security organization**. Its primary role is to seek security for all through conflict resolution, trust-building, protecting human rights, advancing democracy and advancing the rule of law.

[Below](#) are recommendations of amendments to the [Draft resolution for the General Committee on Political Affairs and Security for the 30th Annual Assembly of the OSCEPA](#). The recommendations take into account the differing roles of the key European security bodies, and in particular the roles of the OSCE and its parliamentary assembly.

For further background on common security in Europe and globally, we commend the [UNFOLD ZERO Common Security portal](#) and the [Common Security Report 2022](#).

This background paper with recommendations is prepared by Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (PNND), a global network of legislators working on a range of initiatives to prevent nuclear proliferation and to achieve a nuclear weapons free world. www.pnnd.org info@pnnd.org

RECOMMENDED AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAFT RESOLUTION FOR THE GENERAL COMMITTEE ON POLITICAL AFFAIRS AND SECURITY

1. Emphasise the key roles of the OSCE for maintaining common security in Europe:

Proposed amendment: Before paragraph 1, add the following text from the [29th OSCEPA Birmingham Declaration](#):

“Reiterating the role of the OSCE as an effective all-inclusive platform where, through the facilitation of diplomatic efforts and co-operation, participating States can rebuild basic trust and confidence, de-escalate long-standing hostilities, enhance sustainable peace, comprehensive security and democracy, and revitalize the shared values and principles of the OSCE region.”

Explanation: It is important to restate these core principles of the OSCE up front for two reasons. Firstly, it will ensure that subsequent paragraphs criticizing one or more OSCE member states are correctly perceived as implementation of the OSCE principles and not as bias against those countries. Secondly, it is important to ensure that the important roles of the OSCE (and the Parliamentary Assembly) to facilitate dialogue, diplomacy and conflict resolution in the Russia/Ukraine conflict are supported, along with the other roles of the OSCE (and Parliamentary Assembly) to condemn violations of the OSCE principles and international law.

2. Strengthen the language on nuclear risk reduction and disarmament

Proposed amendments of paragraph 33:

a) Split the paragraph into two - para 1 on nuclear risk reduction and para 2 on nuclear disarmament:
Make a new (second) paragraph out of the text *“Encourages all participating states to sign and ratify the 2017 Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons as well as to redouble international dialogue and agreements to advance nuclear disarmament.”*

b) Strengthen the first paragraph (on nuclear risk reduction):

After *“Calls for the immediate end of nuclear threat escalation fueled by the Russian Federation’s war against Ukraine,”* add the language that was adopted in the 29th OSCEPA Birmingham Declaration: *“reaffirms the Reagan–Gorbachev dictum that a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought, and urges all nuclear-armed and allied States to implement this through no-first-use declarations and agreements, and by further reducing the role of nuclear weapons in security doctrines.”*

c) Strengthen the second paragraph (nuclear disarmament):

Amend the paragraph to read:

“Encourages all participating states to redouble international dialogue and agreements to achieve the global elimination of nuclear weapons within a timebound framework, including by negotiating a comprehensive nuclear weapons convention or framework of agreements as recommended in the final agreed document of the 8th Review Conference of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) - or by ratifying the 2017 Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.”

Explanation: The nuclear armed states and other states relying on extended nuclear deterrence (including such countries that are members of the OSCE) are all opposed to joining the TPNW and none are likely to join. On the other hand, all OSCE countries agreed to the final document of the 8th Review Conference of the NPT that affirmed the commitment to a nuclear-weapon-free world and highlighted the proposals from the UN Secretary-General and UN General Assembly for a nuclear weapons convention or framework of agreements. With the next NPT Prep Com coming up in August, an affirmation of the NPT agreement will be helpful in advancing its implementation and the global elimination of nuclear weapons within a specified period of time.

For further background see [NWC Reset: Frameworks for a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World](#), a civil society working paper to the NPT Review Conference.