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THE FUTURE OF THE WORLD  
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**PLENARY SESSION 1: GEOSTRATEGIC RECONSTRUCTION OF THE WORLD**

**Speech by Ms Margareta CEDERFELT**

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President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

Honorables, Excelencis  
Members of Parliament  
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is an immense honour to stand before you today to discuss the essential values and principles that must continue to define our world tomorrow.

In these turbulent times, it is more critical than ever that we remain vocal in our defence of these universal principles: civil liberties, the rule of law, and the sanctity of human rights.

I address you today in a dual capacity – as a Swedish MP who has long been outspoken about Russia's actions and as President of OSCE PA which has denounced the clear, gross and still uncorrected violations of the Helsinki Final Act by Russia in Ukraine since 2014. As well as it's neighbours worldwide and the regimes lack of respect for fundamental HR.

To my grave dismay, we are today living in a world in which Russia chose force over dialogue – in contravention of all principles of international law.

The unjustified and unprovoked Russian aggression of Ukraine continues to cause immense human suffering. It threatens peace and stability in every corner of the globe. This is why we are compelled to speak loudly and firmly in support of Ukraine and to translate this support into acts.

These commitment go hand in hand, as demonstrated by Sweden's Chairpersonship in OSCE 2021, the OSCE is a fundamental pillar of European Security Order and must be safeguarded.

Although some may disagree with the fact that the Russian Federation retains a seat at the table, we must remain wary of not "shooting the messenger". Rather than denouncing powerless international institutions, we must work together to strengthen them.

In our comprehensive security architecture, the OSCE remains a unique instrument to promote links between all participating states, including through a strong transatlantic partnership, and to defend human rights and individual freedoms.

This does not mean that members of OSCE are shying away from firmly condemning the Russian Federation. I expect the upcoming Annual Session in Vancouver to once again be crystal clear in its support for Ukraine.

In particular, OSCE PA as well as the Swedish Parliament will remain clear that those guilty of the crime of aggression should be held accountable, That no war crime should go unpunished. And that an international tribunal should be instigated to investigate and prosecute all those responsible for Russian war crimes in Ukraine. Russia started the war and Russia must pay for it.

It is our collective responsibility to hold these individuals accountable to prevent such acts of aggression from occurring in the future. We must stand in solidarity with the Ukrainian people to ensure that their sovereignty and integrity are respected, and that violations of international law and human rights don't get unpunished.

As pursue justice for Ukraine, we hold high the universal values that must define the future of the world.

EU was founded on the belief that countries who cooperate don't make war against each other. At that time was Europe damaged by the second world war. EU have remained a strong advocate for peace, democracy, rule of law and stability. The EU's sanctions have significantly impacted the Russian economy, driving them to establish new trade routes to evade these restrictions. The burgeoning partnership between Russia and Iran, along with their efforts to bypass sanctions, is worrisome. We must ensure no market for Russian goods exists, even if exports are feasible. To achieve this, the EU should forge stronger economic ties with Central Asia, India, and the Middle East, reducing their reliance on sanctioned Russian products and weakening Russia's connections.

Additionally, it is crucial to undermine Russia's military capacity by ensuring the effectiveness of our sanctions. Russia desperately needs Western weapon components, and we must strive to keep critical technology for weapons systems, drones, and tanks out of their hands. There is evidence that some Western components have reached Russia through third countries, which undermines our efforts to support Ukraine militarily. We must bolster our preventative measures.

As champions of freedom, we must stand firm in the face of such adversity to ensure that the torch of liberty burns high for generations to come. The human spirit yearns for freedom and it is our sacred duty to nurture that flame.

We must also realize the need to invest in – and share the burden of – protecting the free world through strong multilateral organizations. No single nation can shoulder this responsibility alone. But together we can build a just and fair global community, where all people can thrive and prosper, free from oppression and tyranny.

This goes together with a renewed commitment to international law. Rather than international lawlessness, the world of tomorrow must be defined by strong and actionable international rules.

A world of conclusion, let us reflect that we have all the ingredients to make tomorrow's world safer and more prosperous for all. But we need to generate more political will to vigorously protect freedom and the rule of law, to defend territorial sovereignty and integrity and to better equip our multilateral institutions.

To do so we must encourage our younger generations to take more responsibilities. Great leadership is not conditioned by age, gender or experience. As we do in OSCE Parliamentary Assembly as well as in Sweden, we must promote the role of young parliamentarians to better prepare for tomorrow.

As we face the challenges that lie ahead, let us not be deterred, but instead draw strength from the bonds that unite us and the values that we hold dear. Together, we have to believe that we can build a safer, more just and freer world for all.

Let us remember that “The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good people to do nothing”. Let us not shy away from our responsibilities, but instead rise to the challenges that we are facing today and make the world a little bit better and more peaceful for future generations.

Thank you.

*A video of the speech:*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xkCzMxa7sWI&list=PLafTseM15bmGXfMyNS2B41zIF24U8cX6h&index=2>