



OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media Teresa Ribeiro meeting with Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan Abdulaziz Kamilov, Tashkent, 11 September 2021 (OSCE)

PRESS RELEASE

23rd OSCE Central Asia Media Conference on Promoting Public Value of the Media in Central Asia concluded in Tashkent

TASHKENT, 13 September 2021 – The 23rd annual OSCE Central Asia Media conference, organized by the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, ended on 10 September in Uzbekistan, after two days of discussions on public service media, public value of the media and safety of journalists in Central Asia and Mongolia.

The conference was opened by OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media **Teresa Ribeiro**, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan **Gayrat Fazilov**, Deputy Chairperson of the Board of Trustees, Public Fund for Support and Development of National Mass Media of Uzbekistan **Saida Mirziyoyeva**, and Senior Project Officer, OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan **Hans-Ulrich Ihm**.

Closing the event, Ribeiro stressed that she is fully aware that states are confronted with ever new and emerging challenges and that keeping their people safe is rightly a top priority for any government. “At the same time, however,” the OSCE Media Freedom Representative continued, “we must make sure that this safety does not come at the expense of our fundamental freedoms such as the freedom of expression. More safety does not mean less freedom. In fact, the one is impossible without the other.”

The hybrid event brought together approximately 120 participants from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Mongolia, representing government, media, journalists’

associations, civil society and academia. Conference materials, including videos of presentations, are available [here](#) .

During her visit to Uzbekistan, the Representative held high-level meetings with the Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdulaziz Kamilov; Chairperson of the Committee on Innovative Development, Information Policy and Information Technologies of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan Ilkhom Abdullayev; Director of the Agency on Information and Mass Communications under the Administration of the President Asadjon Khodjaev; Chairperson of the National TV & Radio Company Alisher Khodjaev; and Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the Board of Trustees, Public Fund for Support and Development of National Mass Media of Uzbekistan Komil Allamjonov and Saida Mirziyoyeva, respectively.

The Representative was briefed about the progress made in the ongoing reforms in Uzbekistan. She also discussed solutions to persisting challenges regarding media freedom in the country and the further engagement of her Office with various Uzbek counterparts.

The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media observes media developments in all 57 OSCE participating States. She provides early warning on violations of freedom of expression and media freedom and promotes full compliance with OSCE media freedom commitments. Learn more at www.osce.org/fom, Twitter: [@OSCE_RFoM](https://twitter.com/OSCE_RFoM) and on www.facebook.com/osce.rfom.

For PDF attachments or links to sources of further information, please visit: <https://www.osce.org/representative-on-freedom-of-media/497853>

Contacts:

Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media

Wallnerstrasse 6

1010 Vienna

Austria

Office: +43 1 514 36 6800

pm-fom@osce.org

Ton van den Brandt

Office: +43 1 514 36 6806

Antonius.vandenbrandt@osce.org