

Revolutionary for their time, heads of state and governments resolved to “build, consolidate and strengthen democracy as the only system of government of our nations.” Further, by affirming that government’s first responsibility is to ensure the “protection and promotion of human rights,” they explicitly linked the full attainment of those rights with “the foundation of freedom, justice and peace” and set the standard for relations and security within and among nations.

Now, 30 years later, I am deeply concerned that the fundamental freedoms that ODIHR was founded to safeguard are in peril.

Authoritarianism is on the rise in Europe. Credible reports allege there are more than 750 political prisoners in Belarus, many detained for participating peacefully in protest of the fraudulent elections of August 2020 and the brutal government crackdown that followed. In Hungary, Viktor Orban’s administration continues its unprecedented consolidation of Hungary’s media, even as opposition figures organize to resist him. In many countries across the OSCE area, we have witnessed an alarming rise in anti-Semitism, racism, religious and other intolerance, and violence against women. These scourges have worsened the conditions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic that disproportionately affect the most vulnerable in our communities.

With these and other challenges in mind, ODIHR’s valuable work to assist nations to live up to their commitments is more relevant and more needed than ever.

ODIHR is empowered by states to ensure respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law, and to promote and strengthen democratic institutions and tolerance. ODIHR actively partners with OSCE’s 57 participating states, civil society, and international organizations to support human rights defenders, enhance the independence of judiciaries, and promote human-rights-based policing. It offers legislative reviews and develops tools to support local government officials, including the Words into Action project, which enhances social inclusion within local communities and for which I proudly help secure funding.

The most visible demonstration of ODIHR’s collaboration with the United States is perhaps in the field of election observation, where its methodology is rightly seen as the gold standard in international election observation. Since its founding, ODIHR, the Department of State, and the U.S. Congress, through the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, have deployed thousands of American citizens and legislators to observe the conduct of elections across the OSCE area, including in the United States. Since OSCE states pledged in 1990 to hold free and fair elections, elections observation has been recognized as one of the most

transparent and methodical ways to encourage states’ commitment to democratic standards and is a hallmark of ODIHR’s work.

For nearly 30 years, ODIHR has organized Europe’s largest human rights review conference, the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting—HDIM—gathering thousands of representatives of governments, parliaments, and civil society for 2 weeks around the same table to review progress on human rights commitments. Unfortunately, the HDIM did not take place this September. Russia blocked consensus to hold the meeting, thereby denying the OSCE region’s nearly 1 billion citizens of a meaningful and sustained opportunity to hold their governments to account.

In September, Russia also prevented ODIHR from deploying a full and independent election observation mission to observe its Duma elections. Likewise, Russia was responsible for the closure of OSCE’s border observation mission, which provided valuable insight into the personnel and materiel flowing across Russia’s border into the temporarily occupied areas of eastern Ukraine.

ODIHR’s work is more important and relevant than at any time since its founding at the end of the Cold War. I would like to take a moment to extend my heartfelt appreciation to ODIHR’s 180 staff from 35 countries, upon whose dedication and professionalism we rely as we strive to realize an equitable and just future for all.

ODIHR is not only the human rights arm of the world’s largest regional security organization; it is also the independent body endowed to assist us as we pursue this important goal.

The phrase “Vancouver to Vladivostok” is routinely invoked to describe the organization’s broad geographical reach. However, it is perhaps ODIHR—and OSCE’s—revolutionary and comprehensive concept of “security,” which includes military security, economic and environmental cooperation, and human rights, that is its defining characteristic and most important contribution to world peace and the reason why we should all be celebrating ODIHR’s 30th anniversary this year and take steps to ensure its success for years to come.

GENEVA CONSENSUS DECLARATION

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this month marks the first anniversary of the Geneva Consensus Declaration on Promoting Women’s Health and Strengthening the Family. The historic coalition that issued this declaration was formed by a diverse group of countries committed to advancing women’s health, protecting life at every stage while affirming that there is no international right to abortion, upholding the importance of the family as foundational to society, and defending the sovereign right of Nations to

make their own laws to advance these core values, without external pressure. The Geneva Consensus Declaration was signed on October 22, 2020, by 32 countries from every region of the world, representing more than 1,600,000,000 people, which committed to working together on the core pillars enshrined in the declaration, and five countries have subsequently signed. Although President Biden removed the United States as a signatory to the Geneva Consensus Declaration earlier this year, at least temporarily, the coalition is alive and growing, currently consisting of 36 countries.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the text of this landmark document and the names of the 36 signatory countries.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

GENEVA CONSENSUS DECLARATION ON PROMOTING WOMEN’S HEALTH AND STRENGTHENING THE FAMILY

We, ministers and high representatives of Governments,

Having intended to gather on the margins of the 2020 World Health Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland to review progress made and challenges to uphold the right to the highest attainable standards of health for women; to promote women’s essential contribution to health, and strength of the family and of a successful and flourishing society; and to express the essential priority of protecting the right to life, committing to coordinated efforts in multilateral fora; despite our inability to meet in Geneva due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, in solidarity, we

1. Reaffirm “all are equal before the law,” and “human rights of women are an inalienable, integral, and indivisible part of all human rights and fundamental freedoms”;

2. Emphasize “the equal right of men and women to the enjoyment of all civil and political rights,” as well as economic, social, and cultural rights; and the “equal rights, opportunities and access to resources and equal sharing of responsibilities for the family by men and women and a harmonious partnership between them are critical to their wellbeing and that of their families”; and that “women and girls must enjoy equal access to quality education, economic resources, and political participation as well as equal opportunities with men and boys for employment, leadership and decision-making at all levels”;

3. Reaffirm the inherent “dignity and worth of the human person,” that “every human being has the inherent right to life,” and the commitment “to enable women to go safely through pregnancy and childbirth and provide couples with the best chance of having a healthy infant”;

4. Emphasize that “in no case should abortion be promoted as a method of family planning” and that “any measures or changes related to abortion within the health system can only be determined at the national or local level according to the national legislative process”;

5. Reaffirm that “the child . . . needs special safeguards and care . . . before as well as after birth” and “special measures of protection and assistance should be taken on behalf of all children,” based on the principle of the best interest of the child; Reaffirm that “the family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State”; that “motherhood and childhood are entitled to

special care and assistance," that "women play a critical role in the family" and women's "contribution to the welfare of the family and to the development of society";

6. Recognize that "universal health coverage is fundamental for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals related not only to health and well-being," with further recognition that "health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity" that "the predominant focus of healthcare systems on treating illness rather than maintaining optimal health also prevents a holistic approach"; and that there are "needs that exist at different stages in an individual's lifespan," which together support optimal health across the life course, entailing the provision of the necessary information, skills, and care for achieving the best possible health outcomes and reaching full human potential; and

7. "Reaffirm the importance of national ownership and the primary role and responsibility of governments at all levels to determine their own path towards achieving universal health coverage, in accordance with national contexts and priorities", preserving human dignity and all the rights and freedoms set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Furthermore, we, the representatives of our sovereign nations do hereby declare in mutual friendship and respect, our commitment to work together to:

Ensure the full enjoyment of all human rights and equal opportunity for women at all levels of political, economic, and public life;

Improve and secure access to health and development gains for women, including sexual and reproductive health, which must always promote optimal health, the highest attainable standard of health, without including abortion;

Reaffirm that there is no international right to abortion, nor any international obligation on the part of States to finance or facilitate abortion, consistent with the longstanding international consensus that each nation has the sovereign right to implement programs and activities consistent with their laws and policies;

Build our health system capacity and mobilize resources to implement health and development programs that address the needs of women and children in situations of vulnerability and advance universal health coverage;

Advance supportive public health policies for women and girls as well as families, including building our healthcare capacity and mobilizing resources within our own countries, bilaterally, and in multilateral fora;

Support the role of the family as foundational to society and as a source of health, support, and care; and

Engage across the UN system to realize these universal values, recognizing that, individually we are strong, but together we are stronger.

MEMBER STATE SIGNATORIES

1. Kingdom of Bahrain
2. Republic of Belarus
3. Republic of Benin
4. Federative Republic of Brazil (cosponsor)
5. Burkina Faso
6. Republic of Cameroon
7. Republic of the Congo
8. Democratic Republic of the Congo
9. Republic of Djibouti
10. Arab Republic of Egypt (cosponsor)
11. Kingdom of Eswatini
12. Republic of The Gambia
13. Georgia
14. Republic of Guatemala

15. Republic of Haiti
16. Hungary (cosponsor)
17. Republic of Indonesia (cosponsor)
18. Republic of Iraq
19. Republic of Kenya
20. State of Kuwait
21. State of Libya
22. Republic of Nauru
23. Republic of Niger
24. Sultanate of Oman
25. Islamic Republic of Pakistan
26. Republic of Paraguay
27. Republic of Poland
28. Republic of Qatar
29. Russian Federation
30. Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
31. Republic of Senegal
32. Republic of South Sudan
33. Republic of Sudan
34. Republic of Uganda (cosponsor)
35. United Arab Emirates
36. Republic of Zambia

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING HINTON MILLS

• Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Kentucky small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize a family-owned small business and beloved eastern Kentucky staple, Hinton Mills of Flemingsburg, KY, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

In 1918, Frank L. Hinton and his wife, Ellora, established Hinton Mills in Goddard, KY. The general store, which provided supplies for local farmers, moved down the road to Plummers Landing in 1923. After serving in World War II, their son, Frank O. Hinton, returned to run the family business together with his wife, Maxine. Frank O., who had a passion for raising livestock, added a feed mill in 1956. By 1977, Hinton Mills had added locations in Flemingsburg, Ewing, and May's Lick, primarily serving local dairy operations and tobacco farmers. A fifth location opened in Cynthiana in 2015, enabling Hinton Mills to serve northern and eastern Kentucky.

Today, Hinton Mills continues to thrive as a farm supply store and feed retailer. The family-owned business celebrated its 103rd anniversary in 2021 and is led by the third and fourth generations of Hintons. Family members serve in a number of roles, including Frank O.'s son, Bud Hinton, as president, and Bud's son, Adam Hinton, as vice president. Led by the ethos of "Faith, Family, Friends, and Farming," Hinton Mills has grown along with the surrounding area. Their strong sense of family has built a tight-knit, supportive team, with some families employed there for generations. To celebrate its 100th anniversary, Kentucky Gateway Museum Center hosted an exhibit in 2018 to recognize Hinton Mills and their impact on the agricultural community of eastern Kentucky.

Over the past 100 years, the Hinton family has consistently invested in and

served their community. They regularly participate in local and regional events, ranging from agricultural fairs and the annual Fleming County FFA Tractor Parade, to hosting their annual weeklong Seed Day customer appreciation event. Hinton Mills champions Kentucky's agriculture industry, advocating for small agricultural businesses at the local, State, and national level. They are a part of several local business and industry groups, including the Fleming County Chamber of Commerce and Kentucky Retail Federation. Notably, Adam has served on the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board, the Kentucky Retail Federation Board of Directors, and the Kentucky FFA Foundation's Board of Trustees. Like many small businesses, Hinton Mills rallied to face the challenges caused by the coronavirus pandemic and adapted to continue supporting local farmers as they kept the country fed.

Hinton Mills is a remarkable example of the resilience and adaptability of locally owned small businesses. Small businesses, like Hinton Mills, form the heart of towns across Kentucky and play a critical role in Kentucky's agricultural industry. Congratulations to Bud, Adam, and the entire team at Hinton Mills. I wish them the best of luck, and I look forward to watching their continued growth and success in Kentucky.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Swann, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:38 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, without amendment:

S. 921. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to further protect officers and employees of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 1502. An act to make Federal law enforcement officer peer support communications confidential, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 4035. An act to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to prioritize veterans court treatment programs that ensure equal access for racial and