



RESOLUTION ON

**A CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS OF THE
OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY¹**

1. Recognizing that the OSCE PA has pledged to combat corruption and promote transparency, accountability, and integrity on several occasions, including through the Helsinki Declaration, Tbilisi Declaration, Minsk Declaration, Berlin Declaration and Luxembourg Declaration,
2. Noting that a code of conduct is a significant step towards enhancing the institutional framework that supports transparency, accountability and integrity, and consolidating its role as an organization which prioritizes the fight against corruption along with its other aims,
3. Underlining that the transparency and accountability of elected representatives should also extend to parliamentary assemblies,
4. Mindful of the positive results of the introduction of the Code of Conduct for OSCE PA Election Observers,
5. Cognizant that the OSCE already has a code of conduct for staff/mission members,
6. Taking into consideration that the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe has already adopted Codes of Conduct that apply both to their Members and staff,
7. Recognizing that the commitment to abide by a code of conduct depends on the willingness of both members and staff to comply with it in good faith,

¹ Resolution on a Code of Conduct for Members of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly adopted by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly at the 29th Annual Session, Birmingham, 2-6 July 2022.
<https://www.oscepa.org/en/documents/annual-sessions/2022-birmingham/4409-birmingham-declaration-eng/file>

The OSCE PA calls on the Standing Committee to elaborate and adopt a code of conduct, to be informed by the following elements:

8. Provisions of the code of conduct shall complement the obligations of Members of the OSCE PA provided in the Rules of Procedure;
9. While exercising their mandate as Members of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Members shall:
 - a. refrain from acting in a manner which is likely to bring discredit to the Assembly;
 - b. comply with the principles, norms, and commitments of the OSCE and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, as envisaged in the Helsinki Final Act and the Paris Charter for a New Europe;
 - c. exercise their duties with integrity;
 - d. not use their public office to obtain any direct or indirect private financial benefit or other reward for themselves or anyone else;
 - e. declare any conflicts of interest;
 - f. use the resources available to them responsibly;
10. When participating in events organized or co-organized by the OSCE PA, Members undertake to act in a manner respectful of the laws and regulations of the country in which the event takes place;
11. Members shall refrain from any form of sexism, sexual harassment or gender-based violence;
12. Members shall not use their position as a member of the OSCE PA to further their own or another person's or entity's interests in a manner incompatible with the Code of Conduct;
13. Members shall not request or accept any fee, compensation or reward intended to affect their conduct in the exercise of their duties;
14. Members shall avoid conflicts between any actual or potential economic, commercial, financial, or other interests on a professional, personal or family level on the one hand, and the work of the Assembly on the other. When impossible to avoid such a conflict of interest, it shall be disclosed at the earliest possible stage;
15. Members shall refrain from accepting, in the performance of their duties, any gifts or similar benefits, other than those with an approximate value of less than €150 offered in accordance with courtesy usage;
16. Members shall register with the Secretariat of the Assembly any benefits (such as travel expenses, accommodation, subsistence, meals or entertainment expenses) of a value in excess of €150 that they accept in the performance of their duties;

17. Members shall use information with discretion, and in particular shall not make personal use of information acquired confidentially in the course of their duties;
18. Outside activities and interests of Assembly Officers shall not be actively associated with the management of any business, nor may they hold a financial interest in any business, if there is a possibility that they would benefit from such association or financial interest by reason of their official position with the OSCE PA;
19. Any Member of the Assembly or any person employed at the International Secretariat that notices a case of misconduct must report the matter through a dedicated procedure. The Bureau ensures that no prejudice is caused to any person who reports any misconduct on reasonable grounds and in good faith;
20. If a Member is believed to have failed to comply with the Code of Conduct, the President of the Assembly may seek clarification and further information from the Member concerned, or other Members of the Assembly. The Members shall cooperate, at all stages, with any investigation into their conduct in accordance with this Code;
21. If necessary, the President of the Assembly may refer the matter to the Bureau to examine the circumstances of the alleged breach and make a recommendation as to a possible decision;
22. The Bureau may take one or several of the following decisions:
 - a. temporary deprivation of the right to participate in the Assembly's missions or other events, outside statutory meetings;
 - b. temporary deprivation of the right to speak at meetings;
 - c. temporary deprivation of the right to sponsor or co-sponsor an amendment or a Supplementary Item;
 - d. temporary deprivation of the right to submit his/her candidature for election as an Assembly Officer, and/or to sponsor another candidate;

The President shall then inform the Assembly and the Speaker or other relevant officer of the national parliament concerned accordingly;

23. Should the Bureau decide that a member failed to comply with the code of conduct, it may instruct him or her to prepare a reasoned statement which he or she will read out before the Assembly;
24. The OSCE PA calls for the principles of the above Code of Conduct to apply equally to the staff of the International Secretariat;
25. The Parliamentary Assembly calls on the Bureau and the Standing Committee to act so as to safeguard the relevance and validity of a code of conduct including through considering its annexation to the Rules of Procedure.