



9<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL **OSCE** PA SESSION  
BUCHAREST • 6-10 JULY 2000

# **BUCHAREST DECLARATION**

**OF THE**

**OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY**

**BUCHAREST, 10 JULY 2000**

## **PREAMBLE**

We, Parliamentarians of the OSCE participating States, have met in Bucharest on 6-10 July as the Parliamentary OSCE Institution to assess developments relating to security and co-operation in Europe and to offer our views to OSCE Ministers.

We wish all success to the next OSCE Ministerial Council Meeting in Vienna in November 2000 and bring to its attention the following declarations and recommendations.

## **RESOLUTION**

### **ON**

### **25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT**

1. Recognizing that 1 August 2000 marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), renamed the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in January 1995;
2. Noting that the Helsinki Final Act accorded human rights the status of a fundamental principle in regulating international relations;
3. Underlining commitments by the OSCE participating States which emphasize the centrality of human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law;
4. Confirming full adherence to the UN Charter and to the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris, the Charter for European Security and all other OSCE documents;
5. Recalling that in the Charter of Paris for a New Europe, the participating States declared, "Human rights and fundamental freedoms are the birthright of all human beings, are inalienable and are guaranteed by law. Their protection and promotion is the first responsibility of government." Moreover, the participating States committed themselves "to build, consolidate and strengthen democracy as the only system of government of our nations";
6. Remembering that in the 1991 Document of the Moscow Meeting of the CSCE, the participating States "categorically and irrevocably declare[d] that the commitments undertaken in the field of the human dimension of the CSCE are matters of direct and legitimate concern to all participating States and do not belong exclusively to the internal affairs of the State concerned";

7. Acknowledging that the security of each participating State is inseparably linked to that of all others and that the participating States will not strengthen their security at the expense of the security of other States;
8. Recollecting that the 1999 St. Petersburg Declaration of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly noted the importance of combating the trafficking of women and children, strengthening efforts against corruption and organized crime and reinforcing the efforts to end discrimination against Roma and on the grounds of religious belief;
9. Recognizing that the Helsinki process became an important instrument for bringing about an end to the division of Europe and has contributed to positive developments in Europe by promoting and furthering respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and providing an appropriate framework for the further development of such rights and freedoms and genuine security and cooperation among the participating States;
10. Emphasizing that the main challenge facing the participating States remains the implementation of the principles and commitments contained in the Helsinki Final Act and other OSCE documents adopted on the basis of consensus;
11. Emphasizing that all OSCE commitments, without exception, apply equally to all participating State;
12. Recalling that during the communist era, and even to this day, members of human rights NGOs have sacrificed their personal freedom and even their lives for their courageous and vocal support for the principles enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act;
13. Expressing concern about conflicts in the OSCE region during which civilians have been intentionally targeted and genocide has occurred, leading to the gravest violations of OSCE provisions since the Helsinki Final Act was signed;
14. Acknowledging that the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly has a significant role and responsibility in encouraging the implementation of OSCE principles and commitments especially with respect to the development of democratic electoral systems and practices;
15. Stressing the importance of the “Platform for cooperative security” adopted by the Istanbul Summit as a basis for developing inter-organizational relations in the OSCE area;
16. Underlining that the participating States have committed themselves to promote economic reforms through enhanced transparency for economic activity with the aim of advancing the principles of market economics;
17. Stressing the importance of the rule of law and of vigorous efforts to fight organized crime and corruption, which constitute a great threat to economic reform and prosperity;

18. Noting that the OSCE has expanded the scope and substance of its efforts, undertaking a variety of preventive diplomacy initiatives designed to prevent, manage, and resolve conflicts within and among the participating States;
19. Recognizing that the political and military aspects of security remain vital to the interests of the participating States and constitute a core element of OSCE's concept of comprehensive security;
20. Asserting that the participating States bear primary responsibility for raising violations of the Helsinki Final Act and other OSCE documents;
21. Expressing concern that human rights defenders, including human rights attorneys, who are engaged in promoting and defending human rights and fundamental freedoms in the OSCE region today have been the targets of detention, harassment, intimidation, specious legal obstacles and criminal prosecution and, in some instances, violence directed against them, and that human rights attorneys have been stripped of their licences or threatened with disbarment;
21. Being convinced that OSCE participating States must take steps to ensure the safety of human rights defenders and to hold accountable persons who are responsible for threatening, harassing or otherwise harming human rights defenders on account of their efforts to promote and defend human rights and fundamental freedoms;

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly,

23. Encourages the participating States to observe the anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities; and
24. Calls upon all participating States to fully implement their commitments in the Helsinki Final Act, recognizing that respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, democratic principles, economic liberty, and the implementation of related commitments continue to be vital elements in promoting a new era of democracy, peace, and unity within the OSCE region.

# **GOOD GOVERNANCE: REGIONAL CO-OPERATION, STRENGTHENING DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS, PROMOTING TRANSPARENCY, ENFORCING THE RULE OF LAW AND COMBATING CORRUPTION**

## **CHAPTER I**

### **POLITICAL AFFAIRS AND SECURITY**

1. Realizing that at the dawn of the new millennium, the OSCE faces important new threats to security and co-operation;
2. Recognizing that the OSCE is an inclusive and comprehensive organization for consultation, decision-making and co-operation in its region and that it possesses unique capabilities for early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation;
3. Recognizing that although co-operation has replaced confrontation in the last decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the danger of conflicts between States has not been eliminated;
4. Pointing out that conflicts yet to be resolved between OSCE participating States constitute a permanent threat to peace and stability in the OSCE area;
5. Acknowledging that conflicts within States represent a growing challenge to security and stability in the OSCE area;
6. Recalling that international terrorism, racism, xenophobia, drug trafficking, violent extremism, organized crime and the illicit trafficking in arms and human beings have serious implications for democratic systems;
7. Bearing in mind that each State has a right to export and import arms according to its legitimate defence and security needs provided that international treaties and arrangements are respected;
8. Welcoming the adoption of the Charter for European Security at the Istanbul Summit Meeting, which will strengthen security and stability in our region and improve the operational capabilities of the OSCE;
9. Reaffirming that respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law are the very basis of the OSCE concept of global security;
10. Noting with satisfaction the decision by the Heads of State or Government of the OSCE participating States to recognize the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly as a key component in the efforts of the OSCE to promote democracy, prosperity and increased confidence within and between participating States;

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

11. Calls upon the OSCE to encourage and facilitate regional co-operation in strengthening security, stability and development in the relevant regions, including combating international terrorism, forces of extremism and illegal arms trafficking;
12. Calls upon the international organizations and institutions involved in the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe to act jointly with the countries in the region with a view to successful and timely implementation of the Pact's objectives, including by ensuring the necessary financial resources;
13. Calls for the establishment of a database for sharing information on terrorist groups and their activities, including their sources of financial support and measures to stem them;
14. Calls upon the OSCE participating States to prohibit explicitly any use of their territory for the recruitment, training, assembly, transit, financing or use of mercenaries and to ratify or accede to the International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries;
15. Invites the OSCE participating States to prohibit the involvement and recruitment of children in armed conflicts, to sign and ratify without reservation the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflicts, and to set 18 years as the minimum age for any form of military recruitment;
16. Stresses the importance of post-conflict measures to provide justice, including the indictment, apprehension and prosecution of persons responsible for war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide, as well as to enforce the right of displaced persons to return to their homes and property;
17. Urges the OSCE to ensure greater involvement of non-state parties to a conflict in early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation;
18. Calls upon the OSCE participating States to make better use of the Court of Conciliation and Arbitration as an effective means of conflict prevention, in particular with regard to conflicts within States;
19. Proposes that the OSCE participating States carefully examine and monitor their dealings with private military/security companies, especially those that attempt to intervene in internal armed conflicts by supplying mercenaries to one of the parties to a conflict;
20. Invites the OSCE to rapidly implement the REACT concept, adopted by the Permanent Council, with a view to strengthening its role in conflict prevention and in post-conflict rehabilitation by ensuring rapid deployment, adequate

training and expertise of members of operations in the field, and the timely replacement of experts;

21. Urges the participating States to provide sufficient numbers of civilian police to those international policing efforts deployed in conjunction with peacekeeping efforts in post-conflict situations such as that of Kosovo;

*Weapons and weapons trading*

22. Recommends that a convention regulating the trade in arms be drawn up and that an international body with jurisdiction over violations in that sphere be established under such a convention;
23. Urges the early conclusion of the negotiation of the draft protocol on illicit firearms trafficking to the UN Convention on Transnational Organized Crime;
24. Urges the OSCE participating States to limit policies which subsidize arms exports and the resulting aggressive marketing of conventional weapons;
25. Calls upon the OSCE participating States to review continuously and, where necessary, update existing guidelines and monitoring tools for conventional arms transfers, and to comply with the OSCE's Principles Governing Conventional Arms Transfers, the implementation of which should be closely monitored;
26. Recommends that the OSCE participating States agree on transnational registration and licensing of arms brokers and private military/security companies;
27. Encourages the OSCE to undertake greater efforts to ensure full participation in the UN Register on Conventional Arms, to submit qualitative accounts of weapons systems being exported or imported and to observe the UN General Assembly resolutions on further voluntary information on holdings and national production;
28. Calls on all OSCE participating States to closely monitor the implementation of all the Istanbul Summit decisions regarding the limitation of conventional weapons in Europe as well as related agreements;
29. Urges thorough implementation of existing transparency agreements, initiatives and confidence- and security-building measures, and encourages the development of new agreements in other areas of concern, such as small arms;
30. Calls upon arms-exporting States to attach more importance to ascertaining the end destination and user of military products intended for export;
31. Advocates the close monitoring of the production-sites of small arms in order to obtain accurate information as to the number and type of small arms being produced;

32. Calls for the continuation of efforts to preserve the ABM Treaty intact and strengthen its effectiveness as a key factor in maintaining strategic stability and international security, ensuring the further reduction of strategic offensive arms;

*Scrutiny and accountability*

33. Calls upon parliamentarians to ensure increased scrutiny and accountability of the executive in defence matters as a means to limit the opportunity for corruption;
34. Urges the OSCE to stress the need for a reduction in military spending where it is no longer covering legitimate security needs and thus becomes excessive, in accordance with § 22 of the Code of Conduct on political and military aspects of security;
35. Calls upon the OSCE participating States to fully support § 20-25 of the Code of Conduct and to ensure the primacy of the role of civilians in military and defence affairs as well as the democratic control of armed forces;
36. Urges the OSCE to change its staffing policy regarding long-term field missions to ensure the continuity of the conflict prevention process, specifically reducing the reliance on seconded personnel from national governments, generally lengthening their terms of service and ensuring appropriate training;
37. Repeats its strong recommendation that greater transparency be applied to OSCE Institutions, in order to increase awareness of OSCE activities and capabilities. To that end, Permanent Council meetings must be made open to the public except under special circumstances on a case-by-case basis after a decision has been publicly taken by OSCE participating States to do otherwise, and meetings of the Forum for Security Cooperation should similarly become open to the public.

## **CHAPTER II**

### **ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT**

38. Noting that the concept of Good Governance is important for all OSCE participating States, as well as for the OSCE itself and other international organizations;
39. Recognizing the growing international consensus that a sound political and institutional framework is essential for achieving sustainable economic and social development as well as ecological responsibility;

40. Welcoming the adoption of the Charter for European Security at the Istanbul Summit Meeting, which specifies the tasks of the OSCE in economic and environmental dimensions;
41. Noting that the key elements of sustainable development are economic efficiency, social welfare and ecological responsibility, and that these form a “magic triangle” which inextricably links protection of resources, an efficient allocation of resources and the organization of society in a dynamic balance;
42. Reaffirming that respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, the rule of law, economic liberty, social justice and environmental responsibility are a cornerstone for stability and further development of our societies;
43. Welcoming the special role of the OSCE and its institutions in supporting the democratization process, promoting the rule of law and civil society, observing election procedures and thus in promoting Good Governance;
44. Acknowledging that the OSCE missions and representatives around Europe and Central Asia also have an important role in promoting Good Governance;
45. Noting that the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly has been active in promoting the debate on the linkages between the rule of law, human rights, transparency, accountability, combating corruption and money-laundering, and sustainable development;
46. Recalling that the Second Parliamentary Conference on “Sub-regional economic co-operation processes in Europe faced with new challenges” (Nantes, 1999) acknowledged that the existence of stable democratic institutions based on respect for human rights and the rule of law is alone able to guarantee economic development and social progress;
47. Noting that the recent evolution of the economic dimension of the OSCE has led to increasing attention being paid to the close link between Good Governance and regional co-operation within the economic sphere;
48. Recalling that the Istanbul summit recognized that corruption poses a great threat to the OSCE’s shared values and tasked the Permanent Council to examine how best to contribute to efforts to combat corruption, and to report thereon to the 2000 Ministerial Meeting;

*Rule of law, cooperation and sustainable development*

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

49. Acknowledges that, for the OSCE, compliance with the rules of Good Governance is an important element in conflict prevention and post-conflict rehabilitation and reconciliation;

50. Urges the OSCE to systematically consider the aims of Good Governance in its work, in the light of its strong link with security;
51. Calls upon the organizations already engaged in this work to attentively follow the development and progress of Good Governance in the OSCE participating States and to inform the OSCE about developments which are relevant to security;
52. Calls upon the OSCE to renew its commitment to ensuring that the economic dimension will receive appropriate attention with a specific view to ensuring the rule of law and the development of a transparent and stable legal system in the economic sphere, and urges it to continue encouraging interregional economic cooperation for that purpose;
53. Appeals that, in addition to the existing examples of regional co-operation an active transatlantic economic dialogue should be opened up, aimed at expanding economic resources and using know-how, within a strategy of co-operation and responsibility based on sustainable development in the interests of all OSCE participating States;
54. Calls upon OSCE participating States to foster public support for the reform process by establishing dialogue and transparency in decision-making involving governments, business, labour and civil society;
55. Urges transition countries to complement liberalization and privatization with the development of institutions and behaviour capable of supporting the proper functioning of markets, including the application of principles of transparency, accountability, fair competition, the rule of law and human rights in the effort to create the institutional framework for harmonious and sustainable development;

#### *Corruption*

56. Emphasizes the need, in the light of recent corruption scandals in several European countries, to promote Good Governance by implementing existing conventions and creating additional legal instruments to combat corruption and money-laundering, and by enhancing efforts aimed at transparency and efficiency;
57. Calls upon the governments of all OSCE participating States to ensure that they have in place effective measures to fight corruption, including full implementation of criminal statutes and more intensive legislative oversight by their Parliaments, thereby contributing to sustainable economic growth;
58. Calls upon the OSCE participating States to consider, where appropriate, accession to the Convention on Combating Bribery in International Business Transactions;
59. Calls on governments of the OSCE participating States to strengthen human and institutional capacities by establishing accountability standards and controls, developing and strengthening independent audit bodies to monitor those

standards and controls, reforming administration and simplifying procedures, guaranteeing acceptable incomes for civil servants and improving criminal law provisions in order to fight corruption and money-laundering;

*Social*

60. Calls upon the OSCE to emphasize that the legitimate State is the foundation for equitable and inclusive social development available to all members of society, particularly women and persons belonging to minorities, guaranteeing the principle of equality before the law and equal access to resources and basic services such as education, health care and social insurance;
61. Urges the OSCE participating States to recognize that the quality of the public service depends to a large extent on trained staff who are paid appropriately, and to investigate ways of decentralizing the administration in their countries, thereby bringing the public service closer to the public, particularly in outlying areas;

*Environment*

62. Appeals to all OSCE participating States to switch from words to deeds and honour their commitments under the Kyoto Protocol and Århus Convention;
63. Calls upon the OSCE participating States to improve the credibility and the efficiency of the departments responsible for measuring environmental pollution or the pollutants in consumer goods, and to affirm the fundamental interest of OSCE countries in protecting vegetable and animal biodiversity, preserving the production of typical products in the different areas, using biotechnologies in a mindful and controlled way, thus promoting the general interest and international co-operation, inter alia through new monitoring mechanisms in the economic, technological, and environmental field;
64. Appeals to the OSCE to help foster close co-operation of the state and non-governmental organizations working in the field of environmental protection;
65. Calls upon the OSCE to encourage regional organizations or initiatives to give due attention to the concept of Good Governance;
66. Welcomes the efforts of the Southeastern Europe Cooperative Initiative (SECI) countries in addressing economic and environmental problems with a comprehensive regional approach, and congratulates them on the establishment of the Anti-Crime Coordinating Centre located in Bucharest;
67. Welcomes in particular the decision to hold in 2001 the ninth Meeting of the Economic Forum on the overall theme of “Transparency and Good Governance in Economic Matters”.

## CHAPTER III

### DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS

68. Recalling the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris and the Copenhagen Document, the Charter for European Security, the Istanbul Summit Declaration and other adopted OSCE instruments;
69. Recognizing the vital need to develop and strengthen civil society based on democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights;
70. Emphasizing the responsibility of elected parliaments, as legislators and representatives of the electorate, to provide the legal framework in which civil society and democracy can flourish, and to supervise the activities of the executive;

#### *Human dimension*

71. Recognizing that equality of women and men and the protection and promotion of the human rights of women are essential to sustainable democracy and to security and stability in the OSCE area;
72. Calling for the strengthening of the OSCE's activities in fulfilling commitments relating to the "Human Dimension", and for its utmost efforts to facilitate a settlement of issues concerning the return of refugees and forcibly displaced persons to their homelands since, failing this, it is impossible to promote respect for human rights, democratic principles, the construction, strengthening and protection of democratic institutions, and the establishment of tolerance in the OSCE area;
73. Considering protection of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities to be an integral part of the functioning of a stable and democratic civil society;
74. Reaffirming that good governance cannot be ensured unless the State pursues policies against xenophobia and aggressive nationalism and the rights of national minorities are respected in accordance with OSCE standards;
75. Underlining the responsibilities of Governments and international organizations to practise and promote good governance, to enforce the rule of law and to combat corruption;
76. Understanding the vital importance of upholding the independence, impartiality and competence of the judiciary in order to guarantee respect for and the proper functioning of the rule of law and human rights;
77. Recognizing that corruption and organized crime are obstacles to good governance, democracy, the enforcement of the rule of law and the application of human rights and that they also pose a threat to security and economic progress;

78. Acknowledging that corruption and organized crime are cross-border phenomena which affect countries in both the East and the West, and that an effective fight against corruption and organized crime requires strengthened and well-functioning international cooperation between participating States;

*Media freedom*

79. Bearing in mind the Lisbon Summit Document of 1996 which states, inter alia, that “freedom of the press and media are among the basic prerequisites for truly democratic and civil societies”, and “there is a need to strengthen the implementation of OSCE commitments in the field of the media, taking into account, as appropriate, the work of other international organizations”;
80. Noting that laws which provide criminal penalties for the defamation of public figures, or which penalise the defamation of the State, State organs, or public officials as such, are used to target journalists investigating corruption; reiterating the call from the Warsaw Declaration for participating States that have not already done so to repeal laws which provide criminal penalties for the defamation of public figures, or which penalise the defamation of the State, State organs or public officials as such;
81. Expressing deep concern at recent physical attacks and dubious legal charges brought against members of the journalistic profession in various OSCE participating States, including the arrest and detention of the chairman of a major independent media organization in Russia, Vladimir Gusinsky;

*Trafficking in persons*

82. Recognizing the links between corruption, organized crime, and trafficking in human beings, recalling the St. Petersburg Declaration on Trafficking in Women and Children and the Charter for European Security, which call on participating States, inter alia, to undertake measures to eliminate trafficking in human beings, and commending the attention given to the issue of trafficking in human beings, including at the Istanbul Summit and as the subject of an OSCE Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting;
83. Viewing appeals by political leaders to public sentiments of extreme nationalism and intolerance in order to gain and perpetuate power and to divert attention from official corruption as violating the very precepts of good governance; believing that it is important to call all political leaders to account when they make statements of extreme nationalism or fail to condemn such statements by others;
84. Noting that General Dragoljub Ojdanic, who, as the Yugoslav military’s Chief of Staff during the assault on the people of Kosovo, has been indicted by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia for crimes against humanity, visited the Russian Federation in early May 2000, during which time significant assistance for the undemocratic regime of Slobodan Milosevic was also announced and reminding the Russian Federation that it is required, as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, which adopted

Resolution 827 on 25 May 1993, establishing the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, to arrest persons indicted for war crimes when possible;

85. Regarding the efforts made by several international institutions, such as the United Nations, the Council of Europe and the Organization of American States, the European Union and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development and the CIS;

#### The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

86. Calls on the OSCE participating States to accede to the international instruments to which they are not yet party, with a view to achieving the objective of universal ratification of international human rights treaties;
87. Encourages the OSCE participating States to build and develop those State institutions that are necessary for the functioning of civil society based on democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights;

#### *Constitutional provisions*

88. Calls for the appropriate adoption and implementation of constitutional provisions which establish the separation of powers between the legislative, executive and judicial branches of government;
89. Emphasizes that constitutions and other relevant legislation must ensure that governments function in a transparent manner and are accountable to elected parliaments;
90. Stresses that democratic constitutions should guarantee the independence and impartiality of the judiciary and that judges must have the necessary competences and resources to fulfil their duties;
91. Insists that participating States frame their constitutions and legislation so as to provide citizens with the necessary freedoms and opportunities to participate in civil society, including freedom of expression, freedom of association and freedom for political parties and other organizations in civil society to participate in political and other social activities on an equal footing;

#### *Human dimension*

92. Suggests that all participating States ensure the full and equal participation of women in political life to achieve a more peaceful, prosperous and democratic OSCE area;
93. Welcomes the adoption of the OSCE Action Plan for Gender Issues and calls upon OSCE institutions and participating States to support the early implementation of the Action Plan;

94. Urges all participating States to ensure fair representation of national minorities and to protect and promote their ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious identities;

*Democratic process*

95. Encourages the enactment of legislation necessary to facilitate free and fair elections and commits itself to continuing election monitoring activities;
96. Suggests that the work of the ODIHR should be more integrated with the activities of the other dimensions of the OSCE;
97. Recommends the enactment of legislation to prohibit secret funding of political parties, candidates' campaigns or other political organizations, to mandate public disclosure of the source and amount of funds received and expended by those mentioned above, and to establish such rules and regulations as are necessary to establish and enforce such transparency;
98. Calls upon the OSCE participating States to live up to their commitments, as outlined in the Charter for European Security, to "combat corruption across all dimensions of the OSCE", and further urges the introduction of effective criminal penalties to punish acts of corruption, as defined in relevant international documents and conventions;
99. Recommends that each participating State have at its disposal authorities which are specialized in fighting corruption, and that their personnel are well-trained and have the independence necessary for carrying out their functions without undue pressure;
100. Recommends also the introduction of legislation and administrative measures which will prevent the exercise of nepotism and political or other favoritism during privatization processes and when tendering for contracts;
101. Suggests that participating States should introduce measures to open lobbying practices up to public scrutiny, in order to prevent corrupting influences;
102. Suggests that participating States abolish legislation which may prevent authorities, legal persons or private citizens from co-operating with or otherwise assisting investigating and prosecuting authorities in their work to combat corruption, and adopt legislation which encourages such co-operation;
103. Recommends that participating States adopt measures to provide protection for persons who assist and cooperate in the investigation or prosecution of corruption or organized crime;
104. Suggests that participating States take such legislative and other measures as may be necessary to oblige banks to provide courts and other competent authorities with information concerning bank records or other relevant information on cases concerning corruption, organized crime and money laundering and to promote international co-operation on this issue;

105. Recommends also that governments plan and execute effective education and information campaigns against corruption;

*Trafficking in persons*

106. Urgently appeals to participating States to adopt and implement laws that criminalize trafficking in human beings while ensuring that victims of trafficking do not face undue prosecution as a result of having been trafficked;
107. Urges participating States to combat trafficking in women by eliminating those obstacles to equal economic opportunity for women which increase women's need to migrate for employment and, thereby, increase their susceptibility to human trafficking, through the adoption of anti-discrimination laws which enable women to seek effective legal redress if they suffer discrimination in employment on the basis of gender;

*Media freedom*

108. Underlines the importance of protecting the freedom of the media as an essential element in promoting good governance and in combating corruption, and urges the cessation of all attempts by State governments to impede or prevent the freedom of the media;
109. Calls upon OSCE participating States to observe fully OSCE standards on freedom of the media and urges fellow parliamentarians to use every appropriate legislative means to ensure that freedom of the media is secured and preserved in their respective states;

*Public officials*

110. Considers that the definition of an appropriate legal status for the protection of the public interest and the development of an appropriate working environment for public officials and civil servants, to include the provision of adequate training, acceptable working conditions and fair pay, are essential elements in promoting good governance and fighting corruption, and strongly urges governments to take all necessary measures to create such an environment for their public officials and civil servants;
111. Encourages governments to develop and implement codes of ethical conduct for public employees and elected officials, including requirements that all elected officials and public employees in high-level positions make public financial disclosures;
112. Urges OSCE participating States to strive to end abuses of immunity status by public officials seeking to avoid prosecution for corrupt practices;
113. Appeals to governments to co-operate and to exchange information and other assistance which may be required in order to investigate and prosecute crimes of corruption in other countries;

114. Encourages the development of a common approach to extradition policies and the ratification of existing conventions;
115. Recommends the establishment of regional instruments to support and foster regional co-operation to tackle corruption, including measures such as a corruption watch, and conferences and seminars to exchange information for use as educational examples for future anti-corruption initiatives;
116. Welcomes, in this regard, the recent establishment of the Southeast European Cooperative Initiative Regional Center for the combating of trans border crime;
117. Recommends that participating States:
  - a. apply the 20 Principles to Combat Corruption and implement the Code of Conduct for Public Officials, adopted by the Council of Europe;
  - b. if they have not already done so, to ratify or adopt the provisions of the Council of Europe Criminal Law Convention and Civil Law Convention on Corruption and accede to the Agreement establishing the “Group of States against Corruption” (GRECO);
118. Fully supports the efforts of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia to apprehend and bring to trial in The Hague those indicted for war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide, including Slobodan Milosevic and senior members of his regime; and appeals to all participating States to deny any indicted officials any protection whatsoever from this judicial process, which is necessary to ensure respect for the rule of law and to bring good governance and reconciliation between ethnic groups in the societies those persons have victimised;
119. Calls upon the Parliaments of the OSCE participating States to abolish the death penalty for all crimes.

## RESOLUTION

### ON

#### **RAPID RATIFICATION OF THE ROME STATUTE OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT**

1. Noting that in July 1998 the Statute of the International Criminal Court was adopted in Rome, establishing an independent international court with jurisdiction over those responsible for the most serious crimes of concern to the international community, such as genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and the crime of aggression, who are liable for prosecution and punishment in accordance with the Court Statute;
2. Expressing, however, that only fourteen states, so far, have ratified the Statute and 97 states have signed it;
3. Recalling that 60 ratifications are required for the Statute to enter into force;
4. Emphasising that the establishment of the future permanent International Criminal Court will be a milestone in the development of international law; and
5. Stressing that the Rome Statute constitutes an important basis for law enforcement in international relations;

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

6. Calls upon all member States to ratify the Rome Statute of the future International Criminal Court without delay, so that it can take up its work as soon as possible.

## RESOLUTION

### ON

#### DEVELOPMENTS IN THE NORTH CAUCASUS

1. Expressing grave concern regarding armed conflict in the North Caucasus region of the Russian Federation which has resulted in civilian casualties and internally displaced persons, urging all sides to pursue dialogue for peaceful resolution of the conflict with the assistance of the OSCE, and reiterating the necessity to preserve the territorial integrity of all sovereign states in the region;
2. Declaring that the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly recognizes the territorial integrity of the Russian Federation and all the sovereign states in the Caucasus region;
3. Recalling that Chechnya, Russian Federation, has been the site of internal lawlessness and numerous kidnappings, and in August and September of 1999 extremist forces based in Chechnya, Russian Federation, mounted armed incursions into the adjacent Russian Federation Republic of Dagestan;
4. Condemning terrorism and human rights violations in all their forms;
5. Recalling paragraph 36 of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, approved at the 1994 OSCE Summit, held in Budapest, which states, “If recourse to force cannot be avoided in performing internal security missions, each participating State will ensure that its use must be commensurate with the needs for enforcement. The armed forces will take due care to avoid injury to civilians or their property”;
6. Calling attention to the resolution adopted on 25 April 2000 by the UN Commission on Human Rights, which expressed grave concern about the continued violence in Chechnya, in particular regarding reports indicating disproportionate and indiscriminate use of Russian military force, including attacks against civilians, as well as reports of “serious crimes and abuses” committed by Chechen forces, and which further calls upon the Government of the Russian Federation to establish a “broad-based and independent commission of inquiry” to investigate international humanitarian law violations; and
7. Expressing its concern about the conduct of Russia’s military campaign in Chechnya and the reports of grave human rights violations, including the disproportionate and excessive use of force, harassment and ill-treatment of civilians by Russian forces, and noting that little progress has been made in investigating such crimes;

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

8. Supports the efforts of the Russian Federation aimed at seeking a political solution to the situation in Chechnya and normalizing life in that part of the Russian Federation;
9. Urges participating States to take effective measures to prevent any assistance to terrorist and extremist forces in Chechnya and to strengthen their cooperation in fighting international terrorism;
10. Appeals to the OSCE to take measures to raise the effectiveness of the OSCE monitoring on the Chechen segment of the Georgian-Russian border;
11. Urges the Government of the Russian Federation, as an OSCE participant, to adhere to the above-cited provision of the OSCE Budapest Document, and urges all parties in the current conflict to avoid the use of force against the civilian, non-combatant population;
12. Urges all sides to seek a political solution to the conflict, and to avail themselves of the assistance of the OSCE including through the earliest possible return to the region of the OSCE Assistance Group within its existing mandate, as reiterated in the 1999 Istanbul Summit Declaration of the OSCE;
13. Urges Chechen authorities to reject extremist forces located on its territory and use every appropriate means to release persons held in illegal captivity;
14. Urges the Government of the Russian Federation to implement the provisions of the UN Human Rights Commission Resolution E/CN.4/RES/2000/58 of 25 April 2000 regarding the conflict in Chechnya;
15. Calls upon all parties in the conflict to observe assiduously and conscientiously the territorial integrity of all sovereign states in the region and to refrain from any actions that might contravene that territorial integrity or undermine regional security; and
16. Calls upon the Russian Federation to respect and to implement fully its international human rights obligations and commitments, in particular by ensuring the effective independent investigation of human rights abuses and the early prosecution of offenders.

## RESOLUTION

### ON

#### CONFERENCE FOR STABILITY IN THE REGION OF THE CASPIAN SEA AND THE BLACK SEA

1. Wishing to strengthen political integration, especially by creating a Co-operation Council whose task would be to deal with questions regarding all countries concerned;
2. Striving to enhance economic co-operation, especially with respect to the production and distribution of energy resources as well as securing their transportation;
3. Desiring to strengthen democratic institutions in the region by improved contacts and exchanges;

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

4. Recommends the establishment of a Conference for Stability in the region of the Caspian Sea and the Black Sea.

## RESOLUTION

### ON

#### SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE

1. Recalling that conflicts in the former Yugoslavia since 1991 have been marked by open aggression and assaults on innocent civilian populations, have been largely instigated and carried out by the regime of Slobodan Milosevic and its supporters, and have caused the deaths of hundreds of thousands of people; the rape, illegal detention and torture of tens of thousands; the forced displacement of millions; and the destruction of property on a massive scale, including places of worship;
2. Considering that the overall rate of return of refugees and displaced persons throughout the region to their original, pre-conflict homes, especially where these persons belong to a minority ethnic population, has been unacceptably low;

3. Reaffirming the necessity of fulfilling in good faith UNSC Resolution 1244 for the settlement of the situation in Kosovo, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia;
4. Condemning the continuing violence in Kosovo against members of the Serb and other minority communities, including hundreds of incidents of arson and damaged or destroyed Serbian Orthodox church sites, and dozens of aggravated assaults and murders;
5. Reaffirming the commitment to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, as stipulated by UNSC Resolution 1244;
6. Noting that the OSCE and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) have jointly reported that a lack of security, freedom of movement, language policy, access to health care and access to education, social welfare services and public utilities are devastating the minority communities of Kosovo;
7. Expressing concern for the situation of missing Albanians, Serbs and people of other nationalities in Kosovo and for ethnic Albanians kept in prisons in Serbia;
8. Noting that reports indicate that hundreds, and perhaps thousands, of ethnic Albanians, transferred from Kosovo to jails in Serbia proper around the time of the entry of international forces into Kosovo, have not been released in the year since, that several have received harsh sentences in show trials, and that problems regarding access to and treatment of such prisoners continue;
9. Recalling that the people and governments of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Slovenia have positive records of respect for the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, the rule of law and democratic traditions since independence;
10. Welcoming the commitment of the newly elected leadership of Croatia to progress regarding respect for human rights, refugee returns and the elimination of corruption;
11. Believing that the people of Serbia share the right of all people to enjoy life under democratic institutions;
12. Viewing democratic development throughout Serbia and Montenegro as essential to long-term stability in the region, including the implementation of agreements regarding Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo;
13. Noting that the regime of Slobodan Milosevic has been engaged in a planned effort both to repress independent media and to crush political opposition in Serbia, through the use of unwarranted fines, arrests, detentions, seizures, blackouts, jamming, and possibly assassination attempts, and has also been engaged in an effort to stop student and other independent movements;
14. Recognizing the importance of the Stability Pact to the long-term prosperity, peace and stability of southeastern Europe;

15. Supporting OSCE Missions throughout the region in their efforts to ensure peace, security and the construction of civil society; and
16. Recalling the legally binding obligation of States to cooperate fully with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, contained in UNSC Resolution 827 of 25 May 1993, including the apprehension of indicted persons present on their territory and the prompt surrender of such person to the Tribunal;

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

17. Insists that all parties in the region make the utmost effort to ensure the safe return and resettlement of all displaced persons and refugees, regardless of ethnicity, religious belief or political orientation, and to work towards reconciliation between all sections of society;
18. Encourages members of all ethnic groups in south eastern Europe, especially in Kosovo, Bosnia and Serbia, to respect human rights and the rule of law;
19. Reiterates its call upon all authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, in accordance with international humanitarian law, to continue to provide ongoing access for the ICRC to all ethnic Albanians kept in prisons in Serbia, to ensure the humane treatment of such prisoners, and to arrange for the release of prisoners held without charge;
20. Encourages the newly elected leadership of Croatia to continue their efforts to reform and modernize their country in a manner that reflects a commitment to human rights, the rule of law, democracy and a market-based economy;
21. Condemns the repressive measures taken by the regime of Slobodan Milosevic to suppress free media, to stop student and other independent movements, and to intimidate political opposition in Serbia, all in blatant violation of OSCE norms;
22. Urges the regime of Slobodan Milosevic to immediately cease its repressive measures and to allow free and fair elections to be held at all levels of government throughout Serbia and monitored by the international community;
23. Calls upon Slobodan Milosevic to respect human rights and other international norms of behaviour in Montenegro;
24. Calls upon the international community to fully implement the Stability Pact, under OSCE auspices, in an effort to integrate the nations of South-Eastern Europe into the broader European community, and to strengthen those countries in their efforts to foster peace, democracy, respect for human rights and economic prosperity, in order to achieve stability in the whole region;
25. Encourages all representatives of the international community operating in south eastern Europe, including the OSCE, the United Nations, the North Atlantic

Treaty Organization and other non-governmental organizations to actively promote respect for human rights and the rule of law;

26. Urges participating States to provide sufficient numbers of civilian police to those international policing efforts deployed in conjunction with peacekeeping efforts in post-conflict situations such as Kosovo;
27. Calls upon the international community to target assistance programmes to help those persons returning to their original homes have the personal security and economic opportunity to remain;
28. Calls upon the participating States to organize, including through the OSCE and its Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) programmes that can assist and promote democratic change in Serbia, and protect it in Montenegro; and
29. Reiterates its condemnation of any effort to provide persons indicted by the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, and its support for sanctioning any State which provides such persons with any form of protection from arrest.

## **RESOLUTION**

### **ON**

### **BELARUS**

1. Stating its firm commitment to work for the normalisation of the relationship between Belarus and the international community and for the complete reintegration of Belarus into the European democratic family to which it belongs;
2. Understanding that the development of pluralistic democracy, rule of law, respect for human rights, economic prosperity and social solidarity as well as the consolidation of state sovereignty and independence is primarily the duty of the Belarusian people themselves;
3. Expressing concern over the state of civil rights and freedoms in Belarus, the harassment of political opponents including members of the 13<sup>th</sup> Supreme Soviet, by the disappearance of some political leaders, the dangers of international isolation of the country, and the deterioration of the living standards of the population;
4. Taking note of all the international agreements and commitments on the basis of which Belarus undertook to adopt and to respect international/OSCE standards

- for a free and open society, democratic pluralism, the rule of law and human rights;
5. Being convinced that the progress of Belarus within a united Europe cannot be achieved without overcoming the constitutional and political controversies which presently exist in the country and which affect its international relations;
  6. Being convinced that these controversies can only be solved by political dialogue between all those concerned, including talks between the authorities and the opposition, held in an environment of political decency guaranteed by all sides, and meant to lead to free, fair and nationally and internationally recognised parliamentary elections;
  7. Understanding that solutions to the problems with regard to the electoral legislation, free access to media, and the role of the future parliament require a spirit of compromise, but that, at the same time, no compromise is possible in human rights matters;
  8. Recalling the relevant provisions of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Resolution from its 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Session in St. Petersburg regarding the international commitments of Belarus to organize elections and on the question of media access for political parties and opposition groups;
  9. Welcoming the statements included in paragraph 22 of the Istanbul Summit Declaration, signed by Belarus, demanding “a real political dialogue” as the only measure which can “pave the way for free and democratic elections” and thus “facilitate the resolution of the constitutional controversy”, and at the same time stressing that such a dialogue should have a deliberative character and should include all constitutional political opponents;
  10. Recalling the agreements reached in the summer and the autumn of 1999, during talks between Belarusian President Aleksander Lukashenko, the Chairman of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly ad hoc Working Group on Belarus, Adrian Severin, and the Head of the OSCE Advisory and Monitoring Group, Hans-Georg Wieck, concerning the content and format of a national round table which were not fully implemented;
  11. Observing that progress, while encouraging, is still too slow and insufficient to meet democratic requirements, and that the time for the preparation of the coming elections is running out;
  12. Stating that holding free and fair elections in Belarus is possible only if there is undiscriminatory electoral legislation, equal access of all subjects of political life, including opposition access to state media, and if there is the minimum required level of trust in society;
  13. Being convinced that the four minimum conditions laid out by the OSCE Troika would need to be satisfied in order for elections to merit international observation and credibility;

14. Affirming that the opposition should not be pressured into participating in elections which do not meet these four conditions;
15. Being convinced that international observation of the forthcoming parliamentary elections, even if per se that does not mean the recognition of the legitimacy of the results, are of paramount importance for both the further democratic development of Belarus and for its future status within the international relations network;
16. Expressing the hope that through political talks between all sides concerned and in a climate of peace and national reconciliation, the Belarus authorities will provide the necessary guarantees for future free and fair elections in such a way as to permit the international observation of the elections;
17. Welcoming the formation of the Parliamentary Troika for Belarus composed of representatives of the OSCE PA, the European Parliament and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, which has already visited Minsk and expressing full support for its activity;
18. Welcoming the initiative of the OSCE governmental Troika to visit Minsk in early May 2000;
19. Expressing appreciation and full support for the activity of the OSCE AMG in Minsk;
20. Drawing attention to the importance of the Position Paper adopted by international institutions, including the Belarus ad hoc Working Group (OSCE Parliamentary Assembly) on 7 April 2000, in Vienna, outlining the issues that need to be settled in a satisfactory manner in order to dispatch international observers for the parliamentary elections in the autumn of 2000;
21. Appreciating the work done by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly ad hoc Working Group on Belarus, expressing the full support for its endeavours and asking it to continue its activities based on the existing mandate;
22. Understanding that respect for human rights is necessary for creating the minimum required level of trust in society, and thereby urging the Belarusian authorities to cease acts of repression, end political trials, release individuals imprisoned on political grounds, fully account for disappeared opposition leaders, and stop harassing the independent media;

#### The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

23. Appeals to all sides concerned to find ways in order to organize and to participate in meaningful talks in a constructive spirit of reconciliation and compromise in order to pave the way for free, fair and nationally and internationally recognisable parliamentary elections in the autumn of the year 2000;

24. Appeals to all sides concerned to respect all the previous agreements into which they have entered, concluded among themselves or with the representatives of the international community, as well as their OSCE commitments;
25. Urges the competent Belarusian authorities to assure the transparency of the election process, which means inter alia strong status for observers and membership of opposition parties and independent NGOs in electoral commissions of all levels;
26. Asks for appropriate legislation and practical actions to be implemented in order to grant a free and equitable access of all political parties and the candidate nominated by them, as well as independent candidates to mass media, especially the electronic media;
27. Urges improvements in the functions of the Parliament which is to be elected to give it the nature and character of a democratic institution and of an independent state body exercising legislative authority and political control of a government based on the principle of separation of powers;
28. Calls on all sides concerned to adopt the necessary confidence building measures in order to ensure that the election campaign is conducted in a “Period of Peace” characterised by, inter alia, the cessation of internal and international actions of mutual disparagement, the suspension of criminal court proceedings against political opponents and public personalities, the application of a political amnesty in the broadest sense and permission of public rallies and demonstrations in a manner worked out between city authorities and the organizers;
29. Urges the Belarusian Government to conduct, in a sincere and constructive manner, talks with opposition forces on concrete issues in connection with the upcoming elections and in order to achieve national reconciliation, and at the same time urges the political opposition in Belarus to explore avenues to participate in the ongoing political process as a responsible, active and constructive side;
30. Emphasises the need for sustained international support given in a transparent and non-discriminatory way to the development of civil society in Belarus;
31. Recommends that the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, the OSCE in general, as well as the other international organizations carefully consider, in a spirit of pragmatism and good will, in a rational and non-discriminatory manner, showing vision and courage, respect for principles and values, the conditions created for the future elections in Belarus in such a way as to maximise the possibilities to have an international observation of the said elections once the minimal international standards are met;
32. Encourages OSCE participating States, the OSCE, and the other international organizations to consider in the case of the internationally acknowledged democratic parliamentary elections in Belarus in the fall of the year 2000 to re-establish normal and fruitful relations with the country, to establish clear

benchmarks for a gradual integration of the country into the system of international economic and financial assistance and co-operation and to review the international status of the country and its representatives in the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and other relevant international organizations;

33. Confirms that the OSCE PA remains committed to contributing to the progress of democratisation, the rule of law, and respect for human rights in Belarus and through this to the internal and international security of the country as well as to its integration into the European co-operation system, and to this end instructs its ad hoc Working Group on Belarus to continue its efforts within the frame of its mandate in order to implement fully the aims and principles of the present resolution.

## **RESOLUTION**

### **ON**

### **MOLDOVA**

1. Recognizing the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova within the borders of the former SSR of Moldova;
2. Taking note of all previous agreements and commitments related to the status of Transdnistria as part of the Republic of Moldova, signed by the parties, such as the Moscow Memorandum of 1997, the Odessa Agreement of 1998 and the Joint Statement of the Kiev Summit of 1999;
3. Recalling the statements of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's Annual Sessions in Budapest in 1992, Vienna in 1994, Ottawa in 1995, Stockholm in 1996 and Warsaw in 1997;
4. Appreciating the work done by the OSCE, the OSCE Mission to Moldova in particular, as well as the invaluable contribution made by Russia and Ukraine, to help negotiate solutions to problems in Moldova;
5. Welcoming the Istanbul Summit Declaration of 1999 and the commitment by the Russian Federation to the complete withdrawal of the Russian forces from the territory of Moldova by the end of 2002 and also the willingness of the Republic of Moldova and the OSCE to facilitate this process;
6. Welcoming the progress made in the removal and destruction of the Russian military ammunition and armaments stockpiled in Transdnistria;
7. Understanding that the conflict concerning the status of Transdnistria is predominantly political in nature and therefore political will is essential for achieving a settlement;

8. Expressing concern over the impasse in the negotiations concerning the status of Transdniestria; and
9. Being convinced that parliamentary dialogue can help build political will and confidence and provide suggestions for solutions;

#### The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

10. Appeals to all parties concerned to respect all previous agreements and commitments and to work for their complete implementation in a transparent manner;
11. Urges all parties involved to refrain from any use of violence and to work for peaceful solutions to existing problems while respecting the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova;
12. Emphasizes the necessity to agree on the development of a common state for all people of Moldova;
13. Asks the leadership of the Republic of Moldova and Transdniestria to negotiate and agree on confidence-building measures, such as gradual reduction of military forces on territories controlled by them, and on the promotion of human and other contacts between people, communities, NGOs and different civic institutions;
14. Suggests that the Governments and other authorities, as well as enterprises and entrepreneurs from the OSCE participating States, in particular those in Moldova, work for the establishment of joint projects and institutions in which people, economic and social institutions and communities on both sides of the Dniestr river are represented, in order to further the interests and well-being of all people of Moldova;
15. Calls on relevant international and regional institutions to provide information, studies, ideas and advice to promote economic integration between all regions of Moldova;
16. Recommends that the leadership of the Republic of Moldova and Transdniestria work for the strengthening of civil society based on the rule of law and strictly comply with European standards on human rights and fundamental freedoms, including freedom of movement, freedom of expression and freedom of association, as well as rights of persons belonging to national minorities, and that they effectively combat all forms of criminal activities on territories controlled by them;
17. Urges that the parties concerned negotiate in good faith and engage themselves in a process which will lead to defining the status for Transdniestria and agreeing on guarantees for that arrangement;
18. Encourages the OSCE to continue active participation in such a negotiation process, to offer assistance and to provide support and guarantees;

19. Suggests that the role of the OSCE in Moldova be strengthened and that modalities of an OSCE-led peacekeeping operation, which would include also those who are contributing to the present peacekeeping activity, be agreed upon;
20. Appeals to participating States to contribute to the Voluntary Fund which has been established to facilitate the timely removal and destruction of the Russian military equipment and ammunition from the territory of the Republic of Moldova;
21. Confirms that the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly remains committed to contributing to a just and peaceful solution to the question concerning the status of Transdnistria and to facilitating dialogue between the parties concerned, in particular amongst parliamentarians, and for this purpose obliges the Assembly's Parliamentary Team on Moldova to continue to work for the fulfilment of its mandate and for the implementation of the aims and principles contained in this resolution.

## **RESOLUTION**

### **ON**

### **“THE ILASCU GROUP”**

1. Emphasizing the fundamental duty of all OSCE participating States to observe their commitments concerning the respect of human rights and the rule of law;
2. Recognizing that members of the “Ilascu Group”, imprisoned in Transdnistria, have been deprived of their right to a fair trial;
3. Welcoming the expressed willingness of the Transdnistrian authorities to cooperate in efforts to try the members of the “Ilascu Group” in another country;

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

4. Encourages the Chairperson-in-Office and the OSCE Mission to Moldova to continue their efforts to find a participating State willing to hold a fair trial of the members of the “Ilascu Group”;
5. Urges participating States to consider holding a fair trial of members of the “Ilascu Group”;
6. Appeals to the Transdnistrian authorities to cooperate in this matter and to release the members of the “Ilascu Group” pending the commencement of criminal proceedings in the participating State holding the trial.