



AS (17) D E

**MINSK
DECLARATION
AND
RESOLUTIONS
ADOPTED BY THE
OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
AT THE TWENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL SESSION**

MINSK, 5 to 9 JULY 2017

Table of Contents

Preamble	1
1st Committee Resolution: Political Affairs and Security	1
2nd Committee Resolution: Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment	8
3rd Committee Resolution: Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions	13
Resolution on Ensuring a Coherent, Shared and Responsible Governance of Migration and Refugee Flows	19
Resolution on Migration	25
Resolution on Promoting Gender Inclusive and Responsive Mediation	27
Resolution on Restoration of the Sovereignty and Territorial Integrity of Ukraine	30
Resolution on Strengthening the Role of OSCE in Countering Terrorism	35
Resolution on Strengthening Energy Security in the OSCE Region	38
Resolution on Developing a Timely and Effective Legislative, Regulatory and Administrative Response to the Emergence of New Psychoactive Substances	40
Resolution on Drinking Water: Fostering Co-operation to Protect a Scarce Resource	44
Resolution on Observation of New Voting Technologies	48
Resolution on Preventing Child Sexual Exploitation Online through Advances in Technology	50
Resolution on Abolition of the Death Penalty	53
Resolution on Multiculturalism – The Role of Cultural Values in the Development of Democracy in the Context of Globalization	55
Resolution on Unacceptability of Discrimination and Intolerance Against Christians, Muslims and Adherents of Other Religions	57

PREAMBLE

We, Parliamentarians of the OSCE participating States, have met in annual session in Minsk from 5 to 9 July 2017 as the Parliamentary dimension of the OSCE to assess developments and challenges relating to security and co-operation, in particular on Enhancing Mutual Trust and Co-operation for Peace and Prosperity in the OSCE Region, and we offer the following views to the OSCE Ministers.

We wish every success to the next OSCE Ministerial Council and bring to its attention the following declaration and recommendations.

ENHANCING MUTUAL TRUST AND CO-OPERATION FOR PEACE AND PROSPERITY IN THE OSCE REGION

CHAPTER I

POLITICAL AFFAIRS AND SECURITY

1. Noting with concern the ongoing security challenges throughout the OSCE area, including cybersecurity threats, terrorism and violent extremism, the destabilization of Ukraine, the situation in Turkey, protracted conflicts, and a generally deteriorating climate of trust, confidence and co-operation,
2. Stressing the need to make full use of the OSCE's toolbox to strengthen confidence-building measures, reduce the risk of conflict and promote long-term, comprehensive security, including through gender mainstreaming and enhancing women's political, social, and economic empowerment in armed conflict and disaster settings,
3. Welcoming the adoption, at the 2016 OSCE Ministerial Council in Hamburg, of the Declaration "From Lisbon to Hamburg: Declaration on the 20th anniversary of the OSCE Framework for Arms Control", which welcomes the launching of a structured dialogue on the current and future challenges and risks to security in the OSCE area to foster a greater understanding of these issues that could serve as a common solid basis for a way forward,
4. Also welcoming the adoption of a number of other important Decisions at the 2016 OSCE Ministerial Council in Hamburg, in particular on the OSCE's Role in the Governance of Large Movements of Migrants and Refugees and OSCE Efforts Related to Reducing the Risks of Conflict Stemming from the Use of Information and Communication Technologies, as well as the Ministerial Statement on the Negotiations on the Transdniestrian Settlement Process in the "5+2" Format and the Ministerial Declaration

on OSCE Assistance Projects in the Field of Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition,

5. Further welcoming the priorities for the Austrian 2017 OSCE Chairmanship to reduce threats by defusing existing conflicts, combating radicalization and violent extremism, and re-establishing trust and confidence,
6. Recalling the international commitments of OSCE participating States to reduce the risk of conflict, pursue dialogue and promote the peaceful settlement of disputes, notably obligations found in the UN Charter and the Helsinki Final Act on refraining from the threat or use of force, respecting the inviolability of frontiers and the territorial integrity of States, and principles of non-intervention in internal affairs,
7. Concerned over troop and artillery movements and military build-ups that have taken place in the OSCE area over the past year,
8. Noting with concern the deteriorating security situation in Afghanistan, which is taking a heavy toll on the population and providing new opportunities for extremist groups,
9. Noting that transfers of major weapons systems globally have reached their highest volume since the end of the Cold War and that four of the top five global arms exporters – the United States, the Russian Federation, France and Germany – are OSCE participating States,
10. Stressing the need for enhanced efforts to settle protracted conflicts in the OSCE area in a peaceful and negotiated manner, refraining from the threat or use of force and respecting the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the countries involved, within their internationally recognized borders, in full respect of the Charter of the United Nations and the Helsinki Final Act,
11. Noting with concern the renewal of hostilities in the South Caucasus, notably the recent violations of the ceasefire on the Line of Contact in the territories around Nagorno-Karabakh, and the ongoing ceasefire violations in the Donbas region of Ukraine, which have led to heavy losses of human lives, including civilians,
12. Regretting the lack of progress towards a peaceful resolution of the conflict in Georgia based on the norms and principles of international law, and expressing concern over the humanitarian and security situation in occupied Abkhazia, Georgia, and Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, Georgia,
13. Condemning the 15 July coup attempt in Turkey, and expressing solidarity with Turkey and its people in the aftermath of the attempted seizure of power,
14. Noting that, according to the international observers from the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the Turkish referendum of 16 April 2017 fell short of international standards for a fair election,
15. Noting the substantial progress made in the Western Balkans over the past decade, but expressing concern about the recently deteriorating political situation in the region,

caused, among other factors, by the insufficient attention paid to the region by its European and transatlantic partners, as well as undue geopolitical interference in internal political processes, which blocks the integration of countries into regional organizations and impacts negatively on the building and functioning of democratic institutions, thereby creating new risks of political and ethnic tensions,

16. Stressing that corruption is a serious threat to peace,
17. Regretting the failure of the international community to resolve the civil war in Syria, now in its seventh year, a conflict that has caused untold human suffering and contributed to the worst refugee crisis seen in Europe since the Second World War,
18. Expressing concern about the humanitarian situation of the internally displaced persons and refugees in the OSCE area who are continuously deprived of the right to voluntary, safe, dignified and unhindered return to their places of origin, as well as the right to own property,
19. Regretting the breakdown in nuclear security and nuclear weapons reduction agreements between the United States and the Russian Federation, including the Plutonium Management and Disposition Agreement, the New START Treaty, and the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty,
20. Welcoming the launch of negotiations at UN headquarters in New York between 123 countries this spring to establish an international ban against the possession, use, threat of use, acquisition, stockpiling, or deployment of nuclear weapons,
21. Welcoming the appointment in September 2016 of an OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Special Representative on Mediation, serving as the primary point of contact within the PA on mediation and the conflict cycle and liaising with other international organizations dealing with mediation issues,
22. Welcoming the participation of Uzbekistan and Afghanistan at the Winter Meeting on 23-24 February 2017 in Vienna,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

23. Urges participating States to recommit to multilateral diplomacy in the pursuit of comprehensive security and to implement OSCE confidence-building measures, as appropriate, to resolve existing conflicts and reduce the risks of future conflicts and to unambiguously uphold the assumptions and principles of the Helsinki Final Act and the Paris Summit, the Istanbul Charter of 1999, the Astana Declaration of 2010 and the fundamental principles set out in the Decalogue concerning political, military, economic, humanitarian and environmental co-operation on which the OSCE is based;
24. Calls on all political leaders in participating States of the Western Balkans to commit to constructive dialogue, both internally and with their counterparts in neighbouring States, to defuse political tensions and refrain from belligerent rhetoric that could lead to a deterioration in inter-ethnic and inter-State relations, to disassociate themselves publicly from expressions of extreme nationalism and intolerance made by others within their respective States, to support justice regarding all horrific crimes committed during

conflict and to give greater priority to the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the individual;

25. Encourages the States in the region to redouble their efforts to address the most burning issues that directly affect people's lives, including corruption and the absence of an independent professional judiciary and of quality and politically independent media, and to strengthen faith in the reliability of electoral processes and the functioning of democratic institutions;
26. Urges the Governments of OSCE participating States to give increased attention to the situation in the Western Balkans and to assist in any possible way all efforts to reverse current negative trends, following up on longstanding foreign policy commitments which the region views as beneficial in sustaining its reform and democratization agenda;
27. Encourages the States and societies of the region to further improve the reconciliation processes and dialogue through the full implementation of all OSCE commitments, in particular the human dimension principles of the OSCE Copenhagen Document, in order to overcome persisting ethnic and religious divisions;
28. Calls on the international community to give special attention to the unfulfilled promises regarding the return of refugees and displaced persons, including by raising awareness of international obligations and commitments;
29. Asks the OSCE, including its executive structures, institutions and field operations, to maintain their welcome high engagement in the Western Balkans in order to strengthen their assistance to the states in the region;
30. Offers the continued assistance of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and its Special Representative on South East Europe in addressing the challenges in the region;
31. Deplores the loss of life caused by terrorist attacks, and calls for renewed commitment among OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation to strengthen efforts to counter radicalization and violent extremism, develop measures aimed at blocking the funding of terrorist organizations, and prevent terrorists from carrying out their crimes, including by improving legal frameworks and law enforcement methods, strengthening the security of international transportation, and by tracking the movements of terrorists within countries and across borders;
32. Urges participating States to criminalize, in national legislation, any assistance to terrorists, to identify and crack down on individuals and legal entities engaged in economic activities with terrorists, above all ISIL/DAESH, and to work to achieve universal implementation of Security Council resolutions 2199 and 2253;
33. Encourages participating States and Mediterranean Partner States to build upon the 2016 OSCE Mediterranean Conference "Youth North and South of the Mediterranean: Facing Security Challenges and Enhancing Opportunities" by pursuing initiatives that incorporate youth and civil society into counter-violent extremism programmes and focus on addressing the needs and aspirations of young people in the Mediterranean region;

34. Encourages efforts to co-operate on shaping a safe and free future for Libya by supporting border security and counter-terrorism efforts, fostering political stability and the rule of law through dialogue, providing economic assistance, addressing the migration routes to the OSCE region emerging from Libyan territory and facilitating Libya's admission as a unified and democratic country to the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation at the earliest practicable instance;
35. Endorses the conclusions of the Parliamentary Conference on Combating International Terrorism, jointly organized by the Interparliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States and the OSCE PA in St. Petersburg on 28 March 2017;
36. Calls on all participating States to uphold their OSCE commitments and make use of the OSCE toolbox in the fight against both internal and external threats and in this regard regrets the measures taken against Turkish parliamentarians, including their imprisonment and deprivation of the possibility to exercise their popular mandate;
37. Regrets the accusations levelled by the Turkish authorities against the international missions from the ODIHR and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe to observe the Turkish referendum of 16 April 2017, and calls on the Turkish authorities to restore freedom of speech, freedom of the press and freedom of assembly;
38. Urges that measures be taken to enhance cybersecurity between States, to prevent tension and conflicts stemming from the use of information and communication technologies, and to protect critical infrastructure from cyber threats, including by strengthening the implementation of the OSCE's confidence-building measures in the area of cybersecurity and facilitating co-operation among the competent national bodies and law enforcement agencies;
39. Calls on OSCE participating States to continue to strive to achieve a consensus on the operation and funding of OSCE missions, both permanent and temporary, and, to the extent possible within the limits of international law, to give the OSCE missions the most broadly interpreted powers and the greatest possible freedom of movement so that they can carry out their missions in the safest and most satisfactory manner for all participating States;
40. Calls for an end to military hostilities in Ukraine, the full withdrawal of heavy calibre weaponry by both sides, and full access to the OSCE's Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM) and humanitarian aid organizations;
41. Condemns numerous serious incidents of pressure, harassment and intimidation of the SMM monitors combined with the cases of deliberate destruction of the OSCE assets taking place in certain areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions controlled by the Russian hybrid forces, and urges the Russian Federation to take practical measures to ensure the necessary security conditions for the SMM, which will prevent further escalation of the situation;
42. Calls upon the Russian Federation as an occupying power in the Crimean Peninsula to remove any restrictions or other impediments that affect the freedom of movement of the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine and prevent its monitors from fulfilling their mandate;

43. Reiterates support for the Package of Measures for the implementation of the Minsk Agreements, adopted and signed on 12 February 2015 in Minsk by all signatories who also signed the Minsk Protocol of 5 September 2014, and the Memorandum of 19 September 2014, as well as the relevant OSCE PA resolutions addressing the crisis in and around Ukraine;
44. Underlines respect for the principles of the inviolability of frontiers and territorial integrity, peaceful settlement of disputes, equal rights, and self-determination of peoples as stated in the Helsinki Final Act, and calls on the Russian Federation to restrain its aggressive practices and reverse its annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea;
45. Expresses its deep regret over the lack of progress towards the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, calls on the parties to engage without further delay in substantive negotiations with a view to finding the earliest possible sustainable solution to the conflict, and urges the Co-Chairmen of the OSCE Minsk Group to redouble their efforts to that end;
46. Reaffirms full support for a comprehensive, just and viable solution to the Transdniestrian conflict based on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova, with a special status for the Transdniestrian region, and encourages further steps to ensure stability and transparency, and decrease the military presence in the conflict region, including by completing the withdrawal of the Russian Federation forces and munitions from the territory of the Republic of Moldova;
47. Urges the full implementation of the EU-brokered Six-Point Ceasefire Agreement of 12 August 2008, which ended the conflicts in Abkhazia, Georgia and Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, Georgia, as well as the free access of humanitarian aid to Abkhazia, Georgia and Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, Georgia;
48. Calls on all countries to participate in UN negotiations on nuclear disarmament and to pursue the adoption of nuclear risk reduction, transparency and disarmament measures;
49. Stresses the need for tighter arms export policies, particularly with regard to volatile regions such as the Middle East, which strictly comply with international law, international humanitarian law and human rights law and the provisions of relevant international and regional instruments;
50. Reaffirms support for the 2004 Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality, and urges the OSCE Ministerial Council to adopt an addendum to the Gender Action Plan that takes into account recent developments relating to women, peace and security, including the important findings of the Global Study on the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325;
51. Encourages participating States to promote the full participation of women in conflict prevention, management, resolution and recovery, including at all decision-making levels, as well as the protection of women's rights throughout all stages of the conflict cycle in accordance with United Nations Security Council resolutions 1325 and 1820, as well as associated resolutions on women, peace and security, and to increase funding to support the advancement of gender equality in these areas;

52. Calls on parliamentarians, as elected by the people, to take the lead and act to eliminate corruption, in that corruption affects all parts of society, undermines public trust and confidence in government institutions, and hinders societies' efforts to become self-reliant;
53. Urges the OSCE to continue developing its toolbox to counter emerging threats, including by considering a revision of its consensus-based decision-making procedure, reinforcing its early warning and early action mechanisms, developing its legal personality, and pursuing external co-operation with partners;
54. Reiterates the unique role of the Parliamentary Assembly within the OSCE in building relationships based on constructive dialogue, trust and mutual respect between all OSCE countries.

CHAPTER II

ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT

55. Supporting the OSCE's concept of common, comprehensive and indivisible security, which encompasses the politico-military, the human, and the economic and environmental dimensions,
56. Recognizing that the economic and environmental dimension provides a solid basis for mutually beneficial co-operation among OSCE participating States,
57. Recalling that in the Helsinki Final Act of 1975, participating States recognized that "efforts to develop co-operation in the fields of trade, industry, science and technology, the environment and other areas of economic activity contribute to the reinforcement of peace and security in Europe and in the world as a whole",
58. Noting the OSCE Ministerial Council decision No. 4/16 on Strengthening good governance and promoting connectivity adopted at the 23rd OSCE Ministerial Council in Hamburg, Germany, which in particular welcomed "the fact that almost all participating States have ratified or acceded to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and are working towards fulfilling the commitments deriving from the Convention",
59. Welcoming the results of the 2015 United Nations Paris Climate Change Conference (COP21), which concluded with the adoption of the Paris Agreement, marking a significant step in the global climate effort, establishing a new framework combining "nationally determined contributions" (NDCs) with new multilateral mechanisms aimed at ensuring transparency and accountability and promoting greater ambition over time,
60. Considering that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals, adopted by the United Nations on 25 September 2015, will steer international poverty eradication efforts and guide the world towards development over the years to come,
61. Noting that the COP22 Marrakech Conference in November 2016 was an important transitional moment, shifting from the years of negotiation that produced the Paris Agreement to a new phase focused on implementation,
62. Noting the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development goals and targets, including Goal 5, which recognizes that gender equality is a necessary foundation for long-term peace, prosperity and sustainability,
63. Regretting the decision by the President of the United States of America to withdraw from the Paris Agreement on Climate Change (COP21),

64. Recalling the devastating consequences of the Chernobyl and Fukushima nuclear accidents, and expressing grave concern regarding nuclear energy projects in OSCE participating States on highly seismic and other environmentally or otherwise hazardous sites, which pose a direct threat to human life, the environment and security,
65. Recognizing that corruption, trade in conflict minerals and money laundering are potential sources of political tension that undermine the stability and security of participating States, contributing to global threats such as terrorism and transnational organized crime,
66. Recognizing that good governance, transparency and accountability are key elements for economic growth, trade, investment and sustainable development, thereby contributing to stability, security and respect for human rights in the OSCE area,
67. Welcoming the Austrian OSCE Chairmanship’s objective of “greening the economy” which aims to support the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals by all participating States,
68. Welcoming preparation by the Office of the Co-ordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA) of the 2nd Preparatory Meeting of the 25th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum, which was held 14-16 June 2017 in Astana, Kazakhstan, under the theme “Green Economy as catalyst for sustainable development, security and stability,”
69. Recognizing that corruption and money laundering are potential sources of political tension that undermine the stability and security of participating States, contributing to global threats such as terrorism and transnational organized crime,
70. Welcoming the opportunity provided by Expo 2017, being held in Astana, Kazakhstan, under the theme “Energy of the Future”, which highlights the vital subject of alternative energy sources,
71. Recognizing that water is essential for life and that a suitable supply of high-quality water is a prerequisite for economic and social progress,
72. Welcoming the efforts of the Office of the Co-ordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA) in support of participating States’ endeavours to promote good water governance and strengthen transboundary water co-operation in the South Caucasus, Central Asia and Eastern Europe,
73. Recalling the Athens Ministerial Council Decision No. 5/09 on migration management, which underscored “the importance of mainstreaming migration policies into economic, social, environmental, development and security strategies and addressing migration management through co-operative, comprehensive and cross-dimensional approaches”,
74. Concerned by the size and direction of migration flows within, from and into the OSCE area which have been magnified, diversified, and accelerated,
75. Recognizing the OSCE commitments to address legal and orderly migration, protection of migrants’ personal and social welfare, attention to recruitment practices as well as the

equality of rights between migrant workers and nationals regarding conditions of employment and social security,

76. Reaffirming the Astana Declaration of 2008 and the Oslo Declaration of 2010 and their resolutions on cybercrime and cyber security, which recognize that cyber attacks against vital state and commercial infrastructure are equivalent in nature to those of a conventional act of aggression,
77. Expressing concern about the amendments to education legislation in Hungary, affecting Central European University, which risk undermining academic freedom, inhibiting research and development, and impeding scientific advancement,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

78. Calls on OSCE participating States to redouble their efforts in thorough consideration of issues relating to the economic and environmental dimension in line with commitments set forth in the Helsinki Final Act and the 2010 Astana Commemorative Declaration;
79. Recommends that OSCE participating States seek opportunities to develop mutually beneficial regional and subregional economic co-operation, including the promotion of dialogue and interaction among participating States and among relevant international and regional organizations;
80. Underlines that economic growth and environmental sustainability are not mutually exclusive and that domestic economic policies should prioritize clean energy projects, investment and innovation to promote sustained growth and ensure that negative effects on the environment are minimized;
81. Requests that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals be used as the main point of reference for all sustainable development policies in participating States;
82. Stresses the high potential of “green economic growth” as a major driving force for sustainable development, utilization of renewable energy sources and advantages for ecological health, low operating costs and safety to the environment and for supporting the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals by all participating States;
83. Recognizes that the empowerment of women and girls through education and universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights is central to sustainable development and environmental protection, urges OSCE participating States to implement financial, economic, environmental, and social policies that promote gender equality in each of these areas of work, and calls on OSCE participating States to increase learning opportunities and skills development for women and girls, related to the green economy;
84. Urges all OSCE participating States to recognize the urgency of the climate crisis and its related challenges, including displacement and forced migration, and to implement policies at the international, regional, national and subnational levels to better prevent and prepare for displacement and respond to situations whereby people are forced to seek refuge, in their own country or internationally in the context of natural disasters and climate change, and to move rapidly towards a low-emission and climate-resilient

economy, as well as take steps to mitigate the effects of climate change already taking place;

85. Calls on participating States to ratify the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change, to fulfil their obligations under the agreement, and to strengthen their Intended Nationally Determined Contributions with the goal of bringing greenhouse gas emissions to a safer level and ensuring that global temperatures do not exceed the target of 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, as called for in the Paris Agreement;
86. Recommends that OSCE participating States consider options for implementing a carbon tax or fee on heavily polluting industries and experiment with forms of taxation on the consumption of CO₂ contained in products to increase the competitiveness of products with a lower content of climate changing gases;
87. Reaffirms the need to fight corruption, tax evasion, financial crime, money laundering, the production and trafficking of narcotics, and the financing of terrorism;
88. Calls on OSCE participating States and the Partners for Co-operation to enhance the level of co-operation among law enforcement agencies and other relevant institutions in combating corruption, money laundering, the production and trafficking of narcotics, the financing of terrorism and other financial crime;
89. Recommends that OSCE participating States adopt a coherent, co-ordinated response to migration based on the principles of international co-operation and shared responsibility that are at the heart of the OSCE's comprehensive approach to security, to prioritize search and rescue operations in the Mediterranean Sea, implement effective screening and integration, and combat the criminal networks exploiting the refugee and migrant crisis;
90. Emphasizes the need for industrialized nations to assist lesser-developed countries in tackling climate change and to promote global economic development, ensure food and water security, fight poverty and hunger, promote gender equality and address wealth disparity in order to cultivate long-term solutions to the challenge of migration;
91. Stresses that government responses to arrivals of refugees and migrants must respect each individual's right to live in dignity and security, taking into account the special needs of women and girls, and promoting education and economic empowerment for women;
92. Encourages the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities to assist participating States in developing effective labour migration policies aimed at promoting a comprehensive and positive approach to migration management;
93. Calls on all participating States to support the selection and recruitment of foreign workforces in countries of origin and their placement in countries of destination;
94. Calls on participating States to refrain from behaviours which can negatively affect scientific freedom, and encourages participating States to remain committed to protecting and guaranteeing academic independence in line with the core values and principles of the Organization;

95. Reconfirms the need to develop and enhance co-operation between integration processes and structures in the OSCE area with a view to establishing common economic space in line with the commitments set forth in the Helsinki Final Act and the 2010 Astana Commemorative Declaration, and underscores the role that the OSCE could play as a platform for dialogue in that regard;
96. Emphasizes that rapid advances in digitalization are causing fundamental changes in all aspects of life, the potential positive and negative consequences of which require comprehensive discussion at the national and international levels, and affirms that developments with regard not only to security, but also to the issue of a democratic society as a whole, the implications of which cannot yet be fully understood, should be given due consideration.

CHAPTER III

DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS

97. Reaffirming the concept of comprehensive security enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act's Declaration on Principles Guiding Relations Between participating States that includes commitments to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms,
98. Underscoring the conclusions of the 1990 Charter of Paris for a New Europe, in which participating States agreed, at their most senior level, to "undertake to build, consolidate and strengthen democracy as the only system of government of our nations," and that the protection and promotion of human rights "is the first responsibility of government",
99. Recalling the Moscow Document of 1991 that affirms that human dimension commitments are of "direct and legitimate concern to all participating States and do not belong exclusively to the internal affairs of the State concerned",
100. Noting that human dimension commitments continue to be violated in many OSCE participating States and that some seek to justify such violations as necessary to preserve national security,
101. Observing that the failure of participating States to fulfil their human dimension commitments contributes significantly to the deterioration of public trust in institutions and thus to political instability,
102. Deeply regretting the continued failure of the OSCE Ministerial Council to adopt any human dimension decisions in recent years,
103. Underscoring that the working definition of anti-Semitism, which was adopted for use by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, endorsed by the European Parliament, and almost adopted for use in the OSCE at the Hamburg Ministerial Council in 2016, serves as an important guide for law enforcement, prosecutors and judges, monitors and civil society groups in understanding the multi-dimensional nature and new forms of this age-old hatred,
104. Concerned that OSCE field mission mandates are often held hostage to political interests instead of being negotiated in the spirit of pursuing deeper respect for human rights and democratic principles,
105. Recalling the consensus among participating States in Copenhagen in 1990 that democracy is inherent to the rule of law, and reaffirming the minimum standards for democracy enumerated in that document,
106. Underscoring the consensus declaration in Ljubljana in 2005 that recognizes pluralistic democracy and the rule of law as prerequisites for peace, security, justice, and stability,

107. Pointing out that states of emergency and the interference with rights in these contexts must be strictly necessary, proportionate, and temporary without derogation from core international commitments, particularly prohibition against torture,
108. Stressing that governments should provide appropriate support to those most directly impacted by terrorism, namely the victims of attacks,
109. Encouraging participating States to strongly denounce anti-migrant, anti-Muslim, racist and xenophobic sentiment that may arise because of such attacks,
110. Recalling the 2003 Maastricht OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-First Century, which stated that the mobility of migrant populations and the emergence of societies with many coexisting cultures in all parts of the OSCE region present growing opportunities as well as challenges, and that the failure to integrate societies, and the failure also by those who reside in them to respect the rights of all, can undermine stability,
111. Reminding participating States that in the Moscow Document of 1991, they committed to ensuring civilian control and promoting legislative oversight over their military, paramilitary, security, and intelligence services,
112. Stressing that States delegating public security missions and tasks to private military and security companies retain their obligation to ensure that those companies operating in their territory or abroad act in accordance with international law, and concerned that the private security industry is not systematically subject to adequate democratic controls at national level,
113. Recalling the 2009 Resolution on a Moratorium on the Death Penalty and Towards Its Abolition, and noting that in view of the fallibility of human justice, recourse to the death penalty inevitably carries a risk that innocent people may be killed,
114. Noting with concern that academic freedom is threatened to varying degrees in some participating States and in many parts of the world,
115. Expressing deep concern that refugee and migrant women and children are falling prey to forced prostitution, sexual assault, and other forms of exploitation and violations of freedom of religion, and that inadequate facilities and staff at camps, temporary shelters, and registration centres are contributing to the vulnerability of these populations,
116. Expressing concern over the unresolved situation of internally displaced persons (IDPs) scattered over a number of its participating States,
117. Expressing further concern over the situation of populations in conflict areas throughout the OSCE region,
118. Observing that instability in the Middle East and North Africa requires the sustained attention of participating States and the application of the concept of comprehensive security to achieve lasting peace, freedom, and security,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

119. Calls on OSCE participating States to respect the human dignity and equal rights of all their citizens by implementing to the fullest extent all OSCE commitments concerning human rights, fundamental freedoms, pluralistic democracy, and the rule of law;
120. Expresses concern over recent and flagrant manifestations of intolerance, aggressive nationalism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism, discrimination against Muslims, Christians or members of other religions, persecution of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) persons and racism, and stresses the vital role of tolerance, understanding, and co-operation in the achievement and preservation of stable democratic societies;
121. Calls on participating States to adopt the working definition of anti-Semitism at the Vienna Ministerial Council of 7-8 December 2017;
122. Encourages participating States to reinvigorate human dimension discussions within the OSCE by agreeing to meeting agendas and dates in a timely and transparent fashion and by avoiding restrictions on civil society participation while noting that State-sponsored NGOs do not contribute to genuine dialogue;
123. Reiterates the need for participating States to preserve the rule of law, democratic institutions, prohibitions against torture, and civilian oversight of military, paramilitary, security, and intelligence services in the course of addressing national security threats;
124. Calls on participating States contracting private military and security companies for outsourcing missions or tasks to meet their obligations under international law and encourages parliaments to draw up national legislation that efficiently regulates the activities of such companies at home and abroad on the basis of existing international standards in order to ensure democratic control of the private security industry;
125. Calls upon participating States applying the death penalty to declare an immediate moratorium on executions, and urges all countries to reconfirm that they will never apply this inhuman and degrading punishment, and notes with concern debates on its reintroduction in a number of participating States where it has been abolished;
126. Calls on participating States, where applicable, to cease immediately the harassment, imprisonment, mistreatment, and disappearance of political opponents, human rights defenders, journalists, and other members of civil society;
127. Calls on OSCE participating States to guarantee and safeguard, at all times, the rights of parliamentarians to fully exercise their mandate, in line with the Tbilisi Declaration;
128. Urges participating States to guarantee full access for domestic and international monitors to review prison conditions;
129. Expresses solidarity with parliamentarians who are detained or imprisoned, and declares willingness to observe their conditions of detention or imprisonment, including through site visits;

130. Underlines that freedom of expression, including political satire or ideas deemed as shocking or offensive, must be fully observed in line with international obligations of participating States;
131. Recalls the joint recommendations of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Opinion and Expression, and the Organization of American States Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression, that the criminalization of defamation should be abolished, public bodies should not be able to bring defamation actions, truth should always be available as a defence to a charge of defamation, and politicians and public officials should have to tolerate a greater degree of criticism;
132. Deplores attempts by some governments to suppress dissent and to control public communications through measures such as repressive rules regarding the establishment and operation of media outlets and/or websites; interference in the operations of public and private media outlets, politically motivated prosecutions of journalists; unduly restrictive laws on what content may not be disseminated; technical controls over digital technologies such as blocking, filtering, jamming and closing down digital spaces;
133. Emphasizes that academic freedom, and the respect for the right to freedom of expression, assembly, association and movement which it requires, is an essential basis for the sharing of opinions, ideas and knowledge envisaged by the Helsinki Final Act to promote mutual understanding and benefit all peoples, including future generations, and must therefore be better protected from politically motivated interference, restrictions or retaliation;
134. Calls upon all participating States to grant unimpeded access to international human rights monitoring mechanisms and missions, including in particular to areas under the military control of participating States or of their proxies;
135. Calls on the OSCE Ministerial Council to agree to multi-year field mission mandates that guarantee their ability to carry out meaningful work in the human dimension;
136. Urges the OSCE Ministerial Council to expend every possible effort to facilitate the prompt re-establishment of field missions that are currently closed and renew the mandate of existing missions, where necessary;
137. Implores participating States to provide accommodation for refugees and migrants that include sleeping quarters for women and children that can be locked from the inside; separate, well-lit, guarded bathroom facilities designated for women and children only; and female interpreters, guards, and social workers whom the women and children can approach with reports of trafficking;
138. Calls on participating States to seek durable solutions for the safe and voluntary return, local integration or integration elsewhere in the home countries of displaced persons and to guarantee the protection of their rights under the provisions of relevant OSCE and Council of Europe instruments and in line with the 1998 United Nations Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement;

139. Reiterates that, even in cases of military occupation of the territory of a participating State by another participating State, which constitutes a blatant violation of international law, the human rights of the persons in such territories must be respected in accordance with relevant international instruments and OSCE human rights commitments;
140. Stresses the need for participating States to educate their publics on how to report suspected trafficking of refugee and migrant children in their communities; prioritize prosecution of human traffickers and their accomplices; ensure that all child victims of trafficking are provided with access to justice and remedies; and co-operate with the law enforcement of other participating States to prevent sexual exploitation of vulnerable refugees and migrants, especially children, as per the 2013 Addendum to the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings;
141. Urges participating States to officially recognize that extremist groups on the borders of the OSCE and Mediterranean region are targeting religious and ethnic minorities for genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes, and that these atrocity crimes are contributing to refugee flows into the OSCE region;
142. Calls on participating States to consider the vulnerability of religious and ethnic minorities in addition to other vulnerability criteria, such as age and gender, in prioritizing the delivery of aid to – or resettlement of – refugees, internally displaced persons, and migrants;
143. Calls for enhanced co-operation among participating States in preventing and combating the organized looting, smuggling, theft, and illicit trafficking of cultural objects and their restoration to their countries of origin;
144. Invites all participating States to ensure the human and civil rights and fundamental freedoms of persons with disabilities and encourage their political, social, economic and cultural participation by taking the necessary measures to make information, facilities, and fora accessible to individuals with disabilities;
145. Encourages participating States to employ the Moscow Mechanism and strengthen it by ensuring that an adequate number of experts are nominated;
146. Stresses the importance of timely and open invitations to monitor election proceedings, and calls on Governments of OSCE participating States to provide all appropriate support and information to observation missions deployed by the OSCE;
147. Notes the growing number of actors, working internationally and within countries, in the field of election observation, and while welcoming the presence of all such groups that function in a transparent manner and avoid conflicts of interest, stresses that these individuals and groups are not a substitute for OSCE election observation, which uses a recognized methodology to hold participating States accountable for delivering on their commitments;

148. Recognizes that the professional, analytical and technical expertise of the OSCE/ODIHR in the field of elections complements the political expertise and public accountability that OSCE parliamentarians bring to election observation, and strongly values the legitimacy that co-operation in this field brings to OSCE election observation activities;
149. Urges participating States to work, in co-operation with their national legislatures, to implement the recommendations of OSCE election observation missions and referendum observation missions and regularly brief the Assembly on their progress in this regard;
150. Recognizes that a more active role in referenda must be assumed by the OSCE PA itself;
151. Reiterates that the rights of persons belonging to national minorities must be observed, while underlining that participating States which engage with minorities outside their jurisdiction, including through political campaigning, must strictly observe OSCE principles in their conduct;
152. Deplores the restriction and denial of the human rights of LGBTQI people in many OSCE participating States, and urgently calls upon participating States to eliminate all forms of discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity, and calls for the parliaments of all OSCE participating States to introduce the necessary legislation to fully ensure the protection and promotion of the rights of LGBT individuals in the OSCE region, including recognition of same-sex relationships and allowing adoption and parenting;
153. Reiterates that the OSCE's role in monitoring implementation of agreements between participating States regarding human rights commitments within the scope of its mandate can be further enhanced;
154. Emphasizes that the failure to address security challenges in the Middle East and North Africa through the lens of comprehensive security and with particular concern for the human dimension, will lead to continued instability on the borders of the OSCE and spillover of migration flows and destabilizing trends;
155. Invites the OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation to seek greater engagement with OSCE institutions, particularly the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, in order to benefit from their expertise in developing political institutions and processes and guaranteeing human and civil rights and fundamental freedoms for all;
156. Encourages the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly to appoint a Special Representative for the Middle East and possibly other regions that have a bearing on the security and stability of participating States, to serve as an early warning mechanism for possible sources of conflict and instability;
157. Encourages participating States to reinforce democratic progress in Tunisia and other Mediterranean Partner States as appropriate, including through political engagement, security assistance, and increased trade, investment and economic development;
158. Calls on participating States to take decisive action for the implementation of the provisions and/or principles included in the current as well as the previous relevant resolutions.

RESOLUTION ON

ENSURING A COHERENT, SHARED AND RESPONSIBLE GOVERNANCE OF MIGRATION AND REFUGEE FLOWS

1. Recognizing the global nature of the refugee and migrant crisis which impacts on every member of the international community and calls for a co-ordinated and concerted effort,
2. Especially distressed by the continued flows of refugees and migrants risking their lives to reach Europe and in particular by the increase in illegal crossings in the Central Mediterranean as well as by the record number of over 5,000 deaths in the Mediterranean in 2016 and the fact that about half of the dead have not yet been identified,
3. Alarmed by xenophobic attacks and discrimination against refugees, migrants, and persons perceived to be migrants (e.g. people of African descent, Muslims, Latinos/Hispanics, Asians, Roma and persons from other ethnic, racial and religious groups),
4. Alarmed by the record numbers of children on the move, in particular unaccompanied and separated children (UASCs), and their particular vulnerability to trafficking, and sexual and other forms of violence and abuse,
5. Deeply concerned by the lack of access to education of entire generations of children due to conflict and the long-term negative implications for the rebuilding of their countries and their integration into their host societies,
6. Welcoming the political resolve of the international community to save lives, protect rights and share responsibility on a global scale, as expressed in the New York Declaration for Migrants and Refugees (19 September 2016), and the decision to draft a “Global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration”,
7. Recognizing that a distinction between refugees who are fleeing conflict or persecution, and primarily economic migrants is necessary in order to determine the specific level of protection to which they are entitled to and the types of policy responses warranted,
8. Recalling nevertheless that fundamental human rights apply to all, irrespective of nationality, immigration status, and the reasons for leaving one’s home,
9. Recalling previous OSCE PA resolutions, including those on the Situation in the Middle East and its Effect on the OSCE Area (2013); the Situation of Refugees in the OSCE Area (2014); Calling for Urgent Solutions to the Tragedy of Deaths in the Mediterranean (2015); the Rights of Refugees (2016); and the Security Challenges of Migration (2016),
10. Recalling in particular the recommendations put forth by the OSCE PA General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions in its report “Migration Crisis in the OSCE Area: Towards Greater OSCE Engagement” which led to

the unanimous decision by the OSCE PA Standing Committee in February 2016 to establish an Ad Hoc Committee on Migration,

11. Reaffirming OSCE and OSCE PA efforts to enhance awareness of gender issues in the context of migration and to promote the development of gender-responsive policies, programmes and services, including through the 2004 Ministerial Council Decision on Gender Equality (MC.DEC/14/04), OSCE Ministerial Council Decision No. 5/09 on Migration Management (MC.DEC/5/09), as well as OSCE PA resolutions on Gender Aspects of Labour Migration (2013), and on Integrating Gender-Based Analysis and Gender Mainstreaming in the Response to the Migrant and Refugee Crisis (2016),
12. Underlining the crucial importance of dismantling migrant smuggling and human trafficking networks in order to redirect migrants and refugees into safe and orderly flows and to prevent further deaths and human suffering,
13. Reaffirming OSCE commitments to fighting human trafficking in migrant and refugee flows in this area, in particular the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings and its 2013 Addendum; and commending the efforts of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings to develop action-oriented recommendations to better prevent and respond to human trafficking, including in migrant and refugee flows,
14. Commending the 2016 German OSCE Chairmanship for establishing an Informal Working Group Focusing on the Issue of Migration and Refugee Flows, and acknowledging the significant contribution made by this body in identifying the main dimensions of a comprehensive OSCE approach as well as offering concrete recommendations,
15. Welcoming OSCE Ministerial Council Decision No. 3/16 on the OSCE's Role in the Governance of Large Movements of Migrants and Refugees (MC.DEC/3/16),
16. Regretting nevertheless that OSCE participating States failed to agree upon concrete commitments to mainstream the issue of refugees and migrants into the OSCE's comprehensive approach to security,
17. Expressing support for smart security policies that denounce xenophobia in all its forms and promote tolerance and freedom of religion for all, based upon the understanding that discriminatory and xenophobic policies violate human rights commitments and do not serve to promote peace and security,
18. Reaffirming that the OSCE and many participating States, acting in accordance with longstanding OSCE tolerance and non-discrimination, religious freedom and national minority commitments, have been able to help promote peace and security in Europe without resorting to short-sighted, ineffective, and troubling anti-refugee, anti-migrant, or anti-Muslim policies, such as building walls and criminalizing refugees and migrants,
19. Highlighting the significant efforts made by OSCE frontline countries such as Turkey, Italy, and Greece which continue to host a disproportionate share of migrants and refugees,

20. Acknowledging the significant contribution made by the EU-Turkey Statement of 18 March 2016 towards reducing illegal flows and deaths on the Eastern Mediterranean route,
21. Welcoming the February 2017 Malta Declaration by the Members of the European Council and its focus on Libya as a first step towards addressing the main point of departure for illegal crossings across the Central Mediterranean,
22. Emphasizing that the timely processing of asylum claims and appeals as well as speedy family reunification contribute to reducing onward migration and opportunities for human trafficking and to enhancing prospects for integration in destination countries,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

23. Calls on the OSCE and OSCE participating States to enhance their co-operation and coordination and the sharing of best practices with the aim of developing a coherent, shared and responsible approach to migration governance underpinned by the principles of solidarity and responsibility sharing;
24. Stresses the importance of gender mainstreaming and ensuring that migration policies take into account the particular vulnerabilities facing women and girl migrants and refugees as well as the different experiences of men and women, boys and girls, *inter alia* by:
 - a. collecting and analysing gender-disaggregated data;
 - b. addressing the challenges for women and girls during their journey to safety;
 - c. developing measures to prevent sexual and gender-based violence and abuse at reception centres and camps;
 - d. promoting policies aiming at overcoming barriers to accessing basic services;
 - e. emphasizing the need for fair treatment of women's and girls' asylum claims;
 - f. implementing effective measures to identify and assist victims of human trafficking; and
 - g. addressing the challenges as well as the opportunities for integration into host societies;
25. Urges all OSCE participating States to demonstrate their clear commitment to the principles of solidarity and responsibility sharing and to live up to their moral obligations by relocating or resettling a substantially larger number of persons in need of international protection from frontline states such as Turkey, Greece, and Italy;
26. Emphasizes the urgent need to comprehensively reform the current EU asylum system, including through a fair mechanism for redistributing asylum-seekers that would take into account family links and a common approach to UASCs, as proposed by the UNHCR in its innovative proposals "Better Protecting Refugees in the EU and Globally" (December 2016);
27. Calls upon the OSCE participating States that are part of the Common European Asylum System to support the development of a common registration system for a comprehensive and orderly processing and security screening of all irregular arrivals, ensuring access to

protection, more efficient family reunification as well as a reduction in the duplication of costly systems;

28. Calls upon all OSCE participating States to allocate the necessary financial and human resources so that asylum claims are processed in a timely fashion while respecting key procedural safeguards, including the assessment of the merits of each case individually, as well as ensuring the right to appeal;
29. Strongly recommends harmonizing procedures across the OSCE region with respect to UASCs, including through:
 - a. ensuring that a qualified guardian/legal representative is appointed without delay;
 - b. agreeing upon common guidelines and procedures for assessing the ‘best interests of the child’, including screening for instances of human trafficking;
 - c. setting up shared procedures for investigating family claims in a proactive manner and with the support of an independent organisation such as the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) or the UNHCR rather than placing the burden of proof and application on the child;
 - d. implementing functioning family reunification programmes through the allocation of greater human resources;
 - e. establishing a fast-track family reunification procedure for UASCs, separately from the asylum procedure, which would prioritize the tracing of family members with the aim of reuniting minors with their parents, in as far as that is in their best interest;
 - f. agreeing that, as a principle, the detention of UASCs should be avoided;
30. Encourages all OSCE participating States to share responsibility for unaccompanied child refugees that do not qualify under the Dublin III Regulation, for example through mechanisms such as the ‘Dubs scheme’, in order to provide immediate assistance to vulnerable children at immediate risk of trafficking or at high risk of sexual exploitation;
31. Encourages all concerned OSCE participating States to step up the return of persons who have been found not to be in need of international protection with full respect for the principle of *non-refoulement* through:
 - a. the deployment of greater numbers of asylum experts and border officials as well as the allocation of greater administrative resources;
 - b. the conclusion of the necessary readmission agreements and their harmonisation throughout the region in order to ensure a cohesive returns policy, including a list of commonly agreed upon ‘safe countries’;
 - c. increased support for IOM’s programme of Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR);
32. Suggests that the March 2016 EU-Turkey Statement, improved on the basis of the recent experiences on the ground, could be replicated with other countries which are sources of illegal departures provided that they are recognized as safe and that the principle of *non-refoulement* as well as the right to make an asylum claim and to appeal are respected;
33. Strongly urges all OSCE participating States to further promote safe and legal channels for migration of persons in need of international protection, especially vulnerable migrants and refugees such as women, children, persons with health conditions and the

elderly, including through the significant expansion of resettlement programs, private sponsorship programs, humanitarian visas and family reunification;

34. Calls upon OSCE participating States to significantly increase their support to improve conditions for Syrian and other refugees in border countries (Turkey, Jordan and Lebanon), including in particular access to shelter, basic needs, education, health care and, where possible, the labour market;
35. Recommends that the OSCE participating States that are part of the EU Asylum System increase support for joint EU operations in the Mediterranean overseen by Frontex and which involve not only search and rescue but also border surveillance and fighting smuggling networks;
36. Strongly recommends that OSCE participating States enforce strict sentences against persons convicted of human trafficking;
37. Strongly recommends that OSCE participating States increase activities to counteract smuggling while at the same time promoting viable economic alternatives to smuggling;
38. Calls upon the OSCE and its participating States to address the root causes of migration and refugee flows such as conflicts, climate change and poverty by developing well-informed, long-term policies targeted at the drivers of migration, including through gender-sensitive humanitarian and development assistance;
39. Urges in particular the OSCE and its participating States to redouble efforts to bring the parties to the Syrian conflict to the negotiating table to implement a nationwide ceasefire and to work towards a durable resolution to the conflict, in line with UN Security Council resolution 2254 (2015);
40. Furthermore, strongly encourages OSCE participating States to support the efforts of the UNHCR, IOM and their partners to set up reception facilities with strong human rights guarantees for returned migrants in Libya, including dedicated facilities for UASCs, and to further support their efforts to develop durable solutions;
41. Calls upon OSCE participating States that are part of the EU Asylum System to support EU efforts to develop tailor-made compacts with third countries, such as those concluded with five African countries within the Partnership Framework, and increase their financial contributions to the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa, with the aim of preventing irregular migration and especially stopping migration flows before they reach Libya;
42. Calls upon the OSCE and its participating States to devote due attention to the issue of missing and deceased migrants by:
 - a. renewing efforts to implement the recommendations of the Milan and Barcelona conferences of 2013 and 2015 organised under the auspices of the ICRC on the identification and management of bodies of migrants;
 - b. ensuring adequate support and financial resources for forensic services;
 - c. collaborating with the ICRC towards the establishment of a transregional mechanism to centralize data concerning missing migrants;

- d. improving co-ordination and communication between the relevant authorities, especially those in the countries of origin, as well as experts and families in order to help locate missing migrants and, in the case of deceased migrants, to help with the identification and dignified management of their remains;
43. Encourages OSCE participating States to further promote integration in host countries by:
- a. ensuring fast family reunion once a claim has been recognised;
 - b. hosting refugees in smaller housing units rather than ‘ghettos’;
 - c. ensuring that refugee and migrant children are able to attend mainstream schools as soon as possible;
 - d. ensuring that there are sufficient opportunities to learn the language and traditions of the host country also for adults;
 - e. sharing best practices on integration, such as system of private sponsorship implemented in Canada, or appointing of a buddy/contact point;
 - f. providing the access without delay of recognized refugees to the labour market;
44. Strongly urges the OSCE to adopt measures to ensure greater intra-institutional cohesion, co-ordination, information sharing and impact with respect to migration and refugee flows, for example through:
- a. the development of an Organization-wide response, with clearly identified roles and responsibilities of each OSCE body;
 - b. a clearer division of portfolios on migration-related issues within the three dimensions of OSCE activities;
 - c. the establishment of a high-level task force on migration that would meet quarterly and be supported by a network of focal points throughout OSCE bodies, field missions, institutions as well as Partners for Co-operation.

RESOLUTION ON

MIGRATION

1. Recalling that it is the sovereign right of states to define the rules of nationality and the conditions of entry and stay of foreigners in their territories,
2. Recalling that the provision and recognition of travel documents are necessary to facilitate the movement of refugees, and in particular their resettlement, and that the examination of applications must be carried out more rapidly,
3. Noting that the migration crisis is proof of what is now self-evident: that states wish to give precedence to national security, *inter alia* by tightening border controls, over humanitarian protection, whereas the objective of a calm, regulated management – which the European Union is striving to put in place – would be to reconcile those two imperatives,
4. Recognizing that shortcomings in dealing with massive migratory flows at the expense of frontline states result essentially from the lack of sufficient will to implement a comprehensive and effective migration strategy based on greater solidarity, responsibility sharing, coherence and co-ordination,
5. Stressing that every participating State of the OSCE must adopt a legal approach, i.e. in its positive law, to the status of refugees and the right to asylum by complying with the Geneva Convention of 28 July 1951 and its subsequent texts,
6. Recalling the definition of the term “refugee” as set out in article 1, paragraph A(2), of the Geneva Convention of 28 July 1951, namely: any person who “owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it”,
7. Reaffirming the obligation not to return (“*refouler*”), an essential element of the status of refugees and asylum seekers set out in article 33, paragraph 1, of the Geneva Convention of 28 July 1951: “No Contracting State shall expel or return (“*refouler*”) a refugee in any manner whatsoever to the frontiers of territories where his life or freedom would be threatened on account of his race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion”,
8. Reaffirming, in accordance with the Geneva Convention of 28 July 1951 and article 14 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, that the right of asylum is a fundamental right,

9. Recalling that the simultaneous existence and proliferation of legislation and norms that differ from one State to another and sometimes contradict each other constitute a major obstacle to an effective management of migration flows,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

10. Expresses the hope that the admission of refugees and asylum seekers will take place under the best possible conditions and as rapidly as possible and that care will be taken to protect their dignity and security as well as the security of the host country;
11. Recommends that participating States take strong action to crack down on criminal smugglers, who exploit the destitution and distress of refugees and potential immigrants, and that the most severe penalties be imposed on them to set an example;
12. Calls on the Governments of participating States to stop evoking historical inevitability and to recognize the underlying causes of current and future migratory crises in order to anticipate and resolve them, namely:
 - a. political causes (wars, religious extremism);
 - b. economic causes (poverty, weak development);
 - c. demographic causes (high birth rate, absence of birth control);
 - d. climate causes (climate change, lack of water);
13. Hopes that, given the scale of the problem, the word ‘MIGRATION’ will be used in place of the words ‘emigration’ and ‘immigration’ to signify the movement of populations, a phenomenon that is likely to become permanent over time and which has been made easier by modern means of communication.

RESOLUTION ON

PROMOTING GENDER INCLUSIVE AND RESPONSIVE MEDIATION

1. Reaffirming that participating States of the OSCE have committed to upholding the principles enshrined in the 1975 Helsinki Final Act, which include the peaceful settlement of disputes, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, equal rights and self-determination of peoples, co-operation among States, and the fulfilment in good faith of obligations under international law,
2. Recognizing the OSCE's longstanding role in preventive diplomacy and mediation, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's role in parliamentary diplomacy, and the strong networks that regional organizations bring to peace processes,
3. Endorsing the UN's Women, Peace, and Security agenda calling on UN Member States to ensure the full participation of women in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security; also recognizing that, as highlighted in the 15 year review of UN Security Resolution 1325, Preventing Conflict Transforming Justice Securing the Peace: A Global Study on the Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, research demonstrates that peace processes with significant women's participation are more likely to succeed,
4. Referring to UN General Assembly Resolution 68/303 (2014) on Strengthening the role of mediation in the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution, that recognizes the importance of equal and effective participation of women in all aspects of the conflict cycle and of providing adequate gender expertise for all mediators and their teams,
5. Recalling Ministerial Council Decision No. 3/11 on the Elements of the Conflict Cycle, Related to Enhancing the OSCE's Capabilities in Early Warning, Early Action, Dialogue Facilitation and Mediation Support, and Post-Conflict Rehabilitation (2011),
6. Welcoming commitments to gender equality made by OSCE participating States since the adoption of the 2004 Gender Action Plan, including the Ministerial Decision on Women in Conflict Prevention, Crisis Management and Post-Conflict Rehabilitation (MC.DEC/14/05); the Ministerial Decision on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women (MC.DEC/15/05); and the Ministerial Decision on Women's Participation in Political and Public Life (MC.DEC/7/09); and the Ministerial Decision on Promoting Equal Opportunity for Women in the Economic Sphere (MC.DEC/10/11),
7. Referring to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's Baku Declaration (2014) and its Resolution on the Development of Mediation Capacity in the OSCE Area, and referring also to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's Tbilisi Declaration (2016), which calls on participating States to implement their commitments with respect to women's leadership and participation in conflict prevention, resolution, and recovery,

8. Expressing serious concern over the conflicts persisting in various areas of the OSCE and acknowledging that conflicts are detrimental to human rights and negatively impact the economy, regional co-operation and development, and stressing that poverty, inequality and exclusion represent a challenge to the stability and security of participating States,
9. Acknowledging that situations of armed conflict and crisis affect women and men, boys and girls differently and that gender inequalities are deepened and exacerbated by violence,
10. Recognizing the vital roles that women play in consolidating peace, including by promoting understanding and tolerance between different groups; and also noting that women's limited engagement in mediation efforts heightens the risk of conflict relapse,
11. Underlining that inclusive mediation is not only about the number of women involved in peace processes but also about enlarging the influence of women in decision-making,
12. Deeply concerned that, despite existing commitments, women continue to be underrepresented in formal peace processes and that gender issues are not adequately considered in most peace processes,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

13. Calls on participating States and OSCE personnel and representatives involved in mediation to ensure that equal opportunities exist for women to hold meaningful roles in decision-making as part of mediation processes, including leadership positions as mediators and lead negotiators, and that the inclusion of women is considered in the design of all mediation processes;
14. Calls on participating States and OSCE personnel and representatives involved in mediation to ensure that women from diverse backgrounds, including minorities and other marginalized groups, are involved in mediation processes;
15. Recommends that participating States consider local and regional authorities as important facilitators for women's empowerment;
16. Urges OSCE institutions to examine how gender mainstreaming, also referred to as gender-based analysis, can be practically implemented within conflict prevention structures, activities, and in outcome documents of peace agreements; and also calls for the OSCE to increase mentorship, training and networking opportunities to prepare women for increased roles in mediation and on participating States to ensure that funding is in place for such initiatives;
17. Urges participating States to address the barriers to women's involvement in mediation processes, including sexism, lack of education and childcare and inadequate access to funding;
18. Calls on men involved in OSCE mediation efforts to champion gender mainstreaming in all such efforts, by promoting the inclusion of women in the process and ensuring that women's perspectives and needs are integrated in the outcome documents of such processes;

19. Commends the recent publication *Designing Inclusive Strategies for Sustainable Security: Results-Oriented National Action Plans on Women, Peace and Security*, a joint-effort of the OSCE Gender Section and Inclusive Security, for including the number of women in mediation as a tangible measure of a country's implementation of UNSCR 1325;
20. Requests that the promotion of gender mainstreaming and the systematic use of results from gender-based analysis in mediation processes be added to the mandate of the OSCE PA Special Representative on Mediation;
21. Calls on the OSCE and the OSCE PA to collect data on the gender and professional position of all individuals involved in OSCE-related mediation processes and provide such information to the OSCE PA Special Representatives on Gender Issues and Mediation annually, along with other disaggregated data currently provided regarding personnel and membership;
22. Supports the priority of the Austrian OSCE Chairmanship to encourage women's participation as part of its focus on addressing violent conflicts in the OSCE region; urges the Austrian OSCE Chairmanship to publish a concrete action plan for enhancing gender inclusive mediation as part of these efforts; and encourages the upcoming OSCE Chairmanships to actively continue promoting gender inclusive mediation as a part of their work.

RESOLUTION ON

RESTORATION OF THE SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF UKRAINE

1. Aiming to uphold the purposes and principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter and the Helsinki Final Act, in particular concerning respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and inviolability of frontiers of States, as well as non-intervention in internal affairs, peaceful settlement of disputes, and refraining from the threat or use of force,
2. Recalling the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's Resolution on Clear, Gross and Uncorrected Violations of Helsinki Principles by the Russian Federation (2014), Resolution on the Continuation of Clear, Gross and Uncorrected Violations of OSCE Commitments and International Norms by the Russian Federation (2015), Resolution on Adherence to the Helsinki Principles in Inter-State Relations Across the OSCE Area (2015), and Resolution on Violations of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol (2016),
3. Taking into account the UN General Assembly resolution 68/262 of 27 March 2014 Territorial Integrity of Ukraine, the Declaration of the 1034th (special) OSCE Permanent Council meeting of 20 January 2015, the UN Security Council resolution 2202/2015 of 17 February 2015 concerning the Package of Measures for the Implementation of the Minsk Agreements, and the UN General Assembly Resolution 71/205 of 19 December 2016 on the Situation of Human Rights in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol (Ukraine),
4. Expressing deep concern over restrictions affecting human rights, fundamental freedoms, and the rule of law in the Russian Federation,
5. Recognizing the connection between internal oppression and violation of human rights and freedoms and Russia's external aggression and destabilizing behaviour toward neighbouring and nearby States,
6. Stressing the ongoing campaign of discrimination and persecution targeting in particular the Crimean Tatar and ethnic Ukrainian communities in the temporarily occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, as well as the unwillingness of the Russian Federation to grant unimpeded access to international human rights monitoring missions and human rights non-governmental organizations to the temporarily occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol,
7. Taking into account the conduct by Russian authorities of illegal parliamentary elections in the temporarily occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol on 18 September 2016,
8. Taking note of the ongoing proceedings at the International Court of Justice in the cases launched by Ukraine against the Russian Federation under the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism adopted by the General Assembly of

the United Nations on 9 December 1999 and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 20 November 1963,

9. Expressing grave concern over the unilateral steps taken by the Russian Federation to recognize so-called “documents” (passports, driving licenses, birth certificates etc.) issued by illegal entities of certain areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine; to seize local, state, and private economic entities operating in the Ukrainian legal environment and provide full circulation of the Russian currency in non-Government controlled territory of certain areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine; as well as to condone the introduction of a so-called “state border” along the contact line by Russia-backed illegal armed formations in Donetsk,
10. Stressing the critical importance and urgency of reinstatement of full control over the uncontrolled segment of the Ukrainian-Russian state border in order to stop ceasefire violations and to establish conditions for a sustainable de-escalation,
11. Taking note of the report of the UN Human Rights Mission in Ukraine on “the influx of foreign fighters, including citizens of the Russian Federation, ammunition and heavy weaponry into eastern Ukraine from across the border with the Russian Federation”,
12. Considering the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM) reports about the large presence of heavy weapons and advanced military equipment, including items exclusively on the inventory of the Russian Armed Forces, in certain areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine, which are not controlled by the Government of Ukraine, including the areas where the presence of heavy weapons is prohibited by the Minsk Agreements,
13. Taking note of regular reports by the OSCE Observer Mission (OM) at the two Russian checkpoints on the Russian-Ukrainian border about the high number of persons in military-style clothing crossing the non-Government controlled segment of the Russian-Ukrainian state border in both directions,
14. Recognizing the distinct and complementary roles of the OSCE SMM and OM in ensuring a permanent OSCE presence at the Ukrainian-Russian state border adjacent to certain areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine, including through placing monitors at border check-points and assigning the SMM mobile patrols to conduct robust 24/7 monitoring along the border,
15. Anguished by the death of paramedic Joseph Stone of the United States of America, who was killed on 23 April 2017 while serving as a member of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, and by the injuries sustained in the same incident by his fellow monitors from the Czech Republic and Germany,
16. Emphasizing that according to the Minsk Agreements, all hostages and unlawfully detained persons must be released, which includes those who have been abducted from Ukrainian territory, are illegally detained in Russia, and have been recognized by the respective Russian non-governmental organizations as political prisoners,

17. Recalling that the right to a fair trial is guaranteed by each State, and attempts to use justice as a tool for political persecution undermines the credibility of the judicial system as a whole,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

18. Reaffirms its full respect for the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders, which include the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol;
19. Reiterates its condemnation of the temporary occupation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol by the Russian Federation and the ongoing Russian hybrid aggression against Ukraine in Donbas;
20. Recognizes that the Russian Federation has completely failed to implement the provisions of the previous OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Resolutions on violations of fundamental Helsinki principles and international norms on human rights in the temporarily occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol;
21. Urges the Russian Federation to fully observe its obligations under international law as an occupying power and to implement UN General Assembly resolution 68/262 of 27 March 2014 on the Territorial Integrity of Ukraine, the Declaration of the 1034th (special) OSCE Permanent Council meeting of 20 January 2015, UN Security Council Resolution 2202/2015 of 17 February 2015 concerning the Package of Measures for the Implementation of the Minsk Agreements, and UN General Assembly resolution 71/205 of 19 December 2016 on the Situation of Human Rights in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol (Ukraine);
22. Calls upon the Russian Federation to immediately grant unimpeded access to the temporarily occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol to international agencies, institutions, special procedures, and independent experts of the OSCE, the United Nations, and the Council of Europe, as well as to any human rights NGOs or media outlets that wish to visit, assess, and report on the situation in the temporarily occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol;
23. Encourages the OSCE Institutions to continue to take actions aimed at monitoring and reporting on the human rights situation in the temporarily occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol;
24. Urges the Russian Federation to reverse the temporary occupation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, to withdraw the Russian occupation forces from the temporarily occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol and to bring them back under the control of the Government of Ukraine;
25. Calls on participating States to strictly refrain from any steps that could lead to direct or indirect recognition of the results of the illegal elections to the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation in the temporarily occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol (Ukraine);

26. Urges the Russian Federation to stop sponsoring terrorist activities in Ukraine through the inflow of fighters, money, and weapons across the non-Government controlled segment of the Ukrainian-Russian state border, and to terminate all support for illegal armed formations in certain areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine that engage in acts of terrorism in Ukraine;
27. Calls on the Russian Federation to revoke its decisions on the recognition of so-called “documents” (passports, driving licences, birth certificates etc.) issued by illegal entities in certain areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine and on the full circulation of Russian currency in the temporarily occupied areas of Donbas region of Ukraine, and to return seized Ukrainian local, state, and private economic entities into Ukraine’s jurisdiction;
28. Calls on the Russian Federation to ensure the withdrawal of its armed formations, military equipment, and mercenaries from the territory of certain areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine under monitoring of the OSCE, as well as disarmament of all illegal armed formations;
29. Urges the Russian Federation to withdraw its objection to the expansion of the OM operation to other Russian border checkpoints on the border adjacent to certain areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine, as well as 24/7 monitoring between these checkpoints;
30. Calls on the OSCE participating States to introduce OSCE permanent monitoring and verification on the Ukrainian-Russian state border with establishment of the security zone in the border areas of Ukraine and the Russian Federation;
31. Supports providing the necessary resources to enhance OSCE SMM and OM capabilities, in particular through the use of technical surveillance equipment, UAVs (Unmanned Aerial Vehicles) and satellite imageries;
32. Underlines that full, permanent, and unimpeded access of the OSCE SMM to the Government-uncontrolled segment of the Ukrainian-Russian state border, combined with the strengthened international security presence in certain areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine, are needed to ensure the permissive security environment necessary to hold legitimate local elections in accordance with the Ukrainian legislation, relevant OSCE standards and under proper OSCE/ODIHR monitoring;
33. Encourages further consultations to reach an agreement on the deployment of the Police Mission to certain areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine;
34. Calls on the Russian Federation to strictly abide by the norms and principles of international law, OSCE principles and commitments, and the Minsk Agreements, and to immediately release Oleg Sentsov, Oleksandr Kolchenko, Mykola Karpyuk, Stanislav Klyh, Roman Sushchenko and other Ukrainian citizens who are illegally detained in the Russian Federation, as well as to ensure their safe return to Ukraine;
35. Encourages the OSCE Chairmanship, OSCE Institutions and participating States to make efforts and use all instruments available to facilitate the release of all abducted and illegally detained Ukrainian citizens who have become political prisoners in Russia;

36. Encourages the Russian Federation to invite an OSCE/ODIHR Human Rights Assessment Mission to thoroughly explore the situation with regard to human rights, fundamental freedoms and rule of law in the Russian Federation and then to present recommendations about how to establish compliance with OSCE commitments;
37. Invites the OSCE Secretariat to explore ways to increase the effectiveness of the OSCE toolbox in addressing cases of clear, gross and continuing violations of its principles and commitments.

RESOLUTION ON

STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF THE OSCE IN COUNTERING TERRORISM

1. Firmly condemning all terrorist acts that have taken place in various parts of the OSCE region, neighbouring regions and throughout the world, including in London, Saint Petersburg and Paris, underscoring its solidarity with the victims of terrorism, stressing the need to strengthen international solidarity by supporting them and offering sincere condolences to the families of the victims and to the peoples and Governments that have become the targets of these attacks,
2. Reiterating that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations is one of the most serious threats to international peace and security, that any act of terrorism is a crime and is unjustifiable, regardless of its motives and that terrorism cannot, and must not, be associated with any race, religion, nationality or civilization,
3. Reaffirming its respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of the OSCE participating States,
4. Categorically condemning and expressing indignation about the indiscriminate killing of and deliberate attacks against civilians, the countless acts of brutality and the persecution of individuals and communities, including on account of their religion or beliefs, perpetrated by terrorist organizations, in particular Daesh, Al-Qaida, Jabhat al-Nusra/Jabhat Fateh al-Sham/Hay'at Tahrir al Sham and associated persons, groups, enterprises and organizations,
5. Underscoring the central role of the United Nations in countering terrorism, strongly reaffirming its obligation to take measures to protect everyone from terrorist acts, and recognizing the need for all action to be undertaken in conformity with the UN Charter and all other relevant obligations of international law, including international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law, as well as in full compliance with the counter-terrorism resolutions of the UN Security Council and the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy,
6. Recognizing the obligations undertaken in the context of the relevant OSCE documents on countering terrorism,
7. Stressing the crucial role of parliaments in helping to fight terrorism,
8. Unequivocally reaffirming its determination and commitment to preserve unity in preventing and countering terrorism by strengthening international solidarity and co-operation at all relevant levels through a consistent and comprehensive approach, including through the formation of a broad anti-terrorism coalition, acting in strict conformity with international law and the UN Charter, including the principles of sovereignty and equality of States and non-interference in their internal affairs, and without double standards with regard to terrorists,

9. Reiterating that anyone who participates in, or assists with, the financing, planning, preparation or perpetration of terrorist acts must be held accountable and brought to justice on the basis of the principle “extradite or try”, in accordance with the obligations of international law and applicable national law,
10. Recognizing the need to mobilize inter-State efforts on the basis of UN Security Council resolution 1624 (2005) in combating the spread of terrorist ideology and propaganda, and to exchange successful national experience and best practices in the area,
11. Welcoming the agreement of a consolidated international framework for combating terrorist propaganda,
12. Underlining the importance of co-operation among the OSCE participating States on preventing and suppressing the recruitment of members by terrorist groups, including foreign terrorist fighters,
13. Welcoming the work carried out by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and stressing that all participating States must take appropriate measures to prevent and suppress the financing of terrorism and refrain from providing terrorism with financial support in any form, including through the participation in direct or indirect trade in natural resources beneficial to terrorist organizations,
14. Reiterating its profound conviction of the need to improve the legal basis of the OSCE participating States in order to counter the terrorist threat and strengthen the stability of their societies and bolster their potential in the fight against terrorism,
15. Underscoring the importance of co-operation among the OSCE participating States and the involvement of civil society, as well as the media and the private sector, in preventing violent extremism leading to terrorism,
16. Noting the results of the Conference on OSCE Security Policy – Female Perspectives (Vienna, 23 March 2017) and the Parliamentary Conference on Combating International Terrorism (Saint Petersburg, 28 March 2017),

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

17. Advocates the adoption of measures consistent with the obligations of the OSCE participating States within the framework of the Organization, relying on its own resources, to eliminate conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, bearing in mind that no conditions can serve as a pretext or justification for acts of terrorism;
18. Calls on the OSCE participating States to take effective measures so that anyone who participates or assists in the financing, planning, preparation or perpetration of terrorist acts is brought to justice, and calls on the parliaments of participating States to ensure that their national legislation and regulatory provisions define such acts as serious criminal offences, making it possible to prosecute and punish such offences in a manner that reflects their serious nature;

19. Notes the importance of working to alleviate the threat of terrorism by preventing the transboundary movement of persons, weapons and financial assets associated with terrorist activity, in accordance with the commitments entered into in the framework of the OSCE;
20. Calls on the OSCE participating States to make use of the possibilities of national parliaments in order to promote the ratification and implementation of international agreements regulating co-operation between States in the fight against terrorism;
21. Calls emphatically for enhanced international co-operation and public-private partnerships to develop practical measures to counter the use of the Internet and other means for inciting violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism and for recruiting foreign terrorist fighters; such international co-operation and public-private partnerships could foster communication efforts, including via social media, to counter violent extremist messaging, while fully respecting the right to freedom of opinion and expression;
22. Deems it appropriate to consider possibilities for adopting and broadening the practice of voluntary counter-terrorism restrictions on the media, officials and public figures to ensure that terrorists and their sponsors are not provided with information platforms to manipulate the media and that news outlets refrain from aggravating tensions in the infosphere and contributing to terrorist radicalization, as well as the introduction of accountability for such offences;
23. Calls for the establishment, within the framework of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, of a counter-terrorism committee to work towards convergence of the approaches of participating States in combating the terrorist threat and to co-ordinate their action in this regard;
24. Calls on participating States to safeguard the balance between individual and public freedoms and the security measures needed to counter terrorism.

RESOLUTION ON

STRENGTHENING ENERGY SECURITY IN THE OSCE REGION

1. Reaffirming the relevance of the OSCE commitments related to energy issues in the 1975 Helsinki Final Act, the 2003 OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension, and other relevant documents of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the OSCE Ministerial Council,
2. Recalling the 2015 OSCE PA Helsinki Declaration and the 2016 OSCE PA Tbilisi Declaration which call on all participating States to redouble their efforts to identify and pursue comprehensive solutions to our common environmental and economic challenges, including, in particular, energy security,
3. Recognizing the link between energy security, stability and security within and between participating States,
4. Recognizing that the well-being of our people, economic development, and environmental sustainability depend on safe, secure, sustainable energy as one of the engines of economic growth and key to sustainable development,
5. Acknowledging that the renewable energy industry drives technological innovation and employment across the OSCE region,
6. Reaffirming its calls on parliamentarians of OSCE participating States to ensure robust regulation and oversight of the financial sector and to promote economic policies that invest, in particular, in renewable energy and energy-saving technologies,
7. Emphasizing the importance of adapting energy systems and protecting critical energy infrastructure while security challenges and threats grow,
8. Recognizing the high vulnerability of the critical energy infrastructure and ecosystems to the risks posed by conflict,
9. Emphasizing the need for strengthening energy security and mitigating the risks that may have severe and irreversible human, economic and ecological impact,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

10. Calls on participating States to firmly uphold international law and OSCE fundamental principles and commitments which constitute an essential basis for co-operation on energy-related issues;
11. Underlines that energy security remains a critical issue and plays an important role in economic development and environmental sustainability;

12. Emphasizes that peace and security, including energy security, are among the matters of concern in times of crisis and conflict;
13. Underscores that threats or use of force against participating States exercising their rights in their territory or their Exclusive Economic Zone constitute a grave violation of international law and undermine stability and security in Europe;
14. Underlines that participating States have the sovereign right to explore and exploit their energy resources in their territory or in their Exclusive Economic Zone, in accordance with customary international law and pertinent treaties, particularly the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea;
15. Highlights the importance of the protection of critical energy infrastructure from terrorist attacks;
16. Calls on participating States to enhance co-operation to strengthen the resilience and safety of electricity grids in the OSCE area;
17. Recognizes that strengthening energy security requires sustained measures at national, regional, and international levels in several areas, including increasing energy efficiency, market transparency, diversifying energy supplies, and protecting the critical energy infrastructure and energy supply systems;
18. Encourages participating States to explore options for modernizing their existing energy infrastructure in a co-ordinated way to strengthen energy security at the regional level;
19. Stresses the importance of realizing the full potential of existing energy supply routes, thereby reflecting the interests of countries of production, transit and consumption in the area of energy security;
20. Takes note of the Sustainable Developments Goals, in particular Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all;
21. Encourages participating States to continue to use the OSCE as a platform for exchange of information and sharing of best practice for strengthening energy security;
22. Encourages substantive discussions on the environmental dimension of energy security and potential implications of energy challenges on the security situation in the OSCE region;
23. Encourages the OSCE Chairmanship and the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities to further facilitate meaningful discussions among participating States, relevant international and regional organizations, civil society, academia, and the private sector on the issues related to energy security.

RESOLUTION ON

DEVELOPING A TIMELY AND EFFECTIVE LEGISLATIVE, REGULATORY AND ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSE TO THE EMERGENCE OF NEW PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES

1. Mindful that the international drug problem continues to constitute a serious threat to the health, safety and well-being of humanity as a whole,
2. Recalling the 2010 Astana Commemorative Declaration, in which the Heads of State and Government of OSCE participating States recognized the need to achieve a greater unity of purpose and action in facing emerging transnational threats,
3. Recognizing the leading role of the United Nations in the resolution of the international drug problem,
4. Bearing in mind the Outcome Document of the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on the World Drug Problem, held on 19-21 April 2016 in New York, which addressed, *inter alia*, the problem of emerging and persistent challenges and threats, including new psychoactive substances,
5. Recalling the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs that refer to the problem of new psychoactive substances,
6. Recalling the 2015 Ministerial Council Declaration of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs on the OSCE activities in support of global efforts in tackling the world drug problem (MC.DOC/2/15),
7. Also recalling Permanent Council Decision No. 1048 on the OSCE Concept for Combating the Threat of Illicit Drugs and the Diversion of Chemical Precursors, Permanent Council Decision No. 1049 on the OSCE Strategic Framework for Police-Related Activities, and other relevant OSCE documents adopted to combat illicit drugs, and noting the OSCE executive structures' efforts to implement them in accordance with their respective mandates,
8. Bearing in mind the outcome of the conferences held across the OSCE on combating the threat of illicit drugs, including new psychoactive substances, and the diversion of chemical precursors, as well as the relevant regional and sub-regional working groups of experts, OSCE training events, and awareness-raising and capacity-building initiatives,
9. Recognizing the adverse effects on the population and the risks to its health and safety arising from new psychoactive substances,
10. Recognizing the gaps in knowledge about the harm to the health and safety of the population caused by new psychoactive substances,

11. Troubled that new psychoactive substances have the same effect as drugs currently under international control,
12. Deeply concerned about the variety of new psychoactive substances and the rapid pace of their emergence and spread on the illicit market, as well as the role played by the Internet and the media in the sale and spread of these substances,
13. Also concerned about the potential for organized transnational criminal groups to engage in illegal trafficking in these substances,
14. Stressing the progress made by a number of participating States in identifying, monitoring and reporting on new psychoactive substances,
15. Recognizing the importance of existing national legislative, regulatory and administrative measures in ensuring a timely and effective response to the emergence of new psychoactive substances when such substances are designed and marketed,
16. Welcoming the efforts made by a number of participating States to develop a timely and effective legislative, regulatory and administrative response to the emergence of new psychoactive substances,
17. Noting the various legislative, regulatory and administrative approaches taken by participating States to resolve the problem of the emergence of new psychoactive substances, in particular the enactment of legislation on controlled substance analogues and general laws describing the chemical structure of substances, the promotion of multi-faceted regulatory approaches and temporary or emergency control measures and operational planning procedures, and the adoption of vigorous measures in the field of public health, including with regard to pharmaceutical products, consumer protection and dangerous substances,
18. Recognizing the value of the programme “Global Synthetics Monitoring: Analyses, Reporting and Trends” of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) for the collection of data on new psychoactive substances,
19. Also recognizing the value of the UNODC’s early-warning information system on new psychoactive substances and the successful functioning of the information-communication Project of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs for a better understanding of the problem of new psychoactive substances,
20. Paying tribute to the work of the World Health Organization in submitting recommendations on new psychoactive substances to the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs,
21. Bearing in mind the UNODC’s report entitled “The Challenge of New Psychoactive Substances”, published in March 2013, which contains a comprehensive overview of the nature and dimensions of the problem,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

22. Stresses the importance of developing a timely and effective legislative, regulatory and administrative response to the emergence of new psychoactive substances in order to reduce the harm to the health and safety of the population;
23. Calls on participating States to respond swiftly and effectively to the emergence of new psychoactive substances by developing timely and effective legislative, regulatory and administrative measures;
24. Recommends that participating States consider the possibility of enacting legislative, regulatory and administrative measures, in particular legislation on controlled substance analogues and general laws to describe the chemical structure of substances, promoting multi-faceted regulatory approaches and temporary or emergency control measures and operational planning procedures, and adopting vigorous action in the field of public health, including with regard to pharmaceutical products, consumer protection and dangerous substances;
25. Calls on participating States to exchange information through bilateral and multilateral channels on legislative, regulatory and administrative measures adopted to effectively combat the threats arising from new psychoactive substances;
26. Calls on participating States to establish or strengthen national early-warning mechanisms in order to ensure effective co-operation, the exchange of information at interdepartmental, national, regional and international level and a better assessment of the risks associated with new psychoactive substances;
27. Also invites participating States to conduct campaigns to heighten the awareness of law enforcement personnel of new trends in the illicit spread of drugs, with a focus on new psychoactive substances, in order to promote preventive measures and measures to reduce demand;
28. Calls on participating States to monitor the illicit market for new psychoactive substances in real time and establish relations of trust with users of virtual markets in order to facilitate a timely identification of new psychoactive substances, the arrest and prosecution of dealers and the closing of illicit markets;
29. Urges participating States to support public-private partnerships, in particular with the involvement of the chemical industry, the transport sector, and financial and bank institutions, so as to assist the efforts of law enforcement agencies to investigate and prosecute cases associated with the illicit sale of new psychoactive substances;
30. Invites participating States to strengthen the co-operation of law enforcement agencies with government bodies, NGOs and civil society on questions associated with the prevention of the illicit use of controlled chemical substances, both listed and unlisted, and to work to ensure that the results are forwarded to monitoring and early-warning mechanisms;

31. Invites the OSCE executive structures to continue efforts, in close co-operation with the UNODC, the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs and other relevant multilateral organizations, to cope with the threat of illicit drugs, the emergence and spread of dangerous new psychoactive substances and the diversion of chemical precursors;
32. Invites the OSCE executive structures to continue to assist participating States, upon request, in developing a timely and effective legislative, regulatory and administrative response to threats associated with new psychoactive substances and to take appropriate awareness-raising and capacity-building action.

RESOLUTION ON

DRINKING WATER: FOSTERING CO-OPERATION TO PROTECT A SCARCE RESOURCE ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY CLIMATE CHANGE

1. Recognizing that only 2.5 per cent of the world's water can be used for drinking as the remaining 97.5 per cent is salt water from oceans and seas,
2. Stressing that water is an essential life-sustaining world heritage resource which is indispensable for our survival and well-being, and as such, its protection and management is a shared responsibility between all States,
3. Reaffirming that whilst every State has, and shall freely exercise, full permanent sovereignty over its natural resources, each State must also recognize that transborder co-operation is a must to protect a scarce resource adversely affected by climate change,
4. Envisaging that by 2050 the world's population will increase to 9.6 billion people and that this will result in both a higher demand for and consumption of water,
5. Noting that trans-boundary water includes rivers and lakes, groundwater and atmospheric water which cross States' borders, thus requiring co-operation between States to protect and manage it;
6. Noting that there are 276 trans-boundary river basins across the globe and that 200 trans-boundary aquifers have been identified,
7. Stressing that trans-boundary water co-operation has the potential to generate many significant benefits for co-operating countries, including accelerated economic growth, increased human well-being, enhanced environmental sustainability, and increased political stability,
8. Noting that there are both developed and developing countries and regions worldwide which experience absolute water scarcity,
9. Accepting that water quality and quantity are adversely affected by urbanization and persistent economic inequalities worldwide, both in cities and between urban and rural areas, where people with low incomes have less access to good quality water, leaving them vulnerable to poor sanitation, which is linked to the transmission of diseases,
10. Recognizing that water is a global nexus between sustainable environment and sustainable development and that a nation's economic prosperity also depends on the availability and affordability of safe drinking water,
11. Accepting that water has hugely important multiple uses in the domestic, agricultural, fisheries and industrial sectors, as well as being indispensable for both macro- and micro-ecosystems,

12. Considering the number of environmental challenges that our world is currently facing as a result of climate change, which in itself causes extreme weather conditions, such as droughts, scarcity, and flooding, which negatively impact human security,
13. Recalling the 1992 United Nations (UN) Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Convention on the Protection and Use of Trans-boundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention),
14. Recalling the 1997 UN Convention on the Law of the Non-navigational Uses of International Watercourses,
15. Recalling the 1994 UN Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa,
16. Recalling the UN's General Assembly Resolution on the Law of Trans-boundary Aquifers,
17. Recalling the UN General Assembly's explicit recognition in 2010 of the human right to water and sanitation,
18. Recalling the seventh UN Millennium Development Goal (MDG), the aim of which was to halve the proportion of the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation by 2015, and noting that the world has met the target of halving the proportion of people without access to improved sources of water five years ahead of schedule, but despite progress in improving adequate sanitation, 2.4 billion people are still using unimproved sanitation facilities,
19. Remembering the EU Water Framework Directive, which aims to protect ground and surface waters and the achievement of good ecological status by 2015, and that the WFD obliges EU Member States to draft River Basin Management Plans to protect each of the 110 river basin districts in the EU territory,
20. Recalling the EU's Nitrates Directive, the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive, and the Bathing Water Directive, which aim to safeguard and enhance Europe's coastal waters,
21. Recalling the importance of bilateral, regional, and multilateral legal frameworks which have made possible the conclusion of a number of treaties, protocols, and conventions on the use, development, and protection of trans-boundary watercourses and related ecosystems,
22. Recalling the Geneva Convention on Long-Range Trans-boundary Air Pollution, the EU's Directive on Ambient Air Quality, the National Emission Ceilings Directive, the Air Quality Framework Directive, the Directive on the limit values for sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, oxides of nitrogen, particulate matter and lead in ambient air; the Directive on the limit values for benzene and carbon monoxide in ambient air; the Ozone Directive and the Directive relating to arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons which have an impact on atmospheric water,

23. Recalling that the UN-Water side event during COP21 agreed that the effects of climate change will be mostly felt on the water cycle, and consequently noting that political leadership and long-term solutions are required to honour the commitments undertaken in Paris,
24. Remembering the Concluding Meeting of the 23rd OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum held in September 2015 in Prague, entitled *Water Governance in the OSCE Area – Increasing Security and Stability through Co-operation*, and the importance of keeping up the momentum and implementing in practice the results of the Forum,
25. Welcoming the importance given to the issue of water in the 2015 Autumn Meeting of the OSCE PA, which was held on 15-18 September in Mongolia,
26. Welcoming the organization of workshops and other initiatives, such as the workshop for researchers jointly organised by the OSCE Office in Tajikistan and the German-Kazakh University on 3-7 October 2016, which aimed to boost researchers' capacities to identify sustainable, fair, and efficient ways of managing water resources,
27. Welcoming the European Commission's evaluation report on the Drinking Water Directive 98/83/EC published on 1 December 2016, which identifies and proposes ways in which to address limitations on regulation of the quality of drinking water and the monitoring programmes that need to be carried out to make sure that quality standards are respected throughout the EU, and welcoming the Roadmap published on 28 February 2017 on the proposed revision of Council Directive 98/83/EC on the quality of water intended for human consumption,
28. Welcoming the paradigm shift advocated in the United Nations World Water Development Report published on 22 March 2017, entitled 'Wastewater: The Untapped Resource', which argues that once treated, wastewater could prove invaluable in meeting the growing demand for fresh water and other raw materials,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

29. Urges participating States to identify and treat water governance as a very important priority and to explore all avenues to further strengthen our co-operation so that we collectively gain as many sustainable environmental and economic benefits as possible;
30. Urges participating States to re-assess international agreements and treaties on surface water to which they are signatories whilst ensuring that there are workable monitoring provisions, enforcement mechanisms and specific water allocation provisions that address variations in water flow and changing needs;
31. Urges participating States to safeguard and monitor surface and transit water, underground water and coastal water from the negative impacts of contaminants, industrial and human waste;
32. Calls on participating States to safeguard and monitor air quality standards in order to keep the negative impact of air pollution under control;

33. Urges participating States to take adequate and effective measures at national and international levels to address climate change which is the root cause of many water-related crises such as droughts, scarcity, or flooding, which can lead to the forced migration of millions of people and the loss of biodiversity, among many other catastrophic consequences;
34. Urges participating States to diversify their sources of water, including by treating, reusing and recycling waste water, in order to optimize their water management;
35. Encourages participating States to promote life sciences research which will result in the improved use of water, greener water-related technology and a decreased dependence on fossil fuel, which will contribute to the fight against climate change;
36. Encourages participating States to continue educating the consumer and the industry on water use and water scarcity, including through the Aarhus Centres;
37. Urges participating States to show political commitment to systematically plan and manage as best they can such a precious commodity and life-sustaining resource, whilst ensuring that all citizens have an accessible and affordable water supply.

RESOLUTION ON

OBSERVATION OF NEW VOTING TECHNOLOGIES

1. Acknowledging that the challenges presented by new voting technologies will require a revised approach in regard to the way elections are observed in order to safeguard free and fair democratic elections,
2. Underlining the unique legitimacy of elected members of parliament to act as election observers and provide leadership in OSCE election observation missions,
3. Recognizing the necessity of updated observational methods and expertise so as to enable observers in the task of observing elections performed using new voting technologies,
4. Stressing the importance of preserving the secrecy of the ballot when digital voting takes place in a controlled environment through the use of encryption or other necessary digital security,
5. Noting the difficulties concerning digital voting in non-controlled environments, in particular when it comes to observing the voting process to ensure that it has taken place in a democratically sound manner,
6. Underlining the importance of maintaining and improving transparency in pursuance of credible elections by making source code and other information regarding the election process available so that an increased level of transparency can be achieved,
7. Emphasizing the critical importance of observing the election process at several points so as to enable observers to form an opinion on the process,
8. Emphasizing that with new voting technologies it is important that observers are able to see the entire process before, during and after the election takes place in order to confirm that the systems work as intended,
9. Underlining the importance of best practices in the online monitoring of the voting process and the counting of results,
10. Stressing the necessity of creating an OSCE task force aimed at further investigating the role OSCE observers have to play when new voting technologies are used in elections,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

11. Calls upon the OSCE participating States to be at the forefront of developing new ways to observe elections where new voting technologies are used;
12. Encourages the OSCE participating States to take notice of the developments regarding new voting technologies;

13. Welcomes the OSCE participating States to engage in an international exchange of ideas and methods concerning new voting technologies and their effects on democracy;
14. Underlines that OSCE participating States considering new voting technologies may need to review their legislation in order to ensure that new voting technologies are treated in an appropriate legislative manner.

RESOLUTION ON

PREVENTING CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION ONLINE THROUGH ADVANCES IN TECHNOLOGY

1. Recalling the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly resolutions on human trafficking adopted by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in St. Petersburg (1999), Brussels (2006), Oslo (2010), Belgrade (2011), Monaco (2012), Istanbul (2013), Baku (2014), Helsinki (2015), and Tbilisi (2016), and all OSCE commitments related to combating human trafficking, as well as efforts by participating States to implement the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings (2003 and 2005), and the Addendum to the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings (2013),
2. Recalling the OSCE Sofia Ministerial Council Decision on The Special Needs for Child Victims of Trafficking for Protection and Assistance (2004), the OSCE Brussels Ministerial Council Decision on Combating Sexual Exploitation of Children (2006), and the OSCE Madrid Ministerial Decision on Combating Sexual Exploitation of Children on the Internet (2007),
3. Recalling that the 2013 Addendum to the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings calls on participating States to train border officials, law enforcement officials, judges, prosecutors, immigration, and other relevant officials regarding the use of the Internet and other information and communication technologies (ICTs) for human trafficking and related crimes,
4. Alarmed that, according to the International Labour Organization, almost 2 million children are still victimized every year by commercial sexual exploitation (or sex trafficking), which includes the use of girls and boys in sexual activities remunerated in cash or in kind, child sex tourism, the use of children in sex shows (public or private), and the production, promotion, and distribution of pornography involving children,
5. Distressed that sexual exploitation of children is a human rights violation that results in serious, lifelong consequences for the physical and psychological development and well-being of a child and, in many instances, is a form of human trafficking,
6. Concerned that classified advertising websites on the Internet are being used openly by traffickers to advertise children for sex trafficking,
7. Alarmed that classified advertising website owners accept payment from traffickers to advertise access to child sex trafficking victims, and sometimes intentionally remove the words and photos that would alert law enforcement to the fact that the victim is a child,
8. Distressed that, in some participating States, children advertised for sex trafficking on classified advertising websites are not allowed to seek justice by suing the classified advertising websites that advertised and financially benefited from the children's sexual exploitation,

9. Concerned that prosecutors fail to prosecute advertising website owners for knowingly or recklessly participating in and financially benefiting from the sex trafficking of a child,
10. Commending law enforcement officers that work co-operatively across borders to identify and rescue child victims of sexual exploitation whose images are posted online,
11. Concerned that, according to the United States Department of Justice, traffickers also seek out and groom children on social media platforms to lure children into sexual exploitation,
12. Alarmed that traffickers use pornography to groom children for sexual exploitation,
13. Distressed that, similar to many other studies, a 2016 study in the Journal of Interpersonal Violence (Stanley et al.) of 4,564 young people aged 14 to 17 in five participating States found in boys a statistically significant correlation between viewing online pornography and committing sexual coercion and abuse,
14. Alarmed that the 2006 European Journal of Developmental Psychology (Bonino, et. al) found that adolescent girls who report viewing pornography are more likely to report being victims of sexual harassment or forced sex at the hands of male friends or acquaintances,
15. Distressed that children are made vulnerable to committing or being victimized by sexual exploitation through exposure to pornographic websites,
16. Welcoming that numerous forms of age verification technologies have been developed over the last decade in the age-restricted online-gambling industry and are now available to protect children from accessing harmful internet pornography,
17. Commending participating States, such as the United Kingdom, Germany, Finland, Iceland, and others implementing age verification technologies and requiring pornographic websites to have age verification that prevents the grooming of children for sexual exploitation,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

18. Calls on OSCE participating States which have not already done so to enact laws allowing a child or former child victim to sue the classified advertising website which, in knowing or reckless disregard for the child's sexual exploitation, accepted money for advertising the child;
19. Calls on OSCE participating States to prioritize the prosecution of traffickers and all those who assist them, including classified ad website owners who financially benefit from advertising children for sex trafficking;
20. Requests that the OSCE Strategic Police Matters Unit examine ways in which it can assist participating States in identifying and rescuing children advertised for sex on classified advertising websites;

21. Calls on OSCE participating States which have not already done so to work with the private sector on requirements for and the implementation of modern verification technologies for access to pornographic websites, thus preventing child exploitation;
22. Calls on OSCE participating States to work with social media platforms on protecting children from pornographic content and intentional grooming by traffickers for commercial sexual exploitation;
23. Urges participating States to train border officials, law enforcement officials, judges, prosecutors, immigration and other relevant officials to identify and combat use of the Internet and other information and communication technologies (ICTs) for committing trafficking crimes;
24. Calls on OSCE participating States to provide a decent system of shelter and both legal and psychological support for the victims of child exploitation located on their territory.

RESOLUTION ON

ABOLITION OF THE DEATH PENALTY

1. Alarmed by the worldwide increase in the number of death sentences and executions, having regard to the Amnesty International report *Death Sentences and Executions 2015*, according to which at least 1,634 executions were carried out in 2015, the highest number since 1989 and an estimated 54 per cent increase compared with 2014, and also having regard to the Amnesty International report *Death Sentences and Executions 2016*, which, although indicating a decrease in the total number of executions to 1,032, notes that this figure is still higher than the average over the past decade and that the number of death sentences handed down has increased to 3,117, in comparison with 1,998 in 2015,
2. Deploring that in 2017, the year that marks 150 years since the abolition of the death penalty in Portugal – one of the first abolitionist states – , the application of this penalty remains in the legislation of some participating States of the OSCE,
3. Stressing that every person has the right to life and that right cannot be suspended for any reason,
4. Noting that just the abolition of the death penalty contributes to ensuring more effective protection of the right to life,
5. Aware that application of the death penalty has irremediable consequences that make the reparation of legal errors impossible and deny any possibility of rehabilitation for the convicted person,
6. Emphasizing that the death penalty is a cruel, degrading, and inhumane treatment,
7. Believing that the death penalty is an improper response to violent crime,
8. Emphasizing that the death penalty is incompatible with the rules of civilized behaviour,
9. Stressing that the death penalty is a blatant violation of international law: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948); The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966); The American Convention on Human Rights “Pact of San José, Costa Rica” (1969); The Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (1984); The Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (1989); The Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights to Abolish the Death Penalty (1990); and The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (2000),
10. Emphasizing that the trend followed by States is towards abolition of the death penalty and that the number of retentionist States within the OSCE region is very limited,

11. Recalling the commitments undertaken by participating States of the OSCE on abolition of the death penalty recorded in: “Concluding Document of the Vienna Meeting” (Vienna 1989); “Document of the Copenhagen Meeting on the Human Dimension of the CSCE” (Copenhagen 1990); “Document of the Moscow Meeting of the Conference on Human Dimension of the CSCE” (Moscow 1991); “Helsinki Document: The Challenge of Change” (Helsinki 1992); “Budapest Document: Towards a Genuine Partnership in a New Era” (Budapest 1994); “Document of the Sixteenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council” (Helsinki 2008); as well as in the declarations of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly at the Annual Sessions of: St. Petersburg (1999); Bucharest (2000); Paris (2001); Rotterdam (2003); Brussels (2006); Kyiv (2007); Vilnius (2009); Oslo (2010); Monaco (2012); Istanbul (2013); Baku (2014); and Helsinki (2015),
12. Having regard to relevant United Nations General Assembly resolutions, in particular that of 19 December 2016, adopted by 117 Member States (A/RES/71/187) on the moratorium on the use of the death penalty,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

13. Calls upon the Parliaments of the OSCE participating States to develop legislative initiatives leading to the abolition of the death penalty for all crimes;
14. Urges all OSCE participating States currently applying the death penalty to declare an immediate moratorium on all death sentences and executions with a view to complete abolition of the death penalty in their legislation;
15. Urges OSCE participating States that are considering the reinstatement of the death penalty to refrain from doing so, and calls upon members of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly to condemn such action;
16. Encourages the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and the OSCE missions to pursue activities to raise awareness against the use of the death penalty;
17. Encourages non-governmental organizations to continue their work to mobilize civil society in the defence of abolition of the death penalty.

RESOLUTION ON

MULTICULTURALISM – THE ROLE OF CULTURAL VALUES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF DEMOCRACY IN THE CONTEXT OF GLOBALIZATION

1. Recalling article 1 of the United Nations Charter (on the importance of culture), the UNESCO Constitution (on the diversity of cultures), article 22 of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights (on cultural rights and human dignity), article 27 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (on the right to use one's own language, practise one's own religion and enjoy one's own traditions), the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, 1991, Declaration on the Rights of Minorities, the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (1992) and the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (1994),
2. Bearing in mind all previous action taken, documents adopted and strategic initiatives carried out by the United Nations, the OSCE and the Council of Europe in pursuit of future development,
3. Recognizing the important role played by the OSCE in intensifying co-operation, fostering mutual confidence and promoting security, stability and peace in the OSCE region and in preserving and consolidating cultural values,
4. Stressing that greater efforts must be made to implement the fundamental principles of the OSCE and the commitments made to pursue political and economic development as well as the development of the human and cultural resources of participating States,
5. Noting that intercultural and political dialogue is the preferred way of building confidence and transparency among the OSCE participating States,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

6. Expresses serious concern about the worsening security situation in the OSCE region as well as in neighbouring regions as a result of ethnic and racial hatred;
7. Calls on the OSCE participating States to continue to be guided in their relations with each other by the principles of the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris for a New Europe and the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
8. Endorses the broad spectrum of recommendations in the Final Declaration of the Baku International Humanitarian Forum and the Baku Declaration of the Seventh Global Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations on questions of a global nature – the values of multiculturalism, coexistence and development, which have attracted widespread interest in society;

9. Calls on OSCE participating States to embrace the democratic development of the values of multiculturalism as an essential element in a meaningful discussion on questions of security and coexistence;
10. Calls on current and future chairmanships to prepare specific proposals for building confidence in a policy of multiculturalism in and among the OSCE participating States, in close co-operation with UNESCO;
11. Calls on OSCE participating States to respect and implement all agreed principles;
12. Calls on OSCE participating States to be guided, in the political process, by the values of multiculturalism so as to build confidence and promote security in the OSCE region.

RESOLUTION ON

THE UNACCEPTABILITY OF DISCRIMINATION AND INTOLERANCE WITH REGARD TO CHRISTIANS, MUSLIMS AND MEMBERS OF OTHER RELIGIONS

1. Recalling the relevant international legal provisions on human rights set out in the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the 1975 Helsinki Final Act, in which participating States pledged to “respect human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief, for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion”, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and other international instruments,
2. Stressing its commitment to the relevant OSCE obligations and underscoring its rejection of all forms of discrimination on grounds of religious affiliation or belief as violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms,
3. Noting the provisions of the OSCE Declaration on Enhancing Efforts to Combat Anti-Semitism, adopted at the Ministerial Council in Basel in 2014, which encourages participating States to elaborate Ministerial Council declarations on enhancing efforts to combat intolerance and discrimination, including against Christians, Muslims and members of other religions,
4. Expressing alarm about the growing number of manifestations of intolerance, discrimination, violence and terrorist acts on grounds of religious affiliation or belief with regard to Christians, Muslims and members of other religions,
5. Noting the importance of the obligations entered into by OSCE participating States to implement policies that promote respect for, and protect places of, worship and religious study, religious monuments, burial places and shrines,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

6. Reaffirms that everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief, including freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of one’s own choice; the right not to have or manifest any religion and to change one’s religion or belief; and freedom to practise and manifest one’s religion or belief, either individually or in community with others, according to the dictates of one’s own conscience;
7. Calls on political, religious and community leaders to mobilize efforts to prevent and counter manifestations of intolerance and discrimination on grounds of religious affiliation or belief with regard to Christians, Muslims and members of other religions;
8. Notes the importance of fostering mutual tolerance and respect between those who practise a religion and those who do not, and of promoting interfaith dialogue and co-operation;

9. Firmly condemns all manifestations of intolerance and discrimination, including violence and terrorist acts, with regard to Christians, Muslims and members of other religions;
10. Firmly declares that terrorist acts perpetrated by persons or groups associating themselves with a particular religion or belief cannot serve as a pretext for religious intolerance;
11. Stresses that it is absolutely unacceptable to equate terrorism and violent extremism with any specific religion;
12. Calls on the OSCE participating States to take firm measures to counter all manifestations of intolerance and discrimination on grounds of religious affiliation or belief, and associated crimes, with regard to Christians, Muslims and members of other religions, whilst demonstrating full respect for fundamental freedoms, human rights and due process of law, including an effective and complete investigation of all incidents of this nature;
13. Calls for a consolidation of the position of the international community on the unacceptability of manifestations of intolerance, discrimination, violence and harassment with regard to Christians, Muslims and members of other religions;
14. Calls for an early adoption by OSCE participating States of declarations on enhancing efforts to combat intolerance and discrimination against Christians, Muslims and members of other religions, as envisaged in the Declaration on Enhancing Efforts to Combat Anti-Semitism adopted at the Ministerial Council in Basel in 2014.