

Helsinki +40 Colloquium Project
Compilation of relevant OSCE PA Resolutions
1993-2013



OSCE PA Helsinki +40 Team

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HELSINKI DECLARATION 1993

RESOLUTION ON POLITICAL AFFAIRS AND SECURITY

The CSCE Parliamentary Assembly,

(...)

Urges the Council of Ministers to pursue a more active policy and in particular to adopt the following working principles so as to realize this objective:

- greater speed in the decision-making process;
- a decision-making procedure which no longer requires consensus or "consensus minus one";
- an internal balance avoiding any supremacy or domination by a group of participating states;
- strengthening internal institutional coherence;

[...]

VIENNA DECLARATION 1994

RESOLUTION ON POLITICAL AFFAIRS AND SECURITY

The CSCE Parliamentary Assembly,

(...)

Calls upon the CSCE and its participating States and, in particular, the Budapest Review Conference;

(...)

To adopt a decision-making procedure which no longer requires consensus or consensus minus-one. A starting point for discussion could be a rule requiring a consensus of 90% of both membership and financial contributions

[...]

OTTAWA DECLARATION 1995

RESOLUTION ON POLITICAL AFFAIRS AND SECURITY

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly,

(...)

Calls upon the OSCE and its participating States:

To nominate experienced statesmen in addition to diplomats for tasks in the field of early warning and conflict prevention in line with the practice of the United Nations and the European Union

[...]

RESOLUTION ON CORRECTING THE DEMOCRATIC DEFICIT OF THE OSCE

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly,

1. Recalling that the original provisions for the establishment of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly are contained in the Charter of Paris for the New Europe and that they envisaged the CSCE Parliamentary Structures be based on existing experience and work already undertaken in the field of parliamentary institutions, such as the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the European Parliament;
2. Stressing the crucial role Parliaments and Parliamentarians play as guardians of democracy, the rule of law and the respect of human rights at both the national and international levels;
3. Underlining that democratic oversight and accountability are essential elements of transparency, credibility and efficiency;
4. Underlining that the existence of a democratic deficit in international organizations affects the overall image of Parliamentarians at both the national and international levels;
5. Pointing out that the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe possesses wide powers and obligations in the decision making of the Council of Europe, such as giving its opinion to the Committee of Ministers and electing the Secretary General, the Deputy Secretary General and the Judges of the European Court of Human Rights;
6. Noting that the European Parliament possesses wide powers and obligations in the decision making of the European Union, such as approving the annual budget, endorsement of the nominations of the European Commission and the oversight of the Commission=s activities;
7. Recommends that before making major decisions, to be defined in future consultations, the Ministerial Council of the OSCE should be obliged to ask the opinion of the Parliamentary Assembly;
8. Proposes that the Secretary General of the OSCE be approved by a majority vote of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly during its Annual Session;
9. Requests that the Secretary General, Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, High Commissioner on National Minorities and the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media report on their activities and budgetary expenditures to the Standing Committee of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly;
10. Proposes that the members of the Parliamentary Assembly should be able to submit written questions to the Chairman-in-Office between the plenary sessions.

RESOLUTION ON STRENGTHENING TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE OSCE

1. Recalling the resolution on “Correcting the Democratic Deficit of the OSCE”, adopted at the Eighth Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in St. Petersburg in 1999;
2. Welcoming the strengthening of the parliamentary dimension of the OSCE, as demonstrated by the increased involvement of parliamentarians in the work of the OSCE and in their increased contribution to the promotion and implementation of OSCE principles and commitments;
3. Noting that the Parliamentary Assembly has also developed its Rules and practices to fit more effectively to contributing to the efforts of the OSCE and expects the new Winter Meeting to serve as a useful forum for dialogue between the governmental and parliamentary OSCE;
4. Emphasizing the necessity of democratic oversight, transparency and accountability as essential elements in all political activities on local, national and international levels alike;
5. Pointing out that such oversight, transparency and accountability is possible only through the involvement of elected members of the community and that also for this reason a strong and active parliamentary dimension is in the best interest of the OSCE;
6. Noting that in this respect the OSCE is still lagging behind some other international organizations and institutions, such as the Council of Europe and the European Union,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

7. Re-iterates its proposals and recommendations included in the resolution on “Correcting the Democratic Deficit of the OSCE”, adopted at the Eighth Annual Session;
8. Emphasizes the proposal that before making major decisions, to be defined in future consultations, the Ministerial Council should take into account the opinion of the Parliamentary Assembly and explain how it has affected the result;
9. Recommends that as long as the OSCE complies with the strict consensus rule it must not be possible to participate in the decision-making process secretly and that objections to any proposal must be made known to any interested OSCE participating State or OSCE Institution;
10. Proposes that all OSCE Institutions consult regularly as to how to promote and enhance co-operation and exchange of information concerning their activities;
11. Calls for the reports of external and internal auditors of the OSCE to be made available to the Parliamentary Assembly in a timely manner;

12. Suggests that the Standing Committee appoint an ad hoc Committee, in accordance with Rule 33.5, to monitor the implementation of this resolution and to promote transparency and accountability in the OSCE.

ROTTERDAM DECLARATION 2003**RESOLUTION ON RENEWING THE OSCE PARTNERSHIP**

1. Recalling the words of the Helsinki Final Act in which the participating States recognized that their common history, traditions and values could assist them in developing their relations, fully taking into account the individuality and diversity of their positions and views, and in their efforts to overcome distrust, increase confidence, solve the problems that separated them and co-operate in the interest of mankind,
2. Remembering also that the Final Act recognized the close link between peace and security in Europe and in the world as a whole, and the need for each of the participating States to make its contribution to the strengthening of world peace and security, and to the promotion of fundamental rights, economic and social progress, and well-being for all peoples,
3. Recalling that the Charter of Paris declared that the participation of both North American and European States is a fundamental characteristic of the OSCE, underlying its past achievements and essential to the future of the OSCE process, and that the challenges confronting the participating States can only be met by common action, co-operation and solidarity,
4. Welcoming the active involvement of the OSCE Mediterranean Partners and the Partners for Co-operation, especially the newest Partner, Afghanistan,
5. Acknowledging the great strides made by the participating States in improving human rights, developing democracy and the rule of law, and strengthening international peace and stability since the signing of the Final Act,
6. Recognizing that much remains to be done to promote fundamental human rights, strengthen democratic institutions, ensure peace and stability, confront global terrorism, prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and combat organized crime and corruption throughout the OSCE region,
7. Recognizing also that the participating States may disagree regarding matters affecting regional or global security as evidenced recently by the debate concerning the situation in Iraq,
8. Understanding that the strength of the OSCE is its diversity, and its ability to work together to confront threats to human rights, democracy, and peace and stability in the OSCE region,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

9. Reaffirms its commitment to work with the OSCE and its institutions to promote human rights, economic prosperity, democracy and the rule of law as well as to combat terrorism, corruption and organized crime through its Ad Hoc Committees, election monitoring, inter-parliamentary dialogue and mission support;

10. Urges the participating States of the OSCE, in the spirit of the Final Act and the Charter of Paris, to redouble their efforts to address critical challenges to fundamental human rights and security throughout the OSCE region, and to work together to ensure peace, prosperity and stability for the global community.

EDINBURGH DECLARATION 2004**RESOLUTION ON CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE OSCE AND OSCE PA**

1. Recalling the Resolution on “Correcting the Democratic Deficit of the OSCE”, adopted by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly at its Annual Session in 1999 and the Resolution on “Strengthening Transparency and Accountability in the OSCE” from the Annual Session Declaration in 2001,
2. Welcoming the increased contact between the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the governmental structures of the OSCE through the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Winter Meetings and the establishment of an OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Liaison Office in Vienna,
3. Appreciating as a step forward the annual presentation of the OSCE Secretary General on the proposed OSCE budget for the up-coming year,
4. Noting that in spite of initiatives from various Chairmanships and recommendations from the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, the OSCE participating States have been unable to reform the Organization, and expressing concern that due to the lack of such reforms, the OSCE is becoming ineffective in reaching its goals and implementing its principles,
5. Stressing that in spite of the important progress made, the OSCE still lags behind other international institutions such as the Council of Europe and the European Union when it comes to transparency and democratic accountability,
6. Noting the big changes that have occurred in Europe after the enlargements of the European Union and of NATO and the shift in contemporary security priorities,
7. Underlining the evolution which other international organizations have in the meantime undergone,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

8. Reiterates its previous recommendations that the OSCE carry out the necessary reforms with regard to its consensus decision-making procedure which often obstruct the work of the Organization, and calls for greater transparency in the process of decision-making in the OSCE as well as increased accountability in the process of implementation;
9. Urges the OSCE to increase its budget and channel additional allocations for underfunded areas such as Central Asia, the Southern Caucasus and Eastern Europe;

10. Recommends that the OSCE consider the relocation to Central Asia, the Southern Caucasus and Eastern Europe of some of its institutions and of the venues of OSCE conferences, meetings and other events;
11. Calls on the OSCE to upgrade the role and status of the Secretary General with a view to strengthening and enlarging his prerogatives, especially in the political sphere;
12. Stresses the importance of reviewing the procedures for appointing Heads of Mission and Heads of Institution, including the Secretary General, with the aim of making them more professional and efficient;
13. Recommends that the overall transformation of the OSCE be discussed without delay in order that respective decisions be taken at the Ministerial Council in Sofia in December 2004;
14. Recommends that the OSCE consider holding a Summit in 2005;
15. Requests that the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly be given free access to all OSCE meetings and events and recommends that the Special Representative of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in Vienna be included in consultative processes;
16. Requests that the President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly establish a working group on the OSCE budget, according to rule 8.3 of the Rules of Procedure, which would have the task of carrying out a comprehensive review of the proposed OSCE budget for the up-coming year;
17. Calls on the OSCE to respond to the Assembly's recommendations on the draft OSCE budget and recommends that the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly response to the draft OSCE budget be discussed in the Permanent Council and the Advisory Committee on Management and Finance;
18. Calls on national OSCE Parliamentary Assembly delegations to work to ensure that OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's Declarations are followed up at the national level of parliaments as well as by governments;
19. Urges the leadership of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, particularly the Heads of the three General Committees to do their best to ensure that OSCE Parliamentary Assembly recommendations are implemented by relevant OSCE bodies and Institutions, and recommends that follow-up to the annual Declaration and the implementation status are put on the agenda of the Winter Meeting on the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

WASHINGTON DECLARATION 2005
RESOLUTION ON REFORM OF THE OSCE

1. Recalling that support of a well-functioning and effective OSCE has been this Assembly's primary objective since its very establishment,
2. Convinced that no other international organization has a more holistic approach to security in Europe than the OSCE, and that it is the responsibility of the Organization to reform itself and adapt to changing circumstances in order to preserve its unique position and comparative advantage,
3. Welcoming the report "Common Purpose – Towards a More Effective OSCE" recently presented by the Panel of Eminent Persons, at the request by the OSCE Council of Ministers in Sofia in December 2004, as well as the report by the OSCE PA Colloquium on the "Future of the OSCE", produced as the result of a joint effort by the Assembly and the Swiss Foundation for World Affairs,
4. Strongly encouraged by the fact that all recommendations of the Panel report, except one, were reached by consensus and that all recommendations of the PA Colloquium were supported by full consensus,
5. Further encouraged by the fact that the two reports are sharing the same basic outlook on the OSCE's reform needs, focusing on the same set of issues, and recommending a very similar course of action regarding the most pressing needs of the OSCE,
6. Convinced that these reports provide a unique opportunity to reform and strengthen the OSCE, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:
7. Calls on OSCE governments to start negotiations without delay to prepare for the implementation of the recommendations of the Panel report, particularly concerning the Secretary General, the Secretariat, recruitment, and consensus rule,
8. Recommends that the Colloquium Report also be considered in the Government negotiations and that representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly be included in these negotiations,
9. Decides to review in detail the progress in the implementation of the Panel report conclusions at the Assembly's Standing Committee meeting in Montenegro in October this year, and winter meeting in Vienna in February 2006.

BRUSSELS DECLARATION 2006**RESOLUTION ON ENHANCING THE ROLE AND INCREASING EFFICIENCY OF
THE
OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY**

1. Taking into account essential changes that have occurred in the political landscape within the OSCE over the last years, and underlining the need to adapt the Organization to changing security challenges, the spreading and reinforcing of democratic values and further improvement of coordination of the OSCE activities;
2. Underlining that the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly will continue to pursue an aggressive agenda to assist in the establishment of peace and stability, and reinforcement of cooperation in assessing the implementation of the OSCE objectives, strengthening and consolidating democratic institutions in the OSCE participating States,
3. Recognizing the need to implement the reforms in order to improve existing OSCE PA tools and resources in the pursuit of the greater effectiveness of the OSCE PA, The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:
4. Stresses the crucial role of parliaments and parliamentarians in safeguarding democracy, the rule of law and the respect of human rights at both the national and international levels;
5. Underlines the necessity to increase the transparency of the OSCE PA for the enhancement of efficiency of its activities in the implementation of democratic control in the framework of its competencies;
6. Underlines the necessity of more effective enforcement of the monitoring mechanism of the work of the OSCE in order to increase the efficiency of the organization and to ensure a higher level of transparency and accountability in the organization;
7. Calls on the OSCE and its institutions to work closely with the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly to prepare options for a comprehensive and effective follow-up mechanism in the human dimension;
8. Calls upon parliamentarians in the OSCE participating States to work to ensure that resolutions of the OSCE PA are reflected in national legislation or/and to facilitate their enforcement in national policy;
9. Stresses the need for more active coordination of the OSCE PA with parliaments of the OSCE participating States for more effective implementation of the resolutions of the OSCE PA;

10. Underlines the need for realization of effective monitoring from the side of the OSCE PA over the implementation of resolutions and decisions of the OSCE PA and necessity of mutual assistance and more close cooperation with the executive branch of the OSCE in the issues of implementation and enforcement of the decisions of the OSCE;
11. For increasing the effectiveness of the work of the organization, once more underlines the need to reform the OSCE, as well as the OSCE PA for creation of a more flexible decision-making formula;
12. Takes into account the major role of the parliaments in creation of political climate for conflict prevention and settlement, amongst others by developing democracy and protection of Human Rights, and underlines the need to enhance activities of the OSCE PA and to elaborate respective mechanisms, facilitating prevention of conflicts, peaceful and political management of crises and post conflict rehabilitation and also strengthening of peace and stability in region;
13. Underlines the need for more close and effective cooperation with the executive branch of the OSCE on the issues of territorial integrity and inviolability of State borders of the OSCE participating States for ensuring strict implementation of internationally recognized legal norms;
14. Notes that democratic values require permanent development, reinforcement and protection even in the countries of developed democracy, takes into account that parliaments have an essential role in this direction, ensuring the rule of law, and underlines the need to strengthen the activities of the OSCE PA in these directions, especially in the countries of new democracy;
15. Considers that organizing equal, fair and transparent elections is a basic element of democracy in States, and emphasizes the need not only to make further recommendations but also to create mechanisms ensuring that OSCE standards for free, fair and democratic elections are met;
16. Underlines the necessity of further development of cooperation with other parliamentary institutions, such as the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, NATO PA and the European Parliament, and strongly urges to develop new ways of coordination of activities for the achievement of common objectives and avoidance of work duplication;
17. Stresses the need for more close and effective cooperation of the leadership of OSCE PA with parliamentary delegations for implementation of timely and adequate response and elaboration of agreed positions regarding the processes developing in OSCE participating States;
18. Underlines the need for the creation of effective mechanisms for implementation of more close cooperation among parliamentary delegations in the period between the sessions of OSCE PA.

KYIV DECLARATION 2007**RESOLUTION ON THE ROLE AND THE STATUS OF THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY WITHIN THE OSCE**

1. Aware of the ongoing transfer of standard setting (“soft law”) to the international level, which is an inevitable consequence of globalization,
2. Convinced that this process weakens the effectiveness of parliamentary oversight and therefore requires renewed efforts to ensure that the principles of representation, participation and transparency in the work of the executive are effectively observed in all multilateral processes,
3. Underlining – as a consequence – the need for an effective involvement of the PA in the work of the OSCE, as called for in the Charter of Paris,
4. Referring to the repeated acknowledgement by OSCE summits of the role of the PA as “one of the OSCE’s most important institutions” (Istanbul Charter)
5. Emphasizing the already established procedures in the cooperation between the OSCE PA both as the OSCE’s parliamentary dimension and as an institution on one side and the OSCE’s executive structures on the other side, such as the participation of the OSCE PA in the meetings of the Ministerial Council, the annual presentation of the OSCE draft budget proposal to the Standing Committee of the PA and the comments by the PA on the Draft Budget, the dialogue between the PA President and the Permanent Council in Vienna on the Declarations of the Annual Assemblies, the participation of PA Representatives in all formal and informal open-ended meetings of the OSCE, the joint operations of the PA and the ODIHR in election-monitoring, the involvement of the PA in the work of the field missions, to name just a few,
6. Bearing in mind the PA’s frequent calls – in its Annual Assembly Declarations – for enhanced OSCE reform efforts that include a strengthening of the PA’s role, and recalling the pertinent reform proposals contained in the report from the Washington Colloquium 2005, which have been acknowledged by the Washington Annual Assembly Declaration, as well as the recommendations of the OSCE PA Ad Hoc Committee on Transparency and Accountability,
7. Recognizing the important role that the PA’s Institutional Headquarters in Copenhagen, its Secretary-General and its staff play in the day-to-day cooperation with the national parliamentary delegations and with the executive structures of the OSCE, The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:
8. Emphasizes that the OSCE’s parliamentary dimension is the organization’s most valuable asset in enhancing the credibility of the OSCE’s efforts to promote democracy and the establishment and the improvement of parliamentary institutions in the participating States;

9. Urges governments to increase their efforts to solidify the status and role of the PA as an integral part of the organization, while maintaining its autonomy, which characterizes any truly democratic parliamentary body;
10. Calls upon the national PA delegations to assist national parliaments in pointing out the importance of a full and unconditional respect for the status and role of the PA as the parliamentary institution of the OSCE to their governments;
11. Calls upon the OSCE Chairmanship to place before the Permanent Council the Report of the 2005 Washington Colloquium, along with the recommendations of the OSCE PA Ad Hoc Committee on Transparency and Accountability, for consideration and discussion, including also with representatives of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly;
12. Underlines the special responsibility of the executive structures of the OSCE to respect past achievements in this regard and to include further progress in any new political or legal instrument that they are negotiating;
13. Asks governments to draw the only possible conclusion from the PA's status that persons acting on behalf of the OSCE PA enjoy the same rights and receive the same treatment as persons working for the OSCE's decision making bodies and executive structures;
14. Urges the OSCE executive structures to implement the Ministerial decision from Brussels which defines OSCE election monitoring as a joint PA-OSCE/ODIHR exercise on the basis of the 1997 Cooperation Agreement.

ASTANA DECLARATION 2008**RESOLUTION ON TRANSPARENCY AND FURTHER OSCE REFORM:
REINFORCEMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY PARTICIPATION IN THE
ORGANIZATION**

1. Convinced that the OSCE is a valuable and relevant international organization that should continue to play a critical role in promoting stability and security in Europe,
2. Underlining the need for the OSCE to carry on further reform aiming at reducing the democratic deficit, strengthening transparency and accountability, enhancing the role of the Parliamentary Assembly and increasing its effectiveness and strengthening co-operation between the Parliamentary Assembly and the executive structures, including its involvement in the decision-making process, and therefore reaffirming the Resolution on Status and Role of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, as contained in the 2007 OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Kyiv Declaration,
3. Recalling the recommendations put forward by the OSCE Panel of Eminent Persons and the OSCE PA Colloquium on the Future of the OSCE in 2005, including the following suggestions:

The Secretary General, as well as and in consultation with the Chairman-in-Office, should be able to speak for the Organization and to make policy pronouncements as well as appropriate criticisms when OSCE commitments are not observed.

The OSCE should have legal personality.

The OSCE should improve its ability to make timely decisions through adjusting its decision-making procedure.

The OSCE PA should be integrated into the OSCE decision-making and consultation processes.

The OSCE PA should undertake greater political initiatives on its own responsibility, in co-operation and co-ordination with the Chairmanship and the Permanent Council and it should have access to all information to be able to perform an effective oversight or monitoring of the implementation of OSCE commitments as well as decisions.

The budget must be adopted in a timely fashion and be commensurate with OSCE political objectives. A multi-year financial plan should be established in order to pursue longer term strategies. Normal parliamentary practice, at both the national and international level (Council of Europe, European Parliament) would require the OSCE PA's approval of the budget.

The confirmation of the Secretary General by the OSCE PA once nominated, by an absolute or weighted majority vote and after consultations, would be an appropriate answer to the increasing challenges of multilateral organizations.

It is essential that the ODIHR and the OSCE PA co-operate in order to maintain and ensure the independence of the OSCE election observation, which has been recently eroded. Election assessments should be expanded further in Western democracies. Double standards in electoral observations should be avoided.

Professional standards should be raised in all OSCE structures. In order to attract and retain performing staff, fixed term limits on duration of service should be eliminated. At the same time, reliance on seconded personnel should be reduced. However, when seconded personnel are assigned to Field Missions, governments should ensure that such assignment is for a substantial period of time – at least one or two years.

The OSCE should consider exporting its comprehensive security concept, expertise such as election observation and assistance and sharing its values and experience beyond the OSCE area,

4. Aware that if the OSCE wants to continue playing a role as a key promoter of security and stability based on the development of democracy, it needs to further strengthen the role of its own Parliamentary Assembly,

5. Bearing in mind the preparatory work done by six parliamentary CSCE conferences organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (Helsinki 1973, Belgrade 1975, Vienna 1978, Brussels 1980, Bonn 1986, Vienna 1991) for the creation of the OSCE's parliamentary dimension, which resulted in proposals to give the OSCE's parliamentary dimension similar functions to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

6. Requests the governments of the 56 OSCE participating States to fully commit themselves, at the highest political levels, to the full implementation of all of their OSCE commitments and to future strengthening of the Organization;

7. Calls upon the participating States to make better use of the Parliamentary Assembly as a key element in the organization's efforts to be credible in promoting democracy, while respecting its autonomy as it comprises elected parliamentarians;

8. Requests the Permanent Council to regularly discuss and take into consideration the initiatives taken by the Parliamentary Assembly;

9. Tasks the Chairmanship and the participating States to consider issuing fact-finding and negotiating mandates to ad hoc working groups of the Parliamentary Assembly;

10. Urges the Chairman-in-Office to convene a special meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council, with the participation of representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly, to discuss the

implementation of the recommendations put forward by the OSCE Panel of Eminent Persons and the OSCE PA Colloquium on the Future of the OSCE in 2005;

11. Recommends that the consensus rule should be modified for decisions related to personnel, budget and administration, and that in all other cases a country which blocks or holds up consensus must do so openly and be prepared to defend its position publicly;

12. Calls upon the OSCE PA to monitor closely the member parliaments' activities in exercising genuine control over their governments;

13. Urges members of the OSCE PA regularly to engage with relevant senior government officials responsible for formulating policy relating to the OSCE with the aim of advancing proposals included in the Assembly's declarations;

14. Calls upon national parliaments to strengthen follow-up mechanisms to OSCE PA Declarations;

15. Requests member parliaments to hold a debate after each OSCE PA Annual Session on its outcome and to report back to the OSCE PA.

16. Invites the national delegations to the OSCE PA to strengthen its operational transparency by defining the procedures for early voting for appointments to the Bureau, a practice which currently lacks any legal framework.

VILNIUS DECLARATION 2009**RESOLUTION ON STRENGTHENING THE OSCE**

1. Noting the importance of parliamentary involvement in the OSCE as called for in the 1990 Charter of Paris and the 1999 Istanbul Summit Document,
2. Recalling previous recommendations by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly regarding the need for reform in the OSCE, particularly the resolutions adopted in St. Petersburg (1999), Paris (2001), Edinburgh (2004), Kyiv (2007) and Astana (2008),
3. Deeply concerned at the growing lack of political relevance of the OSCE due in part to the non-transparent decision-making process and the inability of the decision-making structures to reach agreements, including on key political issues,
4. Bearing in mind that the OSCE's credibility can only be maintained if its own structures are in line with democratic norms, and reiterating the added value of the OSCE PA as the democratic dimension of the OSCE,
5. Convinced that discussions on political topics should take place in an open and transparent forum in order to be relevant,
6. Regretting the Permanent Council's continued failure to have a meaningful discussion on most OSCE PA recommendations, particularly those related to the urgent need for reform of the Organisation,
7. Underlining the importance of access by OSCE PA representatives to all formal and informal OSCE meetings that are open to all national delegations,
8. Reiterating the Parliamentary Assembly's support for the OSCE Field Operations, where the most important work of the OSCE takes place, The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:
9. Urges participating States to recommit to a genuine and transparent political dialogue on OSCE-related issues with the inclusion of the OSCE PA;
10. Calls on the OSCE Permanent Council to open its meetings to the press and the public;
11. Recommends that the OSCE modify the consensus rule for decision-making, at least for decisions concerning personnel, budget and administration, through, for example, implementing an approximate consensus of 90 per cent of both membership and financial contributions;
12. Encourages national PA delegations to urge their governments to respond, through follow-up at the national level, to recommendations adopted by the OSCE PA, demonstrating respect for the Assembly as the parliamentary dimension of the Organisation;

13. Requests the Permanent Council to recognise its accountability to the citizens of the OSCE participating States and their elected representatives through timely responses and reaction to OSCE PA recommendations;

14. Reiterates that parliamentarians provide unmatched credibility and visibility to OSCE election observation activities, and calls for the full implementation of the 1997 Co-operation Agreement;

15. Regrets the continued missed opportunities to employ women in high-level OSCE positions, thus preventing the OSCE from reflecting its own values;

16. Asks for a review of the failure of the Organisation effectively to implement the 2004 Ministerial Council Decision (MC.DEC/14/04) on the 2004 Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality, and urges immediate steps to correct this;

17. Calls on participating States to provide OSCE Field Operations with relevant mandates and with sufficient financial and human resources;

18. Regrets the actual cut in the 2009 OSCE budget, which will weaken the Organisation's ability to fulfil its operational mandate, following the non-official policy in previous years of zero nominal growth of the OSCE budget, which in reality has led to a reduction of OSCE resources as a result of inflation;

19. Emphasises the need for timely adoption of the OSCE budget, increased long-term programme and financial planning, including a time limit for each operation instead of renewable one-year mandates for the OSCE field missions, and full transparency in the financial process by updating the OSCE Financial Regulations;

20. Stresses the importance of transparency for the credibility of the Organisation and recommends the establishment of a regulatory framework applying to the extrabudgetary funding of programmes;

21. Recommends that reliance on secondments for staffing OSCE Field Operations be reduced, that more contracted positions be made available in the field, along with enhanced transparency regarding the recruitment process, and that OSCE professional staff term limits be eliminated in order to attract and keep highly qualified professional staff, while at the same time preserving the flexibility and effectiveness of OSCE operations in general;

22. Calls for the OSCE PA to be given an oversight role in relation to the OSCE budget and for confirmation by the Assembly of the OSCE Secretary General, once nominated, as called for in the 2005 Colloquium Report on the Future of the OSCE;

23. Urges the engagement of independent, external professional auditors to oversee the disbursement and expenditure of all funds within the OSCE, to report directly to the OSCE

Chairmanship Troika and the President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, and to make their findings, observations, conclusions and recommendations available to participating States and the Parliamentary Assembly.

OSLO DECLARATION 2010**RESOLUTION ON STRENGTHENING THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE OSCE
PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY IN THE CORFU PROCESS ON SECURITY IN
EUROPE**

1. Referring to the Ministerial Declaration on the OSCE Corfu process adopted on 2 December 2009 which affirms the renewed commitment among the participating States to a multilateral dialogue and co-operation on security in Europe,
2. Reaffirming the resolutions of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly “Correcting the Democratic Deficit of the OSCE” (1999), “Strengthening Transparency and Accountability in the OSCE” (2001), “Renewing the OSCE Partnership” (2003), “Cooperation between the OSCE and the OSCE PA” (2004), “Reform of the OSCE” (2005), “Enhancing the Role and Increasing Efficiency of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly” (2006), “Transparency and Further OSCE Reform: Reinforcement of Parliamentary Participation in the Organization” (2008) and “Strengthening the OSCE” (2009),
3. Welcoming in principle the progress in co-operation between the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE and the executive structures of the OSCE achieved so far through such resolutions,
4. Recalling, however, that there remains an urgent need for improvement and reform with regard to the observed democratic deficit, as well as to transparency and accountability, and to extending the role of the Parliamentary Assembly and to strengthening cooperation between the Parliamentary Assembly and the OSCE and its executive structures, as mentioned in particular in the aforementioned resolutions of 2008 and 2009,
5. Welcoming the Corfu Process and the revival of the multilateral political dialogue on the current and future challenges to security in the OSCE region,
6. Underlining the broad concept and the multidimensional approach to common, comprehensive, co-operative and indivisible security of the OSCE,
7. Stressing the importance of including a parliamentary dimension in the on-going dialogue on security issues in line with the principles of equality, partnership, open co-operation, inclusiveness and transparency and mutual respect within the OSCE,
8. Noting the importance of inter-parliamentary co-operation including interaction among parliamentary structures of key international organizations in the sphere of security with a view to lending greater consistency to the efforts to renew the European security architecture,
9. Noting the ongoing dialogue in the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian area on current and future security challenges,

10. Reaffirming the support of the Assembly to, and acknowledgement of the work of, the OSCE field missions as an important confidence-building measure and tool in crisis prevention activities, The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

11. Welcomes the revival of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's Ad Hoc Committee on Transparency and Accountability in the OSCE, established in 2001, and supports the widening of the mandate of tasks of the Assembly's Ad Hoc Committee on Transparency and Accountability to strengthen the parliamentary dimension in the Corfu Process;

12. Tasks the Ad Hoc Committee on Transparency and Accountability to consider, in cooperation with the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's General Committees, ways to enhance the dialogue on European security in the OSCE with a view to achieving a more structured and systematic dialogue between the Assembly and the Ministerial Council;

13. Invites the OSCE participating States again to make better use of the Parliamentary Assembly as a key element in the organization's efforts to be credible in promoting democracy, while respecting its autonomy as it comprises elected parliamentarians;

14. Reaffirms the invitation to the participating States already made in the Vilnius Declaration to recommit to an open, genuine and transparent political dialogue on OSCE related issues with the inclusion of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly;

15. Proposes that not only should the Parliamentary Assembly be given access to all information to be able to perform an effective oversight or monitoring of the implementation of OSCE commitments as well as decisions, but also that the proposals by the Parliamentary Assembly for formal participation of the Parliamentary Assembly in the decision-making process of the OSCE should be examined;

16. Calls on the OSCE participating States to involve, in a suitable fashion, the Parliamentary Assembly and, in particular, the members of the Ad Hoc Committee on Transparency and Accountability in the dialogue on the Corfu Process;

17. Proposes that the OSCE be strengthened in its competence, professionalism and effectiveness, and that, as an important first step, the draft convention on legal personality and privileges and immunities be adopted;

18. Reconfirms that, in order to strengthen the OSCE's institutional basis, to finalize the process of its transformation into a fully-fledged international organization, to enhance its ability to address effectively the evolving challenges and threats to European security, it is vital in the context of the Corfu Process to devise and adopt without delay an OSCE constituent document;

19. Invites the Ministerial Council to examine possibilities of involving the Assembly in the Annual Security Review Conference (ASRC) established by the OSCE Ministerial Council in Porto in 2002 to enhance the dialogue on security among the participating States and to review

the Organization's security work, and recommends involving the Parliamentary Assembly in the planning of OSCE conferences and seminars at the earliest opportunity in order to allow greater convergence of the work of both sides;

20. Invites the Permanent Council to examine the possibilities of co-operating with the Assembly with regard to operational initiatives, workshops and training projects organized within the framework of the ASRC;

21. Calls on the OSCE participating States to hold an OSCE summit in 2010, which should make a significant contribution to security and co-operation in Europe and Eurasia across all three of the OSCE's dimensions and position the Organization to play an appropriate role in European and Eurasian security in the twenty-first century;

22. Resolves to engage in a more systematic follow-up of the work done by the OSCE intergovernmental operational structures and institutions and in particular the field missions;

23. Reiterates its recommendation to provide the OSCE with fact-finding and negotiating mandates in appropriate cases and to involve representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly in rapid reactions in other cases;

24. Invites its committees, working groups and special representatives, as well as national parliaments, to elaborate concrete parliament-related projects to support the work of the OSCE field missions;

25. Invites the Standing Committee of the Assembly to consider the consequences of the implementation of the above measures and, if necessary, to review or complement the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly in order to facilitate the proposed new activities.

OSLO DECLARATION 2010

RESOLUTION ON STRENGTHENING THE ROLE, EFFICIENCY AND IMPACT OF THE OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

1. Reaffirming the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly resolutions referring to a strengthened role for the Assembly, such as "Correcting the Democratic Deficit of the OSCE" (1999), "Strengthening Transparency and Accountability in the OSCE" (2001), "Renewing the OSCE Partnership" (2003), "Co-operation between the OSCE and the OSCE PA" (2004), "Reform of the OSCE" (2006), "Transparency and Further OSCE Reform: Reinforcement of Parliamentary Participation in the Organization" (2008) and "Strengthening the OSCE" (2009),

2. Stressing the crucial role of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in safeguarding democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights,
3. Recalling the involvement of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in the reform process of the OSCE in 2005 and the final report related to the Colloquium on “The Future of the OSCE”, a joint project of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the Swiss Institute for World Affairs (Washington DC, 5 and 6 June 2005),
4. Underlining the current process ongoing in the OSCE to renew dialogue and tackle European security challenges within the framework of the Corfu Process,
5. Regretting that the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, the OSCE participating States and the OSCE governmental structures still have difficulties responding substantively to the recommendations adopted by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly,
6. Recognizing the role of the Special Representative of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in Vienna as an important communication link between the OSCE governmental structures in Vienna and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

7. Calls upon the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly delegations to concentrate on the core business of the OSCE in the three security dimensions at the Annual Sessions, Winter and Fall Meetings, conferences and seminars in order to be relevant to the ultimate goal of the OSCE and strengthen the role, efficiency and impact of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly;
8. Calls upon the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly delegations to facilitate the implementation of OSCE principles and commitments in the OSCE participating States;
9. Recommends to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly delegations to actively seek contact with the Governments in the participating States and to establish regular exchanges in order to look into the implementation of the recommendations of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly;
10. Invites the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, the OSCE participating States and the OSCE governmental structures to respond substantively to the recommendations adopted by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly;
11. Encourages the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, the OSCE participating States and the OSCE governmental structures to make better use of the Special Representatives and ad hoc committees of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in the field of conflict prevention and crisis management.

MONACO DECLARATION 2012
RESOLUTION ON HELSINKI +40

1. Welcoming the fact that the decisions regarding the presidencies in 2014 and 2015 offer the prospect of a multi-year perspective, which allows the planning of OSCE activities over several years,
2. Recalling that the OSCE will celebrate the 40th anniversary of the signing of the Helsinki Act in 2015 and that this should be seen as an occasion to renew trust between participating States,
3. Bearing in mind that important reforms are pending and that public funds to finance organizations and their activities are limited, The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:
4. Urges the OSCE participating States to use 2015 as an occasion to renew the vision and the role of the OSCE in the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security architecture to record progress with the implementation of the Astana Commemorative Declaration, and to set up new milestones for the OSCE in the years to come in order to work towards a shared goal of a security community;
5. Is of the opinion that the Commemorative Declaration and the draft action plan drawn up in Astana form important bases for this strategic timetable and could be complemented by further initiatives currently under consideration;
6. Calls on the OSCE participating States to take constructive decisions as quickly as possible to improve the human dimension of events, to agree on multi-year programmes and budget cycles and to consider further improvement measures in other dimensions;
7. Calls on the OSCE participating States to tackle further important reforms such as the question of a constituent document for the OSCE which would fully respect the Helsinki Final Act, the Paris Charter and other key commitments of the OSCE, to redefine the role of the presidency and the Secretary-General so that the organization can continue to be led effectively in future, and to set modalities to strengthen the dialogue with partner countries and with other international organizations;
8. Calls on the participating States to develop a strategic vision of the OSCE by 2015 in order to address effectively the security policy challenges of the years ahead and to confer on the OSCE new important tasks in the areas of arms control, transnational threats, prevention and resolution of conflicts, human rights and human security, and to identify further possible themes;
9. Expects the Parliamentary Assembly to be suitably involved in these discussions.

ISTANBUL DECLARATION 2013**RESOLUTION ON ENHANCING TRUST, TRANSPARENCY AND
ACCOUNTABILITY WITHIN THE OSCE INSTITUTIONS**

1. Considering that frequent contact and thorough dialogue between parliamentarians of the OSCE Participating States are essential to strengthen and propagate the Helsinki ideals and commitments throughout the OSCE area,
2. Considering that enhancing trust between OSCE participating States also requires increased parliamentary dialogue within the OSCE area and more parliamentary oversight of OSCE institutions, policies, practices and achievements in order to increase their transparency and accountability,
3. Recalling that the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly is the natural forum for interparliamentary dialogue on OSCE issues, policies and practices within the OSCE area,
4. Regretting that the current status of the OSCE PA does not allow it to approve the budget and the appointment of the Secretary General of the OSCE, nor to formally oversee its Secretariat and its field presences,
5. Observing that the current status of the OSCE PA results in a democratic deficit within OSCE institutions,
6. Recognizing that the consensus rule concerning the budget, personnel and general administrative issues often paralyzes or handicaps the smooth functioning of the OSCE and reduces its transparency,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

7. Proposes that, after appropriate consultations, the OSCE PA should approve the budget and confirm the Secretary General of the OSCE by a weighted majority vote;
8. Recommends that the OSCE PA should approve the annual accounts of the OSCE institutions;
9. Calls on the Standing Committee of the OSCE PA to hire and pay the external auditor of the OSCE institutions;
10. Proposes that the OSCE PA should be formally entitled to oversee all OSCE institutions, policies and practices, which implies, inter alia, that the OSCE PA can organize fact finding missions;
11. Encourages the OSCE PA to, in particular, increase its oversight of OSCE field presences, in order to strengthen them;

12. Recommends, generally speaking, that the OSCE PA be closely associated to OSCE decision-shaping and decision-making processes to provide the decision making bodies and the Secretariat with a larger variety of inputs, and to enhance its members' capacities to report about OSCE issues and policies in their national Parliaments;

13. Recommends in this regard that the OSCE PA actively participates in the Helsinki+40 process launched under the Ukrainian Presidency;

14. Encourages the OSCE PA to increase its dialogue and co-operation with the PA of the Council of Europe, the European Parliament and the NATO PA on topics of common interest, especially in the economic and environmental dimensions, human rights and election observations in the OSCE area;

15. Strongly reiterates its proposal to the Ministerial Council to modify the consensus rule for decisions related to personnel, budget and administration, and indeed repeats that, if a participating State wishes to block or holdup consensus, it should do so openly and defend its position in public;

16. Further calls on the OSCE to make the proceedings of the Permanent Council more transparent to the public, including through live-streaming on the Internet.