



WASHINGTON, DC DECLARATION

OF THE

OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

AND

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

AT THE FOURTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION

WASHINGTON, DC, 1 to 5 JULY 2005

PREAMBLE

We, Parliamentarians of the OSCE participating states, have met in annual session in Washington, DC on 1-5 July 2005 as the Parliamentary dimension of the OSCE to assess developments and challenges relating to security and cooperation, in particular on the cooperation and partnership in coping with new security threats, and we offer the following views to the OSCE Ministers.

We wish every success to the next OSCE Ministerial Conference in Ljubljana in December and bring to its attention the following declaration and recommendations.

30 YEARS SINCE HELSINKI: CHALLENGES AHEAD

CHAPTER I

POLITICAL AFFAIRS AND SECURITY

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

1. Stressing, on the occasion of “30 Years since Helsinki”, the strong need for the OSCE participating states to comply with fundamental principles of international law endorsed by the Helsinki Final Act and for the OSCE to ensure implementation by member states of their commitments thereunder, by means of efficient commitment implementation review mechanisms and in accordance with the OSCE Security Strategy for the 21st century,
2. Emphasizing that the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security rests with the United Nations Security Council,
3. Pointing to the OSCE comprehensive and indivisible security concept, which calls for a holistic and not a fragmented response to security challenges facing the OSCE area and, thereby, for an approach that should take due account of geographic balances, while effectively dealing with “new” and “old” security threats alike,
4. Recalling in this regard that unresolved conflicts constitute a serious threat to security and stability in the OSCE area and that the search for negotiated solutions to them must remain an urgent matter, as per the commitment of the Maastricht Ministerial Council,
5. Advocating that the Caucasus and Central Asia, as OSCE areas bordering the Middle East and the Indian Subcontinent, become an increasing operational challenge for the OSCE due to a number of standing challenges posed by trafficking in human beings, illicit drugs and arms, environmental security and illegal migration; and, acknowledging that as such, they will require more resources and operational attention in the future,

6. Underlines that the Eurasian traffic in illicit drugs from the Golden Crescent, adding to a similar drug traffic from North Africa to the Mediterranean, is an increasing security concern for the internal security of the OSCE area, as well as in the OSCE states' relations with non-member states and bearing in mind the network of drug trafficking, smuggling in arms, terrorism, organized crime and trafficking in human beings; and the need for international cooperation to tackle these challenges effectively,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

7. Proposes that the OSCE increases its efforts to combat trafficking in human beings, illicit drugs and arms through the following possible initiatives:
 - 7.1. look into the possibilities to offer affected non-OSCE members Afghanistan and Pakistan a Partnership Agreement that would provide a framework for information exchange and confidence building measures with the Central Asian OSCE states;
 - 7.2. initiate steps to upgrade the Forum for Security Cooperation (FSC) into a real security body for the OSCE; as such, the FSC could function as a permanent and coherent advisory and backup structure for the Permanent Council on policing issues, border monitoring issues and other first dimension areas;
 - 7.3. look into best practices and lessons learned from efforts to curb similar traffic between North Africa and the Mediterranean OSCE states;
8. Recommends that the OSCE expands assistance aimed at improving the capacity of border policing in the drug traffic-affected OSCE member states, in coordination with, or/and as a supplement to, existing and planned UN efforts;
9. Advocates that the fight against terrorism and transnational organized crime is not carried out at the expense of human rights concerns;
10. Recognizes the crucial role the OSCE can play, through its asset of field presence and the High Commissioner on National Minorities and in coordination and cooperation with initiatives by the European Union, in the monitoring and information gathering on the status of ethnic minorities so that national asylum administrations of the OSCE member states can outline a sound and just policy towards asylum requests by members of communities at risk; special attention should be given to women given their higher vulnerability for exploitation and violence;

In the field of Environmental Security, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

11. Recognizes that all OSCE participating states are faced with environmental security threats and problems of sustainable development, such as climate change, technological risks, epidemics, etc.;
12. Underlines the importance and transboundary nature of Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Management activities in the OSCE area;
13. Advocates the use and need to strengthen the ENVSEC Initiative as a prime framework to support initiatives aimed at closer regional cooperation in the field of Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Management;

In the field of Institutional Reform in the OSCE, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

14. Advocates measures to enhance dialogue and closer institutional cooperation with the OSCE structures;
15. Urges the executive branch of the OSCE to provide an explanation about the follow-up of the recommendations adopted by the OSCE PA, taking into account the relevant items of the Rotterdam Declaration;
16. Proposes a more substantial organization of the OSCE PA winter meetings;
17. Proposes that the OSCE PA (Standing Committee) invite the Palestinian National Authority to nominate an observer delegation to attend OSCE PA on the same basis as other observer delegations, and that the rule changes necessary to facilitate the observer delegation's attendance be made;
18. Recommends the implementation of "written questions" by members of the Assembly to the OSCE leadership in accordance with Rule 40 in the Assembly's Rules of Procedure;
19. Encourages the reform of the OSCE as regards its Efficiency and Effectiveness;
20. Urges Members of the Assembly to follow up on OSCE PA Declarations in their national parliaments, one way to ensure greater attention for this aspect being to include coverage, in the relevant chapters of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's website, of questions by national members of parliament to their governments on OSCE affairs;
21. Advocates the upgrading of the status and job security of seconded OSCE Field Staff through one-year standard contracts to further enhance OSCE's flexibility and crisis reaction capability; secondees should – if the need arises – be assigned tasks outside their designated area of deployment;
22. Encourages maximal gender balance among international as well as national staff in the OSCE field missions;
23. Encourages the debate on the question of whether the name Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe still adequately reflects the Organization's operational scope and reality.

CHAPTER II

ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT

24. Reconfirming the vital significance of the principles of the 1975 Helsinki Final Act in fostering cooperation among the countries of the OSCE region in the fields of economics, science, technology and the environment,
25. Noting the importance of the economic and environmental dimensions in the context of the OSCE's concept of comprehensive security and multilateral cooperation, the foundation of which was laid out in the Helsinki Final Act,
26. Noting that poverty, widening economic and social disparities and high unemployment should be tackled as major root causes of global security threats, such as terrorism, extremism, organized crime, including financial crime, trafficking of all kinds, and illegal migration,
27. Reconfirming the vital significance of the final document of the OSCE Conference on economic cooperation in Europe (Bonn, 1990), the Charter of Paris (1990) and the Charter on European Security (1999), adopted as follow-ups to the Helsinki agreements for the implementation of key commitments concerning cooperation in the fields of economics and the environment,
28. Noting with satisfaction the OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension (Maastricht, 2003) as an up-to-date programme of action for the Organization to address the second "basket" in a meaningful way,
29. Noting that the strengthening of integration processes in Europe widen the possibilities for the movement of capital and people, and cooperation in vitally important areas such as transport, trade, investment and energy,
30. Noting the significance of the Helsinki Agreement and of the efforts of the OSCE in developing mechanisms for regional and sub-regional cooperation, prevention of economic and environmental security threats,
31. Underlining that sub-regional organizations, existing within the framework of the OSCE, assist in overcoming the difficulties which arise in the formation of market relations of states and in forming a single European approach to the development of a regional policy and of interstate cooperation based on the principles of sustainable economic development,
32. Noting with satisfaction that, in the course of fulfilling the goals of integration and regional cooperation in the OSCE region, methods of management and restructuring economics are improving, structures of small and medium-sized enterprises are developing at increasing speeds, and national and foreign investment is progressing,
33. Welcoming the ever-developing coordination of actions as well as interstate cooperation of the legislative and judicial branches in matters concerning the development and adherence to laws and rules aimed at the fight against terrorism, money laundering and corruption, criminal prosecution of criminals and the financing of their activities,

34. Acknowledging that developing economies are more vulnerable than the developed economies to negative effects of globalization, liberalization and restricted access to technological progress, which, in most cases, contribute to further widening economic and social disparities between and within states, and that it is necessary to continue assisting the integration of developing economies into the international economic system in order to mitigate these effects,
35. Reaffirming the OSCE's commitment to environmental protection, this being an essential component of sustainable development, and to achievement of the Millennium Development Goals,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

36. Urges parliamentarians of the OSCE participating states to strengthen their cooperation in combating new economic and environmental threats and challenges to security in the spirit of the Helsinki Final Act;
37. Notes that the development of European economic and environmental protection cooperation is possible on the basis of the integration of countries into the world and European economic systems and speedy entry into the WTO, and requires necessary transformations in the way of thinking and in the actions of both government bodies as well as the system of international relations;
38. Calls upon the OSCE, together with leading economic organizations and financial institutions to offer assistance to countries of the region in overcoming difficulties in the formation of market economies, taking advantage of globalization and in eliminating negative consequences;
39. Underlines the importance of parliamentarians of the OSCE participating states' working out their own models of reform with an orientation toward market conditions, and harmonization of the economic interests of all members of the community in such a way as to not cause damage to the security and stability of the region of responsibility;
40. Confirms the need to improve management practices in the economic, environmental and social spheres, as well as in market structures and enterprises, in order to assist small and medium-sized entrepreneurship, the development of human resources, an increase in the role of women and minorities in scientific, legal, economic and commercial spheres, as well as assisting in the training of personnel from national, regional and local government authorities;
41. Recommends that parliaments of the OSCE participating states ratify and implement the conventions of the Council of Europe, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations in the economic and social spheres and related to combating corruption and financial crimes;
42. Calls upon the European Union and the OSCE to maintain contacts and constructive dialogue with states which are not members of the European Union, devoting particular attention to their economic, scientific and technological and environmental protection development, while not damaging their legitimate interests, and also calls upon the European Union to institute an open door policy with regard to those states which are preparing for EU accession;

43. Underlines the need to continue elaborating effective strategies, reinforced by a normative and legal foundation, for the fight against terrorism, organized crime, prostitution, trafficking in human beings, drugs and weapons, and money laundering;
44. Calls upon OSCE participating states to persist in combating terrorism as one of the principal threats to peace and security, combating attempts to smuggle and use nuclear and other types of weapons, and combating regional conflicts and extremism;
45. Calls upon participating states to increase cooperation in the spheres of the environment, the fight against pollution of water resources and against the consequences of climate change, the management of natural resources, mandatory warning systems related to environmental threats and the dangers to lives of citizens and the welfare of countries; to assist in the ratification of existing international legal instruments in the field of economic and environmental security, including the Kyoto Protocol, and to assist in their fully-fledged implementation following ratification.

CHAPTER III

DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS

46. Recalling that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights (Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of the United Nations),
47. Further recalling that Article I of the Declaration of the States Parties to the Helsinki Final Act proclaims the equality of the participating states,
48. Reaffirming that peace constitutes a necessary precondition for the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms,
49. Recalling that unresolved conflicts entailing gross violations of human rights constitute a permanent threat to security and stability in the OSCE area,
50. Recalling the declarations adopted at the Twelfth Annual Session of the Parliamentary Assembly in Rotterdam (9 July 2003), at the Thirteenth Annual Session of the Parliamentary Assembly in Edinburgh (9 July 2004), the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality, and the declarations adopted at all annual sessions of the OSCE PA,
51. Reaffirming that acts, methods and practices of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations are activities aimed at the destruction of human rights, fundamental freedoms and democracy, threatening territorial integrity and security of states and destabilizing legitimately constituted governments, and that the international community should take the necessary steps to enhance cooperation to prevent and combat terrorism,
52. Taking note of the new challenges to the safeguarding of human rights posed by the information society,
53. Considering the great challenges that the OSCE must take up in the area of human rights and fundamental rights, must be considered from an individual perspective, from an international perspective and from a collective perspective,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

54. Affirms that the principle of gender equality must be reflected at all stages of the decision-making process and be duly reflected in national and international representative institutions, political life and in all aspects of social life;
55. Affirms that some progress has already been made, but that gender equality certainly remains a goal to pursue;
56. Condemns once more all forms of criminal offences, trafficking and practices degrading to human dignity and all forms of trafficking in human beings, and urges participating states to pool their efforts to combat this scourge;

57. Believes that legalized prostitution is a way to encourage trafficking of women and men, and that all those who, directly or indirectly, organize, encourage or profit from trafficking human beings for sexual purposes should receive penalties, with the victims of involuntary prostitution protected;
58. Urges participating states to organize their systems for the recording of civil status and census information, in conformity with international human rights standards so as to move towards an optimal degree of reliability, to guarantee the individual right of vote to all citizens and calls on the Congress of the United States to adopt such legislation as may be necessary to grant the residents of Washington, D.C. equal voting rights in their national legislature in accordance with its human dimension commitments;
59. Believes that the particular dangers to which children are exposed because of their particular vulnerability requires that their physical, moral and sexual integrity be given special protection;
60. Recalls the obligation of the participating states to allow OSCE observers to monitor whether election procedures are honest, free, fair and democratic and to cooperate in ensuring that such independent and impartial monitoring can take place in an unhindered environment;
61. Calls on the OSCE to continue its efforts to ensure the quality, as a priority objective, of election monitoring processes and recommends that participating states monitor the full transparency of the elections organized on their territory and allow effective monitoring of the operations;
62. Asks OSCE, in close cooperation with the Council of Europe, to take a special interest in the effectiveness of judicial remedies and the absolute independence and impartiality of the magistrates charged with ruling on these matters;
63. Recommends that participating states no longer apply a criminal approach to abuse of freedom in the media and, in any case, that they do not make provision for or apply penal sentences when punishing such behaviour.
64. Calls urgently on member states to impede the use of the mass media and especially educational textbooks for the dissemination of nationalist and religious hatred and superiority vis-à-vis other nations;
65. Calls on participating states to intensify their cooperation in combating various forms of discrimination, whether they be based on race, sex, language or political, philosophical or religious convictions, and which may be disseminated by the Internet;
66. Urges participating states to lend the support of their police authorities and international NGOs to international efforts to combat the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, to encourage actions to fight child pornography on the Internet and to cooperate completely and fairly in this effort;
67. Condemns all forms of terrorist acts, regardless of the perpetrators, motives or victims;
68. Points to the urgent need for the international community to deal effectively with the root causes of terrorism;

69. Demands that participating states no longer tolerate the issuing of calls for terrorist acts from their territories;
70. Supports participating states in taking all the appropriate measures to intensify their transborder cooperation so as to make it possible for those suspected of terrorist acts and those supporting them through financial, technical, information-related or other means to be brought to justice and tried within a reasonable period of time and reaffirms that it is imperative that all states work to uphold and protect the dignity of individuals and their fundamental freedoms, together with democratic practices and the rule of law, while countering terrorism;
71. Maintains the imperative need for respect of public international law and respect for human rights in the combating of terrorism;
72. Calls upon participating states to respect, in the case of all prisoners of war, the requirements set out in the Geneva Conventions, according them special status for the sake of a fair balance between public security and respect for human rights;
73. Calls urgently on participating states, in accordance with the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to guarantee all prisoners, regardless of the offences that may have justified their imprisonment, the right to have examined the legality of their detention by independent and impartial tribunals, ruling in respect of the fundamental procedural guarantees, one of the most important of which is respect for the rights of the defence, and providing for evaluation authority not limited to a purely formal review;
74. Considers it unacceptable that in some member states the category of political prisoner still exists;
75. Reaffirms, in accordance with the Charter of Paris of 21 November 1990, that the protection and promotion of the ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious identity of persons belonging to national minorities forms an integral part of the requirements posed by the democratic principle;
76. Emphasizes that the introduction of federative and decentralized areas can contribute to the settlement of conflicts when they are of an ethnic or religious nature or when they are linked to minority issues;
77. Recommends that every attempt to bring religions closer together be supported;
78. Further recommends that this protection and the promotion of ethnic identity be incorporated in a dialogue process, as the only way of avoiding the calls for the dividing up of territories and calls on participating states to take particular account of these requirements for protection when organizing the way education is provided on their territory;
79. Pledges to ensure and facilitate the freedom of the individual to profess and practise any religion or belief, alone or in community with others, through transparent and non-discriminatory laws, regulations, practices and policies, and to remove any registration or recognition policies that discriminate against any religious community and hinder its ability to operate freely and equally with other faiths;

80. Takes into account, in that regard, the fundamental nature of the right to education, together with ethnic and cultural diversity, and the need to allow, within the framework of the education system of each state, the coexistence of social, cultural and educational establishments using different languages of instruction;
81. Welcomes the involvement and expertise of the OSCE/ODIHR Panel of Experts on Freedom of Religion or Belief with technical assistance to ensure that current or draft legislation fulfils all OSCE commitments on religious freedom, and encourages all parliaments to utilize the Guidelines for Legislative Reviews of Laws Affecting Religion or Belief drafted by the OSCE/ODIHR Panel when framing laws or regulations pertaining to religious practice;
82. Underlines the important role of political parties in the organization and functioning of a democratic debate and takes into account the institutional function that they perform and the essential link they provide between civil society and state decision-making bodies;
83. Invites participating states to establish such procedures as will enable electoral operations to be conducted efficiently, smoothly and in accordance with international standards;
84. Demands that participating states ensure respect for ideological pluralism in the organization of and access to national, regional and local media;
85. Advises that the diffusion of information reflecting the various views present in the major debates engaging public opinion should be ensured by means of independent monitoring bodies and recommends, in particular, that monitoring be carried out to ensure that there are no obvious discrepancies in the amount of television and radio airtime made available to representatives of different democratic political groups, especially during election campaigns;
86. Encourages participating states to establish parliamentary oversight mechanisms for law enforcement agencies, and believes that in addition participating states could step up the cooperation between their police forces in order to establish common processes in the implementation of preventive policies and social monitoring mechanisms, especially in prisons, and also in the creation of internal and external police oversight mechanisms and encourages the integration of national minorities into police forces;
87. Notes that on 12 and 13 May an armed group attacked a police station and military barracks in Andijan, Uzbekistan. The group then freed prisoners from a high-security prison before seizing the regional administration building. On 13 May Uzbek security and military forces fired on crowds that had gathered on Andijan's main square. Although the Uzbek Government claims 173 people died, eye-witness accounts and human rights groups indicate the number may be 500-1,000, most of whom were civilians. President Karimov has rejected offers by the United Nations Secretary-General and calls by other international organizations to launch an independent, international investigation into these events;
88. Urges the Government of Uzbekistan to take heed of the call by United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan to create the conditions for an independent, international and transparent investigation of the Andijan tragedy, to establish justice for the victims and accountability for those found to have used excessive force or committed other abuses during or after the demonstration and considers that, should Tashkent decline to cooperate, it would be appropriate to invoke the Moscow Mechanism;

89. Considers the horrifying massacre ten years ago of approximately 8,000 Bosniaks, mostly men and boys, by Serb forces in Srebrenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina, to have been the greatest single violation of OSCE principles in a participating state since the Helsinki Final Act was signed 30 years ago, and pledges to take every step necessary to ensure that the individuals responsible are brought to justice and that the international community, in responding to other conflict situations around the world, never repeats the tragic mistakes it made that allowed such an atrocity, considered by the Appeals Chamber of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia to constitute genocide, to take place in a United Nations-declared “safe area”;
90. Recognizes that the status of Kosovo is to be the subject of discussions this year, and emphasizes that any solution should require the mutual agreement of Kosovo, Serbia and Montenegro and the United Nations, and the fulfilment of the eight benchmark standards established by the United Nations, which call for democratic governance, rights for minorities and market economic reform; and
91. Urges, in order to promote peace and stability in Kosovo and the surrounding region of Europe, that greater effort be made to fulfil all eight Standards set by the United Nations Interim Administration in Kosovo (UNMIK) in 2002 and, to that end, recommends in particular that the OSCE Mission in Kosovo monitor and report in a timely, regular, public and unbiased manner on progress achieved and on human rights violations still needing to be addressed, and also that the Mission accelerate existing OSCE programmes relating to achieving fulfilment of the Standards, particularly with regard to creating a sustainable basis for the return, protection and representation in government of minority communities in Kosovo.

RESOLUTION ON IMPROVING GENDER EQUALITY IN THE OSCE

1. Recalling the Assembly's past recommendation on improving gender equality within the OSCE and its recommendations to fight gender based discrimination,
2. Recognizing the increased visibility of gender issues within the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly as an important step,
3. Regretting that in spite of the goodwill expressed in the 2000 OSCE Gender Action Plan, very little actual progress is visible with regard to the gender equality situation within the Organization itself,
4. Realizing that many national Delegations to the OSCE PA still include very few women and that some Delegations include no women at all,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

5. Welcomes the 2004 Ministerial Council decision adopting the new Gender Action Plan and insists on an immediate implementation of the provisions included;
6. Again calls upon the OSCE Secretary General and participating states to take positive action to promote the recruitment of women candidates within OSCE bodies and Institutions, especially at higher levels; and to improve the culture and working atmosphere in the Organization, and encourages national OSCE PA Delegations to assist their respective Governments in identifying qualified female candidates;
7. Reiterates the Assembly's recommendation to provide equal opportunities for men and women in the OSCE in order for the Organization to live up to its own principles;
8. Requests that the OSCE improve the mainstreaming of the gender perspective in its reports, resolutions and all other documents, as gender neutral often means gender blind, and, at the same time, encourages the OSCE PA International Secretariat to continue its monitoring and reporting of this;
9. Recommends that Parliamentary Delegations to the OSCE monitor the work of their Permanent National Delegations in Vienna in order to ensure that they promote gender balance in all OSCE activities by, for instance, requesting reports on this matter;
10. Strongly urges parliaments in the OSCE area to take positive action in order to obtain gender balance in their national delegations to the OSCE PA;
11. Calls upon Heads of OSCE PA Delegations to take positive action to promote the nomination and appointment of women candidates in the OSCE PA for elected positions and with regard to participation in field-related activities;
12. Invites all Members of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly to promote participation of women in politics and civil society-building in their home countries, starting at their respective constituencies;

13. Encourages the OSCE PA Special Representative on Gender Issues to continue the efforts to ensure that OSCE PA reports and resolutions are gender mainstreamed and that a gender perspective be included in the work of the Assembly, and stresses the importance of the informal network of the Special Representative on Gender Issues;
14. Welcomes the efforts of the International Secretariat to promote gender equality in the OSCE and calls upon the OSCE PA Secretary General to continue his efforts to maintain a good and equal working environment in the International Secretariat.

RESOLUTION ON COMBATING ANTI-SEMITISM

1. Recalling the resolutions on anti-Semitism by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, which were unanimously passed at the annual meetings in Berlin in 2002, in Rotterdam in 2003 and in Edinburgh in 2004,
2. Referring to the commitments made by the participating states emerging from the OSCE conferences in Vienna (June 2003), Berlin (April 2004) and Brussels (September 2004) regarding legal, political and educational efforts to fight anti-Semitism, ensuring “that Jews in the OSCE region can live their lives free of discrimination, harassment and violence”,
3. Welcoming the convening of the Conference on Anti-Semitism and on Other Forms of Intolerance in Cordoba, Spain in June 2005,
4. Commending the appointment and continuing role of the three Personal Representatives of the Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE on Combating Anti-Semitism, on Combating Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims, and on Combating Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, also focusing on Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians and Members of Other Religions, reflecting the distinct role of each in addressing these separate issues in the OSCE region,
5. Reaffirming the view expressed in earlier resolutions that anti-Semitism constitutes a threat to fundamental human rights and to democratic values and hence to the security in the OSCE region,
6. Emphasizing the importance of permanent monitoring mechanisms of incidents of anti-Semitism at a national level, as well as the need for public condemnations, energetic police work and vigorous prosecutions,

The Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE:

7. Urges OSCE participating states to adopt national uniform definitions for monitoring and collecting information about anti-Semitism and hate crimes along the lines of the January 2005 EUMC Working Definition of Anti-Semitism and to familiarize officials, civil servants and others working in the public sphere with these definitions so that incidents can be quickly identified and recorded;
8. Recommends that OSCE participating states establish national data collection and monitoring mechanisms and improve information-sharing among national government authorities, local officials, and civil society representatives, as well as exchange data and best practices with other OSCE participating states;
9. Urges OSCE participating states to publicize data on anti-Semitic incidents in a timely manner as well as report the information to the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR);
10. Recommends that ODIHR publicize its data on anti-Semitic crimes and hate crimes on a regular basis, highlight best practices, as well as initiate programs with a particular focus in the areas of police, law enforcement, and education;

11. Calls upon national governments to allot adequate resources to the monitoring of anti-Semitism, including the appointment of national ombudspersons or special representatives;
12. Emphasizes the need to broaden the involvement of civil society representatives in the collection, analysis and publication of data on anti-Semitism and related violence;
13. Calls on the national delegations of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly to ensure that regular debates on the subject of anti-Semitism are conducted in their parliaments and furthermore to support public awareness campaigns on the threat to democracy posed by acts of anti-Semitic hatred, detailing best practices to combat this threat;
14. Calls on the national delegations of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly to submit written reports at the 2006 Annual Session on the activities of their parliaments with regard to combating anti-Semitism;
15. Calls on the OSCE participating states to develop educational material and teacher training methods to counter contemporary forms of anti-Semitism, as well as update programs on Holocaust education;
16. Urges both the national parliaments and governments of OSCE participating states to review their national laws;
17. Urges the OSCE participating states to improve security at Jewish sites and other locations that are potential targets of anti-Semitic attacks in coordination with the representatives of these communities.

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.

RESOLUTION ON TERRORISM BY SUICIDE BOMBERS

1. Noting the horror of historically unprecedented terrorist violence – with the purpose to kill and massacre, to die in order to kill more people, to practise the cult of death, and to express personal desperation only through death,
2. Recalling that in the opinion of the 1986 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Elie Wiesel, unlike the Japanese soldiers who, towards the end of the Second World War chose to sacrifice their lives by attacking exclusively military targets, today’s suicide terrorists prefer to attack defenceless and unarmed civilians, children and women, in order to inculcate in the minds of individuals and the masses, a total, in many respects worse than racist, aversion to the “enemy/infidel”, and to totally dehumanize conflicts,
3. Denouncing the fact that some leaders of terrorist groups (Al Qaeda, Hamas, Hezbollah, the Islamic Army in Iraq, and so on) approve, encourage and extol these mass murders, without hesitating to endow them with a value, based above all on a hate-filled and distorted interpretation of certain sacred texts,
4. Noting that – while the Muslim community, on the whole, has always tended to reject all forms of violence and fanaticism – a growing number of people, often very young, are being induced to rethink the prescriptions of the Koran in the light of the mysticism of suicidal terrorism which, by that token, is alien to the Koran and to Islam,
5. Recalling that the most devastating terrorist attacks perpetrated in the world in the past few years have been committed against this disturbing background: the immense tragedy in New York and Washington DC on 11 September 2001, the Madrid attacks on 11 March 2004, and the heinous attacks in various places in Israel, Russia, the Philippines, India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iraq, and the massacres in Bali, Casablanca, Istanbul and Jakarta,
6. Noting that a firm warning against terrorism was significantly issued by the Holy Father, John Paul II, who on numerous occasions stated that “Those who kill by acts of terrorism actually despair of humanity, of life, of the future” (message of his Holiness John Paul II to celebrate World Peace Day, 1 January 2002),
7. Agreeing in this same perspective, that the Simon Wiesenthal Centre, which for decades has been committed to promoting religious tolerance and to combating anti-Semitism, has explicitly promoted a mobilization campaign to get the international community to recognize that terrorist suicide attacks are real “crimes against humanity”,
8. Considering that dealing in death in this manner is a blatant attack on the most elementary human rights and on the international legal order, because it constitutes an intolerable violation of “the general principles of law recognized by civilized nations” (article 38(I)(c) of the Statute of the United Nations International Court of Justice), by virtue of which human life enjoys universal protection,

9. Considering also that the Statute of the International Criminal Court (adopted by the United Nations Diplomatic Conference in Rome on 17 July 1998) marked a major milestone in the historical process of establishing the legal notion of crimes against humanity as a category in their own right, developed over 50 years as international customary law, as crimes forming part of the so-called *jus cogens*; and that these are therefore crimes for which no impunity can be accepted, and to which immunities pertaining to political crimes, or to time-barring and all other exemptions from personal responsibility do not apply, and that they are subject to universal jurisdiction, such that all states are duty-bound to prosecute or extradite the guilty, regardless of the nationality of the guilty parties and the place in which the crime is committed,
10. Noting, however, that the Statute did not expressly include in this category of crimes acts of terrorism,
11. Recalling, lastly, that the OSCE Assembly in its Berlin Declaration adopted in July 2002 specifically addressed this issue in paragraph 93 of the Declaration, urging “all participating states to ratify the statute for the International Criminal Court, and to seek broadening of its scope to include terrorist crimes”,

The Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE:

12. Considers that in the light of the provisions solemnly sanctioned by the Statute of the International Criminal Court, it must be agreed that suicide attacks of the terrorist nature constitute “crimes against humanity” in that they are deliberately committed “as part of a widespread or systematic attack directed against any civilian population” which involves the multiple commission of murders of defenceless civilians “pursuant to or in furtherance of (...) organizational policy to commit such attack” (Art.7(I) of the Statute of the International Criminal Court);
13. Expresses forcefully this conviction, also because the “closing provision” of subparagraph (k) of article 7 of the Statute of the International Criminal Court, includes among the crimes against humanity “other inhumane acts of a similar character intentionally causing great suffering, or serious injury to body or to mental or physical health”;
14. Expresses the hope that the OSCE member states will make representations before the United Nations General Assembly, clearly and unequivocally, that terrorist acts committed by suicide bombers are, for all the intents and purposes of current international law, very serious “crimes against humanity” that cannot be time-barred, for which the leaders of the states and groups which order or facilitate their commission must be called to account before the international courts responsible for prosecuting universal crimes;
15. Supports the recent position adopted by the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly in its Resolution 1400 of 6 October 2004, stating that “Every act of terrorism... is a challenge to democracy and must be considered a crime against humanity”, and calls on all the OSCE member states of the Council of Europe to adopt and implement the fundamental 1977 European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism;
16. Endorses the “Guidelines on Human Rights and the Fight Against Terrorism” adopted on 11 July 2002 by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, considering in particular that every action to combat terrorism must be taken in respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, as stated in the Resolution on Human Rights and the War on Terrorism adopted by the OSCE Assembly at its Berlin session in July 2002;

17. Requests that, according to the binding commitments set out in the fundamental United Nations Security Council Resolution 1373, adopted in the wake of the 11 September 2001 tragedy, any OSCE member states that have not yet done so, namely 30 out of 55, ratify and implement the 12 United Nations Conventions and the relevant Protocols on combating terrorism, as expressly requested in the OSCE Bucharest Plan of Action For Combating Terrorism, adopted by the Ministerial Council in December 2001, which recognize d this set of international agreements as being “the basis for the global legal framework for the fight against terrorism” and welcomes the adoption of the text of a new Convention against Nuclear Terrorism, to be opened for signature in September 2005;
18. Urges the participating states to redouble efforts to finalize a comprehensive convention against terrorism;
19. Endorses the affirmation in the Statement on Preventing and Combating Terrorism adopted by the Sofia Ministerial Council in December 2004 that “the OSCE efforts to counter terrorist threats should be taken in all OSCE dimensions, the security dimension, including the political-military area, the economic and environmental dimension, and the human dimension”;
20. Requests - in the knowledge that the OSCE’s comprehensive approach to security gives the organization a comparative advantage in addressing factors across the OSCE dimensions that may engender terrorism - the implementation of the activities put into place within ATU, the OSCE Action against Terrorism Unit, instituted in 2002 to report to the Secretary General, above all in order to step up the coordination of all the Organization’s operational instruments to counter terrorism;
21. Welcomes the proactive approach taken by the Action against Terrorism Unit (ATU) in addressing, in collaboration with the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), the threat of suicide terrorism through its “Technical Expert Workshop on Suicide Terrorism” held in Vienna on 20 May 2005, which provided the participating states and the OSCE Partners for Cooperation with important information for a better understanding of this phenomenon and with a platform for sharing experiences in countering it, and encourages the Unit to continue its work in this area; and
22. Welcomes the commitments recently undertaken by the governments of the OSCE in the matter of combating terrorism, and in particular those set out in the OSCE Charter on Preventing and Combating Terrorism and in the Decision on Implementing the OSCE Commitments and Activities on Combating Terrorism, as adopted by the Porto Ministerial Councils in 2002, in which, among other things, the SALW (Small Arms and Light Weapons) Programme is indicated as a priority area of interstate cooperation.

RESOLUTION ON THE SITUATION IN ABKHAZIA, GEORGIA

1. Reaffirming the commitment of all member states to the principles of sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders, and the necessity to define the status of Abkhazia within the state of Georgia in strict conformity with these principles,
2. Recalling the resolutions of the UNSC, OSCE and its Parliamentary Assembly on the situation in Abkhazia, Georgia,
3. Welcoming the renewal of the regular meetings of senior representatives of the Group of Friends and the United Nations in Geneva,
4. Deeply regretting the lack of progress on peaceful settlement of the conflict in Abkhazia, Georgia,
5. Stressing that the continued lack of progress on key issues of comprehensive settlement of the conflict in Abkhazia, Georgia is unacceptable,
6. Recalling the international obligation of the Russian Federation to facilitate and ensure dialogue between conflicting parties,
7. Expressing deep concern about the lack of progress in the work of the Ad hoc Committee on Abkhazia, Georgia as there has not been made any step forward during the last four years,
8. Regretting also the lack of political willingness from the Abkhaz side to meet representatives of the Ad Hoc Committee on Abkhazia, Georgia which hinders the Committee from carrying out its mandate to promote dialogue;
9. Calling on the support of the Russian Delegation to the OSCE PA, as the representatives of the country that bears international obligation of mediator in the conflict, in facilitating the implementation of the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee on Abkhazia, Georgia;

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

10. Urges all parties involved to do their utmost to find solutions to the unresolved conflicts in Georgia;
11. Calls upon the Russian Federation to refrain from any actions impeding the peace process in Abkhazia, Georgia;
12. Continues to support the work of the OSCE PA Ad hoc Committee on Abkhazia, Georgia and calls for an intensifying of its work;
13. Appeals to the Standing Committee to support the work of the Ad hoc Committee on Abkhazia, Georgia through changing of its mandate and composition;

14. Directs the OSCE Parliamentary Ad hoc Committee on Abkhazia, Georgia to:
 - a. strengthen its efforts to engage parties in a meaningful dialogue leading to the substantial progress on key issues of conflict resolution such as political status, comprehensive security guarantees, unconditional and dignified return of refugees and internally displaced persons and economic issues;
 - b. establish a dialogue with and promote exchanges between the representatives of the legislative bodies, institutions, political parties, communities and NGOs;
 - c. pay regular visits to the region with the particular emphasis on assessment and reporting on the situation with the spontaneously returned refugees/IDPs and Human Rights violation in the region, especially in Gali district;
 - d. facilitate the implementation of the concrete educational projects of the OSCE HCNM in the region, in particular in Gali district;
 - e. work out and adopt the 2005/2006 action plan, which should include the concrete steps of the Ad hoc Committee on Abkhazia, Georgia aimed at facilitation of the conflict resolution process through fulfilling the tasks stated in subparagraphs a-f;
 - f. report to the Standing Committee (or bureau/plenary sessions) on a regular basis on its activities, the progress in the implementation of the action plan and the current situation in Abkhazia, Georgia and submit the relevant recommendations to the OSCE PA;
15. Stresses the urgent need for progress on the question of the refugees and internally displaced persons, and calls on the Abkhaz side to display a genuine commitment to make returnees the focus of special attention and to undertake this task in secure and dignified conditions, in accordance with international law;
16. In this regard recalls that the Russian peacekeepers and the Abkhaz side bear a particular responsibility to protect the returnees and to facilitate the return of the remaining displaced population;
17. Firmly support and actively facilitate the implementation of the UN and the OSCE decisions on the establishment of the UN/OSCE Human rights Office branch in Gali district.

RESOLUTION ON TERRORISM AND HUMAN RIGHTS

1. Reiterating its Resolution on Human Rights and the Fight against Terrorism adopted at the Annual Session in Berlin 2002,
2. Recalling its Resolution on the Prisoners Detained by the United States at the Guantanamo Base adopted at the Annual Session in Rotterdam 2003,
3. Recalling the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolution 1373 (2001) concerning threats to international peace and security caused by terrorism,
4. Concerned about the fact that not all participating states have fully implemented the provisions of UNSC resolution 1373 (2001),
5. Welcoming the efforts of the UNSC Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) to monitor the implementation of UNSC resolution 1373 (2001) and to assist states increasing their capabilities to fight terrorism,
6. Deeply concerned by the increasing numbers of victims, including children, of acts of terrorism motivated by intolerance or extremism in various regions of the world,
7. Concerned about the fact that the terms “terrorist” and “terrorist acts” are open to widely differing interpretations and therefore may serve as basis for states to expand the power of the ruling authorities and restrict the exercise of fundamental freedoms and human rights,
8. Deploring all violations of international human rights law, humanitarian law as well as other relevant provisions of international law including non-compliance with commitments to prohibit torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment motivated by states’ declared efforts to combat the threat posed by terrorism, real or perceived,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

9. Notes that respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law are essential tools in the effort to combat terrorism whereas violations of these basic privileges only facilitate the political and social conditions that give rise to terrorism;
10. Condemns in its strongest terms all acts of terrorism irrespective of their motivation, whenever and by whosoever committed, as one of the most serious threats to peace and security;
11. Urges all participating states to implement, with no delay, the provisions of UNSC resolution 1373 (2001);
12. Reminds all participating states of their obligations to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations by all means, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law;
13. Urges all participating states to cooperate actively with CTC in its efforts to monitor the implementation of UNSC resolution 1373 (2001);

14. Calls upon all participating states and relevant international, regional and sub regional organizations to strengthen their mutual cooperation in the fight against terrorism;
15. Reminds all participating states that they must ensure that any measures taken to combat terrorism comply with their obligations under international human rights law, humanitarian law as well as other relevant provisions of international law;
16. Reminds all participating states that freedom from torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment is a non-derogable right and must be protected under all circumstances, including in times of terrorism or internal disturbances;
17. Reaffirms the absolute nature of the obligation under international law not to expel, return, extradite, or otherwise transfer any person to a country where there are substantial grounds for believing that he or she would be in danger of being subjected to torture or cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment (prohibited ill-treatment);
18. Urges all participating states to ensure that any measures in response to terrorism do not undermine the very democratic principles they seek to defend and protect, nor otherwise subvert the democratic constitutional order which should, in accordance with OSCE commitments, already be in place;
19. Calls upon all participating states to sign the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;
20. Supports the UN Secretary General's call for world leaders to agree on a definition of terrorism before the end of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly;
21. Encourages all participating states to support the UN Secretary General's call for the creation of a special rapporteur who would report to the Commission on Human Rights on the compatibility of counter-terrorism measures with international human rights laws.

RESOLUTION ON THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

1. Recalling the previous Resolutions on the Republic of Moldova of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, adopted earlier during the Annual Sessions,
2. Welcoming the resumption after a prolonged hiatus of contacts between the authorities of the Republic of Moldova and the Tiraspol administration at the meeting with representatives of the three mediators in Vinnitsa, Ukraine on 16 and 17 May,
3. Expressing concern that the current high level of mutual distrust between the authorities in Chisinau and Tiraspol has resulted in a series of unilateral measures which further damage the prospects for a settlement,
4. Reiterating the concern that the failure to find a solution to the problem concerning the status of the Transdnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova seriously hampers economic and social progress in the Republic of Moldova and its further integration into European structures,
5. Expressing disappointment that there appears to have been little progress with regard to the Russian Federation's 1999 Istanbul Summit commitments on withdrawal of troops, armaments and ammunition from the territory of the Republic of Moldova,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

6. Urges all parties concerned, in particular the Parliament and Government of the Republic of Moldova as well as the Supreme Soviet and authorities of Transdnistria, and also the Governments of the Russian Federation and Ukraine, to resume, together with the OSCE, serious negotiations in good faith in order to find a permanent solution to the problem concerning the status of Transdnistria;
7. Urges the Parliament and Government of the Republic of Moldova as well as the Supreme Soviet and authorities of Transdnistria to engage in confidence building measures, which could serve to restore a minimum level of mutual trust needed for further negotiations;
8. Expresses the readiness of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's Parliamentary Team on the Republic of Moldova, to support this process of dialogue, in particular by assisting the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova and the Supreme Soviet on Transdnistria to re-establish their contacts for the purpose of discussing relevant issues;
9. Takes note of the initiatives recently put forward by the President and Government of Ukraine during and after the GUUAM Summit Meeting in April 2005 and expresses hope that these proposals and the discussion of them that took place in Vinnitsa on May 16-17 may provide an impetus to the negotiating process;
10. Supports the initiatives of the President of Ukraine, Victor Yushchenko, and of the President of the Republic of Moldova, Vladimir Voronin, of 2 June 2005, aimed at establishing an efficient international customs control and monitoring of the Transdnistrian segment of the Republic of Moldova-Ukraine border, and urges the Government of Ukraine firmly to begin solving the problems of organized crime, corruption and illegal trade on that segment of the border;

11. Welcomes the unanimous adoption by the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova of 10 June 2005, a set of documents aimed at the implementation of the Ukrainian proposals on the Transdniestrian settlement, pointing out in particular the need to democratize and demilitarize this region, along with the dissolution of the armed units and secret services of the Transdniestrian region;
12. Expresses conviction that any settlement of the conflict over the status of the Transdniestrian region of the Republic of Moldova will be efficient only if it is acceptable for the entire people of the Republic of Moldova and is developed in the framework of the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova, of the rule of law and of fundamental human freedoms, while respecting the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Republic of Moldova;
13. Urges, in this regard, the Transdniestrian authorities to take much-needed steps to encourage the further development of political parties, civil society organizations media outlets and other such democratic institutions in the Transdniestrian region.
14. Recognizes the important role of free and fair elections in the democratization process and recommends that consideration be given to the proposal put forward in the Ukrainian plan and reiterated in the 10 June appeal of the Republic of Moldovan Parliament to mandate the OSCE to conduct elections in Transnistria;
15. Welcomes the initiative of the Ukrainian President to transform the peacekeeping operation in the region into an international mechanism under the OSCE mandate;
16. Takes note of the readiness of the European Union and the United States to connect more closely to the negotiation process and expresses the hope that the active engagement of all interested international actors will help to achieve a lasting comprehensive settlement of the Transdniestrian question.
17. Expresses the readiness of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's Parliamentary Group on the Republic of Moldova to support the efforts of the Republic of Moldova on the settlement of the Transdniestrian conflict, the restoration of the territorial unity of the country, the contribution to the development of democratic institutions in the region and the observance of fundamental human rights and freedoms.

RESOLUTION ON SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS

1. Reaffirming the importance of the issue of the excessive and destabilizing accumulation and uncontrolled spread of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW),
2. Recalling the important steps already undertaken by the OSCE, in particular the “OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons” (FSC, 2000) as an excellent programme outline for the OSCE and its participating states, (hereafter: “the Document”) containing a set of norms, principles and measures, and with the general aims and objectives of the Document which are worked out along three lines:
 - combating illicit trafficking, setting out objectives in five areas (manufacture, marking, record-keeping, common export criteria and export controls),
 - reduction of surpluses of small arms through destruction and stockpile management,
 - “conflict cycle”(early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation) : the role of small arms,
3. Welcoming the implementation of some elements of the Document,
 - information exchange on the import and export of SALW between OSCE participating states,
 - assistance projects, on the management of stockpiles and on destruction,
 - Brokering: OSCE Principles on the Control of Brokering,
 - End-user Certificates: Standard Elements (and export verification),
4. Underscoring the mutually reinforcing roles of the OSCE and of the UN, as regards norm setting, the OSCE can either implement UN negotiated documents (e.g. marking and tracing) or act as a testing ground for future negotiations (e.g. brokering, end-user certificate): and as regards implementation of the UN Plan of Action, the OSCE is helpful to the UN, since the latter lacks a regional office of its disarmament department,
5. Welcoming an OSCE participation in the UN Biannual Meeting States on the UN Action Plan on SALW (BMS II) in July 2005,
6. Taking note of the essential role of the Forum for Security Cooperation as the negotiating framework for the OSCE SALW related documents,
7. Acknowledging that the threats to security, stability and safety related to SALW and ammunition in the OSCE region, are to be found both inside and outside the OSCE region, and both East and West of Vienna, and that some OSCE participating states are dealing with the aftermath of armed conflict and the accumulation of SALW related to those conflicts. Other participating states have to deal with the security and safety challenges of huge stocks of SALW and ammunition, as a legacy of the cold war. The OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (FSC, 2003) offers a framework of mutual assistance on a voluntary basis. Producers or brokers of SALW may reside in other participating states,
8. Underscoring the crucial role of illicit trafficking in fuelling armed conflict, also, and in recent years in particular, outside the OSCE region and in providing SALW to the hands of unwanted and dangerous persons and entities,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

9. Urges the participating states to continue to act together to stop the illicit spread of SALW, in the spirit of cooperative security of the OSCE, and being mindful of our obligations as a regional arrangement under the UN Charter;
10. Calls upon the participating states to implement the OSCE Principles on the Control of Brokering;
11. Calls upon the participating states to implement the OSCE Standard Elements of End-User certificates and Verification Procedures for SALW exports;
12. Strongly suggests that the participating states set up a follow-up mechanism to help assist all participating states in the gradual and incremental implementation of both FSC decisions of 2004;
13. Calls upon participating states to continue to examine the SALW Document in the light of further implementation and possible further development;
14. Encourages participating states to make the OSCE play an active role in the 2006 UN Review Conference on the Plan of Action on SALW;
15. Urges participating states to comply fully with the existing OSCE SALW commitments;
16. Encourages participating states to further support the existing assistance mechanisms in stockpile management and surplus destruction with technical and financial means;
17. Draws the attention of participating states to the destabilizing consequences of certain exports and illicit trafficking of SALW outside the OSCE region.

RESOLUTION ON MARITIME SECURITY AND PIRACY

1. Whereas, maritime shipping is a cornerstone of the world's free trade. In certain areas shipping is facing the mortal dangers of piracy and terrorism. Piracy is on the rise in the Strait of Malacca as well as in other areas in South East Asia, Africa, South America and the Mediterranean Sea,
2. Whereas, attacks in the Strait alone have risen from fewer than 50 each year in the 1990s to around 150 each year at the onset of the 21st century. Each year approximately 50,000 ships sail through the Strait of Malacca. They carry around 30% of the world's trade goods and most of the oil for the economies of Asian countries such as Japan and China. The growth of the economies in this region will result in a further increase in this number,
3. Whereas, the terrorist threat has also risen, as shown by the attacks on the United States warship "Cole" and the French oil tanker "Limburg". According to the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore (4-6 June 2004), the Strait of Malacca stands out as a potential target,
4. Whereas, this should not be ignored. The safety of the international trade-routes has a direct effect on the well-being of all OSCE member states. This safety can be classified as a collective interest of all states and all people. Therefore, a collective responsibility exists for the safety of international trade-routes and international waters such as the Mediterranean Sea and the Strait of Malacca. The OSCE member states should take the lead in the struggle for safe trade routes,
5. Considering the importance of international trade for economic growth and good, stable and peaceful international relations,
6. Considering the necessity of safe sea lines and trade-routes for over 50% of international trade,
7. Concerned about the growing problem of piracy on key trade routes such as the Strait of Malacca, the area around Indonesia and the Philippines, as well as along the coasts of Africa,
8. Concerned about the relation between piracy and international terrorism,
9. Noting the terrorist threat facing trading routes,
10. Concerned that the international waters are turning into a safe haven for terrorists, pirates and smugglers and traffickers of human beings, weapons, narcotics and illicit cargo,
11. Noting the increasing efforts made by the coastal states of the Strait of Malacca: Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia to gain effective control over the Strait,
12. Considering the need for an effective exchange of intelligence, information, equipment and training assistance,
13. Considering the sometimes limited resources of coastal states in other areas,
14. Considering the fact that safe passage through the Strait of Malacca and other areas is guaranteed under international law,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

15. Calls upon the OSCE participating states to support the United States Regional Maritime Security Initiative;
16. Calls upon the OSCE participating states to contribute to the intensification of patrols in international waters;
17. Calls upon the OSCE participating states to make available timely information needed to act against maritime threats and to contribute to regional maritime security efforts;
18. Calls upon the OSCE participating states to intensify the fight against piracy;
19. Urges the OSCE participating states to offer technical support and military assistance to coastal states boarding international trade routes and sea lines in the fight against piracy, the terrorist threat and illegal trafficking in weapons and human beings;
20. Urges the OSCE participating states to be prepared to use marine force to protect international sea lines and trade-routes;
21. Requests that the OSCE participating states close to international sea lines that participate in joint naval forces in order to cooperate effectively in safeguarding international sea lines;
22. Calls upon regional organizations, such as the ASEAN, to cooperate in the struggle for safe trade routes;
23. Calls upon OSCE governments to take the lead in this.

RESOLUTION ON THE OSCE MEDITERRANEAN DIMENSION

1. Recognizing that the OSCE maintains special relations with six Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Morocco, and Tunisia,
2. Highlighting the increasing attention attributed to the Mediterranean Dimension within the OSCE PA, as reflected in the Parliamentary Conference on the Mediterranean held in Madrid, October 2002, the First Forum on the Mediterranean held in Rome, September 2003, the Second Forum on the Mediterranean held in Rhodes, September 2004, and the Third Forum on the Mediterranean scheduled for Sveti Stefan, October 2005,
3. Recalling that the Helsinki Final Act states that “security in Europe is to be considered in the broader context of world security and is closely linked with security in the Mediterranean as a whole, and that accordingly the process of improving security should not be confined to Europe but should extend to other parts of the world, in particular to the Mediterranean area,”
4. Recalling the importance of tolerance and non discrimination underscored by the participants in the OSCE Seminar on addressing threats to security in the Twenty-first Century, held in November 2004 in Sharm El Sheik,
5. Recognizing the importance of the combat against intolerance and discrimination as an important component in the dialogue between the OSCE and its Mediterranean Partners,
6. Emphasizing the importance of trade and economic relations as a pacifying factor within the Mediterranean region, as reflected in the Edinburgh Resolution on Economic Cooperation in the OSCE Mediterranean Dimension,
7. Emphasizing the importance of mutually shared transparency and trust as principles governing the relations between the OSCE and the Mediterranean Partners,
8. Emphasizing that unresolved conflicts constitute permanent security threats in the region, which hamper prospects for sustained peace and prosperity,
9. Pointing to the need to achieve a just and lasting peace for the conflict between Palestine and Israel,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

10. Stresses the importance of the cooperation between the OSCE participating states and the Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation to address the current global threats to security;
11. Encourages the OSCE participating states and the Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation to promote the principles of non-violence, tolerance, mutual understanding and respect for cultural diversity;
12. Stresses that the OSCE participating states and the Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation initiate an active dialogue on the growing challenge of migration;
13. Recommends the OSCE contribute to a more positive perception of migration flows by supporting the integration of immigrants in countries of destination;

14. Welcomes the appointment of the three Chairman Personal Representatives on Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians and Members of Other Religions, on Combating anti-Semitism, and on Combating Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims;
15. Encourages the resolution of conflicts in the Mediterranean using cooperative strategies when practicable;
16. Urges all OSCE participating states to cooperate with the Mediterranean Partners on dealing with both “soft” threats to security, such as poverty, disease and environmental degradation as well as “hard” threats such as terrorism and weapons of mass destruction;
17. Calls upon the OSCE participating States and the Mediterranean Partners to promote the knowledge of different cultures and religions as a prerequisite for successful cooperation;
18. Calls upon the OSCE participating states and the Mediterranean Partners to use education as a vehicle to create tolerance in the next generation;
19. Welcomes the creation in 2005 of a free trade area between Egypt, Jordan, Tunisia and Morocco, and the extension of free trade between such countries and the European Union by 2010, as established in the 2004 Agadir Accord;
20. Welcomes the creation of qualifying industrial zones between Israel, Jordan and Egypt as a model for promoting peace and development in the greater Middle East;
21. Calls upon the OSCE to grant the Palestinian National Authority Observer status, following its request in November 2004 to be made a Mediterranean Partner for Cooperation, in order to enable it to become familiar with the OSCE and assimilate its commitments;
22. Urges the Mediterranean Partners to work with the Arab League to rescind the trade boycott of the state of Israel, as the Mediterranean Partners begin their accession negotiations with the World Trade Organization (WTO);
23. Recommends further participation by parliamentarians from the Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation in the election observation activities of the OSCE PA;
24. Recommends that the OSCE develops relations with other states in the Mediterranean basin, including Libya and Lebanon;
25. Encourages the active participation by parliamentarians from both the OSCE participating states and the Mediterranean Partners in the Third OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Forum on the Mediterranean scheduled in Sveti Stefan, Serbia and Montenegro, in October 2005.

RESOLUTION ON MONEY LAUNDERING

1. Recognizing that the fight against money laundering is an essential part of the overall struggle to combat the financing of terrorist activity, illegal narcotics trafficking, the activities of organized crime, corruption and tax evasion,
2. Recognizing the challenge of investigating and prosecuting complex cases involving economic and financial crimes, including money laundering,
3. Supporting the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Global Programme against Money Laundering, and the joint OSCE-UNODC Workshops on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism held in Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan), Astana (Kazakhstan), Dushanbe (Tajikistan), Yerevan (Armenia), Baku (Azerbaijan), and Tbilisi (Georgia),
4. Noting that money launderers exploit differences among national anti-money laundering systems and move their funds to jurisdictions with ineffective laws,
5. Supporting the anti-money laundering framework created by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) on Money Laundering's 40 Recommendations,
6. Noting with satisfaction the existence of legislative tools such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Model *Money-Laundering, Proceeds of Crime and Terrorist Financing Bill 2003*, 1999 UN *Civil Law Model Law on Laundering, Confiscation and International Cooperation in relation to the Proceeds of Crime*, and the Commonwealth *Model Law for the Prohibition of Money Laundering* of 1996,
7. Noting that the Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC) has identified anti-money laundering as a priority and established a team of parliamentarians to work with FATF, UNODC and others to engage parliamentarians in establishing effective anti-money laundering practices in each country and in supporting the needed international cooperation.
8. Recognizing that the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Bangkok from 18 to 25 April 2005, and the Bangkok Declaration, adopted on "Synergies and Responses: Strategic Alliances in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice", constitute major intergovernmental efforts in the fight against transnational organized crime,
9. Recognizing that the need is greatest in ensuring the appropriate enforcement of anti-corruption laws by competent structures closely monitored by independent bodies that report to the representative parliaments,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

10. Urges parliaments of participating states, which have not yet done so, to adopt anti-money laundering laws along the framework developed in the FATF 40 Recommendations, and consistent with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Model *Money-Laundering, Proceeds of Crime and Terrorist Financing Bill 2003*;

11. Calls upon the OSCE participating states to strengthen policies, measures and institutions for national action and international cooperation in the prevention, investigation and prosecution of money laundering;
12. Calls upon parliaments of participating states that have adopted anti-money laundering legislation to expeditiously implement it and arrange for its enforcement to be monitored by parliamentary bodies and publicly reported;
13. Encourages parliamentarians to participate in the efforts made by parliamentary associations and international organizations such as the GOPAC in the fight against money laundering;
14. Recommends that the General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology, and Environment collaborate with FATF and GOPAC in identifying parliaments of participating states that have not adopted adequate anti-money laundering laws, or do not have the appropriate tools to monitor the efficient implementation of anti-money laundering laws, and report annually to the Parliamentary Assembly.

RESOLUTION ON THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION

1. Reiterating that corruption represents one of the major impediments to the prosperity and sustainable development of the participating states, that it undermines their stability and security and threatens the OSCE's shared values,
2. Reiterating that corruption represents one of the major impediments to the ability of parliaments to represent the citizens of participating states,
3. Reiterating that no country is free from corruption,
4. Recognizing that the problem of corruption in societies making a transition from authoritarian regimes is bigger and more difficult as the demands for establishing the rule of law dictate numerous tasks that have to be achieved whilst funds and means are still insufficient,
5. Recognizing that countries emerging from conflict are particularly vulnerable to crime and corruption and that they need more effective assistance from all competent organizations and entities of the international community in order to re-establish, strengthen or sustain the rule of law,
6. Determined to further intensify efforts in the implementation of existing OSCE commitments on combating corruption, as reflected in the Charter for European Security adopted at the 1999 OSCE Istanbul Summit and the OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension adopted in Maastricht in 2003,
7. Reaffirming its commitment to make the elimination of all forms of corruption a priority,
8. Recalling that the fight against corruption requires the adoption by the parliaments of participating states of a comprehensive and long-term anti-corruption strategy, including anti-corruption laws,
9. Noting that the Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC) is a single purpose and results focused network of parliamentarians working through regional and country chapters to reduce corruption by strengthening the effectiveness of parliamentarians in playing their legislative, oversight and public engagement roles,
10. Acknowledging the important work on this issue done by other international organizations, in particular by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Council of Europe (CoE), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and the Global Organization of Parliamentarians against Corruption,
11. Recognizing that the United Nations Convention against Corruption, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 31 October 2003 in New York, marks a major step forward in international cooperation against corruption and provides the opportunity for a global response to the problem,
12. Convinced that the expeditious entry into force and subsequent implementation of the United Nations Conventions against corruption are central to the efforts to fight corruption,

13. Recognizing that the recent Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Bangkok from 18 to 25 April 2005, and the Bangkok Declaration on “Synergies and Responses: Strategic Alliances in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice” constitute major intergovernmental efforts in the fight against transnational organized crime,
14. Highlighting the need for an integrated and systematic approach to combating corruption within existing frameworks and instruments since corruption can be conducive to the perpetration of other criminal activities,
15. Reaffirming that the main role of parliaments in the fight against corruption is the adoption of anti-corruption laws and the empowering of anti-corruption enforcement,
16. Noting with satisfaction the steps taken by participating legislatures to adopt a comprehensive strategy to combat corruption,
17. Supporting the efforts of OSCE’s offices in assisting participating states’ authorities in implementing anti-corruption strategies, notably in Belgrade (Serbia), Yerevan (Armenia), and Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan), following the experience gained through the OSCE’s Anti-Corruption Campaign in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2000,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

18. Urges parliamentarians of the OSCE participating states to strengthen their efforts to combat corruption and the conditions that foster it;
19. Urges the parliaments of OSCE participating states which have not yet done so to ratify the United Nations Convention against Corruption as soon as possible, in order to ensure its rapid entry into force and implement it fully;
20. Calls upon parliamentarians of participating states to promote a positive framework for good governance and public integrity;
21. Urges parliaments of participating states to make better use of existing international instruments and assist each other in their fight against corruption;
22. Recommends that parliaments of participating states promote the best practices against corruption identified by the OSCE’s Office of the Coordinator for Economic and Environmental Activities;
23. Urges parliaments of participating states to adopt clear and balanced legislative procedures for waiving parliamentary immunities, and to support the establishment of efficient mechanisms for monitoring declarations of income and assets by parliamentarians, ministers, and public servants;
24. Recommends that the General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology, and Environment collaborate with other parliamentary associations and the Global Organization of Parliamentarians against Corruption in developing a programme of peer support, education and anti-corruption initiatives, including the preparation of a document describing the role of parliamentarians in the fight against corruption.

RESOLUTION ON COMBATING INVOLVEMENT IN TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE BY INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING FORCES

1. Recalling the Assembly's previous resolutions condemning trafficking in human beings as a violation of human rights and calling on participating states to prevent and punish acts of trafficking and to protect and assist victims of trafficking, and, in particular, the Edinburgh Declaration which requested that participating states address the nexus between international peacekeeping forces and trafficking in human beings,
2. Stressing the obligation for the participating states to ensure that legislation to protect and promote the rights of victims does not contain any discriminatory provisions relating to sex, race, colour, origin, language, religion or any other such criteria,
3. Welcoming the Ministerial Council's continued attention to the problem of trafficking in human beings, reflected by the decision taken at Sofia, December 2004, on child trafficking which will lead to OSCE guidelines for participating states to use in ensuring protection and assistance for child trafficking victims that are in the best interests of the child,
4. Concerned that international peacekeeping troops and civilian contractors accompanying them, as well as staff of international organizations, including the OSCE, could be a contributing factor to the demand side of the trafficking cycle, given that the demand for commercial sex acts fuels the demand for trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation,
5. Expressing disgust and horror at the sexual exploitation and abuse perpetrated against the local population by members of the peacekeeping forces at the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo,
6. Commending United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan for issuing a policy in October 2003 on "Special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse" which established clear guidelines of acceptable conduct by United Nations staff,
7. Noting the importance of the United Nations' anti-trafficking policy for peacekeepers detailed in the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations' Position Paper on "Human Trafficking and United Nations Peacekeeping" endorsed by Secretary General Kofi Annan in July 2004,
8. Welcoming the "Comprehensive Strategy to Eliminate Future Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in United Nations Peacekeeping Operations" prepared by Prince Zeid Ra'ad Al-Hussein, Permanent Representative of Jordan to the United Nations, endorsed by United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan, and presented to the General Assembly on 24 March 2005,
9. Noting with deep regret that a proposed decision on "Ensuring that International Forces and Missions Contribute to Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Human Beings" was not agreed by the OSCE Ministerial Council in Sofia despite the Parliamentary Assembly's recommendation in the Edinburgh Declaration that such a decision be taken,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

10. Calls on those participating states which have not yet done so to ratify the United Nations Convention against transnational crime and its Protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children;
11. Calls on OSCE participating states to commit to ensure that military and civilian forces deployed abroad with peacekeeping or other similar missions and civilian contractors accompanying them, as well as employees of international organizations, do not engage in or facilitate trafficking in human beings, exploit victims of trafficking, or engage in sexual exploitation and abuse of local populations;
12. Urges participating states to review the sufficiency of their national laws, regulations, and other relevant documents, such as guidelines and codes of conduct, including those applicable to the military forces, to ensure that those addressing trafficking in human beings or sexual exploitation and abuse can be enforced with respect to their nationals who are serving on peacekeeping missions abroad or other similar missions;
13. Calls on participating states with deployed forces to assist, consistent with their national legislation and regulations, responsible authorities in the host country in their efforts to combat trafficking in human beings;
14. Insists that participating states instruct their military and civilian forces in policies against trafficking in human beings and conduct other appropriate training;
15. Calls on OSCE participating states publicly to endorse and actively implement the United Nations directives against sexual exploitation and abuse;
16. Urges the Ministerial Council to adopt, at its meeting in Ljubljana, a decision regarding the responsibilities of participating states to ensure that military and civilian forces deployed abroad with peacekeeping or other similar missions and civilian contractors accompanying them, as well as international organizations' personnel, do not engage in or facilitate trafficking in human beings, or exploit victims of trafficking, or engage in sexual exploitation and abuse of local populations, including through adoption and implementation by participating states of appropriate policies, codes of conduct, training and accountability mechanisms for military service personnel and civilians accompanying the military.

RESOLUTION ON THE NEED TO STRENGTHEN THE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR OSCE MISSION MEMBERS

1. Noting that full and true equality between men and women is a fundamental aspect of a just and democratic society as stated by the Moscow Meeting of the third conference on the Human Dimension of the CSCE 1991,
2. Noting that in this context the participating states committed themselves (40.7) “to seek to eliminate all forms of violence against women, and all forms of traffic in women and exploitation of prostitution of women including by ensuring adequate legal prohibition against such acts and other appropriate measures”,
3. Noting that prostitution is an undesirable social phenomenon and is an obstacle to the ongoing development towards equality between women and men and noting also that women in prostitution have few other options and most of them do not make a rational choice to enter prostitution,
4. Noting that international aid workers and peace keepers who exploit prostitutes in the field have been duly criticized and that exploitation of positions of unequal power undermines the credibility of humanitarian work and damages victims, their families and communities,
5. Noting that such behaviour has, in fact, resulted in an increase of the trafficking of women and children,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

6. Underlines the need to uphold the highest ethical standard of integrity, accountability and transparency in all OSCE activities;
7. Commends the Code of Conduct for OSCE mission members;
8. Welcomes a rule of zero tolerance for UN aid workers who buy sexual services;
9. Remains determined to fulfil all the human dimension commitments of the OSCE;
10. Recommends that the Code of Conduct for OSCE mission members be completed by prohibiting the purchase of sexual services. In this instance “sexual services” does not only mean “cash purchases” of sexual services from prostitutes, visits to brothels, etc. but also “private support” in the form of payment of bills, rents, school fees etc. in exchange for sexual services. Recommends also that visits to pornography establishments, strip joints or similar clubs not be permitted as this could mean lending support to crimes such as trafficking and other criminal activities;
11. Urges that all persons involved in OSCE activities follow the Code of Conduct amended as recommended above.

RESOLUTION ON COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

1. Noting with concern the rise of trafficking in persons as a serious, profitable and inhuman form of organized crime,
2. Referring to the resolution on the subject of trafficking in human beings adopted by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly at the Annual Session in Edinburgh in 2004 and calling to mind the adoption of the OSCE Action Plan on Trafficking in Human Beings in July 2003,
3. Concerned that, despite continuous political efforts over the past ten years, trafficking in human beings, including children, continues to be a problem in the OSCE region,
4. Convinced that an approach to combating trafficking in human beings is to be found in an improvement of the living and working conditions of the potential victim,
5. Concerned that the deeper causes of trafficking in human beings, which are to be found first and foremost in the countries of origin, are not being given enough consideration: in particular, causes such as poverty and unemployment, weak social and economic structures, an unstable security situation, violence against women and children, as well as discrimination, in particular as a result of gender, race, or ethnic background,
6. Aware that the countries of destination, too, make trafficking in human beings possible through a continuing demand for sexual exploitation as well as cheap and easily exploitable labour without social security protection,
7. Welcoming the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, the aims of which are to combat trafficking in human beings, in all its forms, both at the national and international levels, whether there is a connection to organized crime or not, to focus on the protection of victims and to ensure compliance with its provisions by the parties to the convention through independent monitoring mechanisms,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

8. Calls upon the OSCE participating states to take effective measures in the countries of origin to combat the causes that result in victims of trafficking in human beings, among other things by:
 - engaging in close socio-economic cooperation,
 - providing development assistance and expanding economic cooperation,
 - promoting the creation of jobs for women, in particular by creating favourable conditions for the start-up of small and medium-sized businesses, and
 - guaranteeing freedom of association for employers and employees as well as freedom of activity for such associations;

9. Calls upon the OSCE participating states to improve school and career training opportunities as well as access to the labour market for those groups threatened by trafficking in human beings (children, women, ethnic minorities);
10. Calls upon the OSCE participating states, as well as the countries of origin, the countries of transit and the countries of destination of the victims of trafficking in human beings to conclude agreements on legal and police cooperation as well as on the humanitarian aspects of this problem;
11. Calls upon the OSCE participating states to take steps to provide adequate assistance and protection to victims of trafficking in persons and to their families;
12. Calls upon the OSCE participating states to help create public awareness of the problem through information campaigns and drawing media attention to the different forms of trafficking in human beings, focusing on specific target groups one at a time;
13. Calls upon the OSCE participating states to sign the relevant ILO core agreements, if this has not been done already, and to implement and apply them at the national level with a view to achieving a minimum standard of financial and social security for the working population;
14. Proposes regular evaluation of and reporting on the progress being made in implementing the ILO minimum standards in the OSCE participating states with a view to promoting international cooperation in support of the realization of these minimum standards and, as such, effectively combating trafficking in human beings in a core area;
15. Appeals to all OSCE participating states to sign and quickly ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings.

RESOLUTION ON IMPROVING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF OSCE ELECTORAL STANDARDS AND COMMITMENTS AND THE EFFECTIVENESS OF OSCE ELECTION OBSERVATION ACTIVITIES

1. Reaffirming the provisions of the Document of the Copenhagen Meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension of the CSCE (1990), including commitments by participating states for the conduct of democratic elections,
2. Noting that relevant provisions of the Lisbon Summit Declaration (1996) and the Istanbul Summit Declaration (1999), and of the Declaration and the Charter for European Security adopted by the Istanbul Summit (1999), have supplemented those commitments,
3. Reaffirming the determination to implement these commitments,
4. Acknowledging the importance of the election monitoring carried out through the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly,
5. Recognizing the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the ODIHR's expertise in assisting participating states in the implementation of election-related commitments and standards,
6. Welcoming the continuing efficient cooperation between the ODIHR and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in election monitoring,
7. Recalling Decision No. 7 adopted at the Tenth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council in Porto in 2002 and Decision No. 5/03 approved by the Eleventh Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council in Maastricht in 2003,
8. Noting that the various electoral systems and laws in the OSCE area should meet the OSCE election-related commitments of the OSCE member states,
9. Recognizing the need for the electorate to have confidence in the entire election process, for transparency of election procedures and for accountability on the part of authorities conducting elections,
10. Welcoming the document "International Standards and Commitments on the Right to Democratic Elections, A Practical Guide to Democratic Elections Best Practices", the document "Existing Commitments for Democratic Elections in OSCE participating states: A Progress Report", and the discussion paper "Election Principles and Existing OSCE Commitments for Democratic Elections" prepared by the ODIHR,
11. Taking into account the recommendations made at the Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on Electoral Standards and Commitments (Vienna 15–16 July 2004) and the recommendations of the Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on Challenges of Election Technologies and Procedures (Vienna 21–22 April 2005),
12. Understanding the need for participating states to conduct comprehensive analyses of their electoral practices with regard to their implementation of the existing OSCE election-related commitments and other international standards,

13. Acknowledging the improvement and internationally accepted merit of the OSCE in election training and monitoring,
14. Considering that the conclusions of OSCE election observation missions regarding election processes in the participating states should be based on OSCE principles and best practice standards for democratic elections,
15. Remembering that OSCE election observation missions – using objective, unbiased principles freely accepted by all participating states – have played a valuable role in the monitoring of free and fair elections in the OSCE,
16. Accepting the pre-eminence of the methodology of OSCE election observation missions, having taken into account United Nations principles and the experience of other international organizations and institutions conducting electoral monitoring in the OSCE participating states,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

17. Noting with concern the assessment of the Director of ODIHR that “the most urgent election-related topic ... is the implementation of OSCE commitments” and that “this is the real election emergency in the OSCE region today”;
18. Also noting the statement of the Director of ODIHR that the “conduct of democratic elections can be established and maintained only through a genuine political commitment”;
19. Urges the OSCE participating states to implement fully all provisions of the Document of the Copenhagen Meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension of the CSCE (1990), and all other commitments for the conduct of democratic elections that have been freely entered into since and including the Helsinki Final Act;
20. Suggests the OSCE participating states ensure the importance of all existing election-related commitments while considering the need for elaborating additional election-related commitments, supplementing and enriching existing ones;
21. Calls upon the participating states to meet the existing OSCE election-related commitments and recommendations on holding democratic, free and fair elections;
22. Recommends the ODIHR and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, in close cooperation with other international organizations and institutions conducting electoral monitoring in the OSCE participating states, consider ways to improve the effectiveness of its assistance in implementing OSCE electoral standards and commitments in addition to recommendations of election observation missions to participating states upon their request;
23. Recommends that, as part of the election observation missions organized in cooperation with ODIHR, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly make provision, as of the pre-electoral phase, for short missions giving parliamentarians a true picture of the course of the election campaign and enabling them to take stock in good time of any irregularities; small parliamentary delegations thus being able to increase pressure on the entities monitored;

24. Recommends that the ODIHR and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, in close cooperation with other international organizations and institutions conducting electoral monitoring in the OSCE participating states, establish OSCE election observation standards as the guiding principles for such observer missions, the OSCE being the intermediary and recognized expert in such matters in the participating states;
25. Calls upon the OSCE participating states to enhance the staffing of OSCE election observation missions by seconding qualified personnel when requested by the ODIHR Note Verbale for both long-term and short-term observation, if necessary through use of the ODIHR voluntary fund for the diversification of election observation missions, which has been available since 2001;
26. Supports the CiO's proposal to establish a structured follow-up to address all issues related to OSCE election commitments and election observation;
27. Recommends that the OSCE participating states continue to develop and contribute personnel to the ODIHR's roster of experts in order that they may be drawn upon periodically for their expertise in election administration, observation and legal development.

RESOLUTION ON FUNDING FOR THE OFFICE FOR DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

1. Reaffirming that respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms, democracy, and the rule of law which is at the core of the OSCE's comprehensive concept of security,
2. Recalling the 1992 *Helsinki Document* which established the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) mandate to help OSCE participating states "ensure full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, to abide by rule of law, to promote principles of democracy and to build, strengthen and protect democratic institutions as well as promote tolerance through society",
3. Reaffirming the OSCE's commitment to make democracy and human rights a priority of the organization,
4. Emphasizing the importance of providing adequate funding to the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) so that it may fulfil its purpose within the OSCE and adequately staff and fund its departments and programs so that they are fully capable of meeting their responsibilities,

The Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE:

5. Recommends that ODIHR publicize data on current funding and personnel resources for its departments and programs, citing any shortfalls;
6. Urges OSCE participating states to conduct an evaluation of the budget and financial allotments for ODIHR and its human resources requirements; and
7. Urges the OSCE to provide the funding required to the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) as needed to support its missions and responsibilities.