



**OSCE PA**  
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# **BERLIN DECLARATION**

**AND**

**RESOLUTIONS**

**ADOPTED BY THE  
OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY**

**AT THE TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL SESSION**

**BERLIN, 7–11 JULY 2018**

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## **PREAMBLE**

We, Parliamentarians of the OSCE participating States, have met in annual session in Berlin from 7 to 11 July 2018 as the Parliamentary dimension of the OSCE to assess developments and challenges relating to security and co-operation, in particular on Implementing OSCE Commitments: The Role of Parliaments, and we offer the following views to the OSCE Ministers.

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

## **IMPLEMENTING OSCE COMMITMENTS: THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTS**

### **CHAPTER I**

#### **POLITICAL AFFAIRS AND SECURITY**

1. Recalling OSCE principles defined in the Helsinki Final Act, namely sovereign equality and respect for the rights inherent in sovereignty, refraining from the threat or use of force, inviolability of frontiers, territorial integrity of States, peaceful settlement of disputes, non-intervention in internal affairs, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, equal rights and self-determination of peoples, co-operation among States, and the fulfilment in good faith of obligations under international law,
2. Stressing, as highly essential, participating States' renewed commitment to the fundamental principles of international law, human rights and the rule of law enshrined in the UN Charter and the Helsinki Final Act in their efforts to bridge diverging security perceptions and make progress towards a security community;
3. Condemning all forms of terrorism and deeply regretting the loss of life resulting from acts of extremist violence in the OSCE area,
4. Recognizing that the current geopolitical landscape and state of global tensions underline the urgency of fully implementing OSCE commitments, particularly in the dimension of political affairs and security, as well as renewed efforts to resolve the conflict in and around Ukraine, the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, the conflict in Georgia, and the Transnistrian conflict in the Republic of Moldova, which continue to pose serious threats to security and stability in the OSCE area,
5. Taking note of decisions reached at the 2017 OSCE Ministerial Council in the politico-military dimension of security, including Decision No. 10/17 Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition, and Decision No. 5/17 Enhancing OSCE Efforts to Reduce the Risk of Conflict Stemming from the Use of Information and Communication Technologies,
6. Recalling commitments in the fields of arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation, and democratic control of armed forces as expressed in the Vienna Document, the OSCE

Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons, and the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security,

7. Regretting the deterioration in arms control, nuclear security and nuclear weapons reduction agreements, and the negative effects this could have on strategic stability and threat reduction,
8. Expressing deep concern over persistent fragmentation of the zone of application of existing arms control and confidence- and security-building regimes due to unresolved conflicts in the OSCE area which pose serious risks and challenges to military transparency, predictability and stability,
9. Concerned by declining confidence in nuclear weapons reduction agreements and by heightened confrontational rhetoric of world leaders,
10. Considering that the full implementation of OSCE commitments and strengthening of arms control regimes would enhance predictability and transparency, and could serve as both a stabilizing force in the OSCE area and as a positive example to the world as a whole,
11. Recognizing the importance of a structured dialogue on current and future security risks and challenges in the OSCE region as a process conducive to transparency, predictability, threat assessment and risk reduction,
12. Stressing that full implementation of OSCE commitments requires the engagement of national parliaments to ensure security sector oversight, the ratification of relevant international treaties, and harmonized and effective legal frameworks,
13. Recalling OSCE PA documents addressing the role of parliaments in the implementation of the Code of Conduct, such as the 1992 Budapest Declaration, the 2000 Bucharest Declaration, the 2006 Brussels Declaration, and the 2014 Baku Resolution on the Democratic Control of Public and Private Security Sectors,
14. Underlining that a holistic and well co-ordinated approach to Security Sector Governance and Reform is fundamental in dealing with today's security challenges, especially in the areas of police reform, border management and security, counter-terrorism, anti-corruption, and justice sector reform,
15. Recognizing the importance of Security Sector Governance and Reform efforts, including those designed to ensure the equal and effective participation of women at all levels of security management, provision and oversight, as playing an essential role in conflict prevention, early warning, crisis and post-conflict rehabilitation,
16. Regretting the diminishing confidence, trust, and predictability in the OSCE region, and emphasizing the importance of work on the multilateral level, especially in light of failing confidence in multilateral organizations and shortcomings in recent years,
17. Recalling that the 1993 Chemical Weapons Convention bars countries from possessing chemical weapons by prohibiting the development, production, acquisition, stockpiling, retention, transfer or use of chemical weapons,

18. Supporting the work of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, which sets out to implement the provisions established in the Chemical Weapons Convention, in order to achieve a world free of chemical weapons and the threat of their use,
19. Reaffirming that the proliferation of chemical weapons and their use by terrorists and other non-state actors constitutes a threat to international peace and security, and recalling United Nations Security Council Resolution 2325 on non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction,
20. Guided by the principle that sustainable peace is inextricably linked to women's participation and influence in decision-making in order to prevent, manage and resolve conflicts, and in post-conflict relief and recovery, as stated in UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security,
21. Welcoming the conclusions of the Conference on Digital Resilience of a Democratic State, held as part of the Lisbon Conferences of the OSCE PA,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly calls the attention of OSCE governments to the following. It:

22. Urges a renewed commitment from OSCE participating States to the Organization's principles of dialogue and detente in the spirit of the Helsinki Final Act, including through the strengthening of arms control regimes, security sector reform, the development of confidence- and security building measures, the good-faith implementation of existing agreements, and greater parliamentary oversight of military, security and intelligence services;
23. Calls on OSCE participating States to ensure that human rights are respected by all security and intelligence services, both public and private, and that the norms and principles outlined by the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security are fully implemented;
24. Urges renewed support for Global Exchange of Military Information to ensure the continued annual exchange of information on major weapon and equipment systems and personnel in participating States' conventional armed forces, on their territory as well as worldwide;
25. Calls for an active deployment of all diplomatic efforts in order to promote the Structured Dialogue as a process which fosters transparency, a better understanding of threat perceptions and the potential for risk reduction and de-escalation through focused political discussions and direct military-to-military contacts;
26. Recommends that the implementation of confidence- and security building measures, such as those anchored in the Vienna Document, be improved by expanding military-to-military contacts and enhancing dialogue between participating States;
27. Encourages all participating States to support and engage with efforts to strengthen the OSCE and make it more "fit for purpose", in line with previous calls by the OSCE

Parliamentary Assembly for reform in order to increase the Organization's ability to deliver security for all citizens of OSCE participating States;

28. Further recommends that modernization of the Vienna Document include a greater level of analysis of exchanged information to enhance the confidence- and security-building effect of the already existing data provided by the Conflict Prevention Centre;
29. Calls on the Ministerial Council to adopt an addendum in 2018 to the 2004 Gender Action Plan that takes into account both new and emerging threats to comprehensive security and provides a monitoring and evaluation framework for the Gender Action Plan in order to measure results effectively;
30. Acknowledges the substantial contribution of the Open Skies Treaty as a confidence- and security-building measure aimed at promoting transparency, trust and predictability regarding military capabilities;
31. Reiterates the need for enhancing cybersecurity between States through confidence- and security-building measures, as well as the elaboration of a binding international legal framework, in order to prevent tension and conflicts stemming from the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs), and to protect critical infrastructure from cyber threats;
32. Promotes adequate and timely responses by national authorities to evolving threats stemming from cybersecurity and ICTs, ranging from better forensics to innovative approaches to prevent ICTs from becoming tactical facilitators for terrorists;
33. Urges nuclear weapons States of the OSCE area to recommit to nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, including by agreeing to no-first-use principles and arms reduction strategies;
34. Calls for the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 on preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, related technologies and their means of delivery;
35. Encourages OSCE participating States to commit to and support the aim of a nuclear-weapon-free world and to proceed with the ratification of the relevant international instruments, including the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty;
36. Underlines the need for taking effective tailor-made measures to address specific risks and challenges associated with grey zones, such as accumulation of undeclared, unaccounted and uncontrolled military equipment and illegal military build-up, and calls on OSCE participating States to make full use of existing OSCE formats, including the Forum for Security Co-operation and the Structured Dialogue to that end;
37. Recalls its commitment to settling current conflicts in the OSCE area in the strict framework of established formats of negotiation;
38. Reaffirms its previous positions on the conflict in and around Ukraine, and reiterates its support for a settlement based on the Minsk Agreements in their entirety and de-

occupation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, including the full withdrawal of Russian military forces from Ukrainian territory;

39. Reiterates its regret over the lack of progress towards the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, calls on the parties to take additional steps to reduce tensions on the Line of Contact and engage without further delay in substantive negotiations with a view to finding the earliest possible sustainable solution to the conflict, and urges the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group to redouble their efforts to that end;
40. Reiterates its strong support for a comprehensive, peaceful and sustainable settlement of the conflict in the Republic of Moldova, based on its sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders, welcomes the recent momentum gained in the negotiation process, as well as in the context of the round of 5+2 talks in Rome on 29 and 30 May 2018 and stresses the importance of the full implementation, by both sides, of the commitments undertaken;
41. Reiterates its support for the peaceful resolution of the conflict in Georgia with full respect to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country within its internationally recognized borders, and emphasizes the necessity for the implementation of the EU-mediated 12 August 2008 Ceasefire Agreement, in particular for the withdrawal of Russian military forces from Georgian territory, and the establishment of international security mechanisms with the aim to ensure lasting peace and security on the ground;
42. Reaffirms the need to have a complete withdrawal of the armed forces and ammunition stockpiles of the Russian Federation from the territory of the Republic of Moldova and to transform the current peacekeeping operation into an international civilian mission;
43. Calls for continued engagement of the OSCE in the Western Balkans aiming to further consolidate democracy, strengthen stability and security, promote human rights and support media freedom, and cautions against the rise of nationalist forces in the region;

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly calls the attention of OSCE national parliaments to the following. It:

44. Urges parliaments to provide comprehensive and fully effective oversight over the private and public security sectors and to increase the Code of Conduct's legitimacy and relevance through active political support, as well as to improve oversight and control over their national intelligence services to ensure full respect for fundamental human rights and to thoroughly investigate possible violations of domestic or international law;
45. Encourages parliaments to actively support the Structured Dialogue process by discussing current and future challenges and risks to security in the OSCE area and fostering a greater understanding of these issues;
46. Recommends that parliaments establish and strengthen parliamentary bodies for *a priori* and *ex post facto* scrutiny of security and intelligence services' activities, providing them with appropriate mandates and resources in order to ensure effective democratic oversight over intelligence activities;

47. Recalls that mediation and dialogue are widely recognized as cost-effective ways of preventing, managing and resolving violent conflicts, and encourages the Parliamentary Assembly to continue to take an active role in mediation.



## CHAPTER II

### ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT

48. Stressing the unique role of national parliaments in formulating legislative proposals to promote economic reforms implementing OSCE commitments in the second dimension, in particular preventing and combating corruption, increasing transparency and accessibility, and cracking down on organized crime, money laundering and the financing of terrorism,
49. Recalling the nexus between the environment and security recognized by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in the 1992 Budapest Declaration, and recognizing the need to mitigate the impact of and to adapt to climate change throughout the OSCE area,
50. Emphasizing the need to intensify the discussion on the expansion of renewable and sustainable energy and maximizing energy efficiency,
51. Recognizing the important role of new technologies, the digital economy and science in solving the environmental problems that the world is facing,
52. Recalling the Helsinki Final Act of 1975, in which OSCE participating States recognized that “efforts to develop co-operation in the fields of trade, industry, science and technology, the environment and other areas of economic activity contribute to the reinforcement of peace and security in Europe and in the world as a whole”,
53. Noting that OSCE Ministerial Council Decision No. 8/17 on Promoting Economic Participation in the OSCE Area adopted at the 24th OSCE Ministerial Council also called for the strengthening of co-operation on economic activities promoting sustainable economic, social and environmental development,
54. Welcoming the priority of the Italian Chairpersonship to enhance dialogue and strengthen the OSCE second dimension in line with the previous Austrian and German Chairpersonships, with the goal of promoting economic progress and security through innovation, human capital, good governance, and the transition towards renewable energy, as well as maximizing the role of digital economy as a driver for innovation, competitiveness and inclusive growth,
55. Recalling the OSCE PA 2017 Minsk Declaration, which stipulates that the implications deriving from rapid advances in digitalization should be given due consideration,
56. Supporting the OSCE’s 25th Economic and Environmental Forum and its 2018 theme “Greening the Economy and Building Partnerships for Security in the OSCE Region”,
57. Welcoming the steps taken since the 2015 United Nations Paris Climate Change Conference (COP21) and the adoption of the Paris Agreement, including the launch at the 2017 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Bonn (COP23) of the Talanoa Dialogue to take stock of progress made on climate action,

58. Noting the report by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres at COP23 that outlines five macro-areas of action on climate: reducing emissions, adaptation, finance, partnerships and leadership,
59. Welcoming the adoption of the Gender Action Plan at COP23 under the Lima work programme on gender that seeks to advance women’s full, equal, and meaningful participation and to promote gender-responsive climate policy,
60. Welcoming the launch of the “Powering Past Coal Alliance” at COP23 in Bonn in 2017 that was formed by more than 20 countries and sub-national actors, its commitment to supporting clean power and to restricting financing for traditional coal power without carbon capture and storage,
61. Acknowledging the conclusions of many climate scientists and economists that carbon pricing helps to ensure that the true costs of fossil fuel use are reflected in the marketplace, and that carbon pricing is one of the most efficient tools that governments can use to incentivize the transition to a low-carbon economy, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote clean economic growth,
62. Welcoming the participation of more than 2,500 mayors, governors and others from across the United States of America at the COP23 who, on 11 November 2017, released the “America’s Pledge” report, which outlined the scope of subnational climate action in the United States of America. following the Trump administration’s decision to withdraw from the Paris Agreement,
63. Expressing concern about the disastrous consequences of conflicts on the environment,
64. Concerned about the ramifications of the construction of the Nord Stream II pipeline and the possible increase in economic and political instability in the OSCE region,
65. Alarmed by the increase of weather-related natural disasters reported by the United Nations Office for Disaster Reduction,
66. Acknowledging the increase of environmental migration due to man-made and natural disasters aggravated by climate change, and deeply concerned about the increasing number of internally displaced persons,
67. Recalling the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement as well as the United Nations New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants adopted in 2016 that aims to protect the human rights of all refugees and migrants and gave impetus to the negotiations for the adoption of a global compact for safe, orderly, and regular migration and a global compact on refugees in 2018,
68. Recalling the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals that call for action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure peace and prosperity, with the ultimate goal of sustainably improving life for future generations,
69. Welcoming the results of the first Annual Showcase of the 16+ Forum held in Georgia in 2017 that discussed policies and best practices to achieve the Sustainable Development

Goals, with particular attention to SDG 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development,

70. Stressing the importance of the Open Government Partnership in promoting transparency, empowering citizens, fighting corruption and harnessing new technologies to strengthen governance,
71. Recognizing the destructive effects of corruption and organized crime that undermine good governance, lead to the mismanagement of public funds, distort competitive markets and endanger international security,
72. Recalling the OSCE PA 2017 Minsk Declaration, which called on OSCE participating States to “enhance the level of co-operation among law enforcement agencies and other relevant institutions in combating corruption, money laundering, the production and trafficking of narcotics, the financing of terrorism and other financial crime”,
73. Emphasizing the role that beneficial ownership transparency has to play in combating transnational corruption,
74. Reiterating the support of the OSCE PA for the work of the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, and welcoming the priorities of the Office for 2018, in particular, preventing and combating corruption, money laundering and financing of terrorism, good migration governance, promoting good water governance and trans-boundary digital co-operation, fostering co-operative responses to climate change, and increasing energy efficiency and share of renewable energy,
75. Encouraging the OSCE to strengthen its focus on anti-corruption, including through examining the potential for a thematic field mission or other structure, as well as co-operating fully with existing mechanisms for reviewing the implementation of existing international anti-corruption conventions within the framework of the United Nations, the Council of Europe and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development to assist all 57 OSCE participating States with the implementation of their OSCE commitments, particularly in the field of combating money laundering and transnational organized crime,
76. Taking note of the Silk Road initiative aimed at promoting co-operation between the participating States – an initiative which is necessary for achieving the security, stability and prosperity of OSCE nations,
77. Recognizing the need to develop and maintain interaction between various integration processes and associations in the OSCE region with a view to creating a common economic space in accordance with the commitments set out in the Helsinki Final Act and the 2010 Astana Anniversary Declaration, and emphasizing the role that the Organization could play in providing a platform for dialogue in this area between OSCE participating States and their integration associations,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

78. Stresses the importance of energy security as a crucial factor for economic growth and stability and lends its support to regional efforts to interconnect energy networks and other infrastructure projects enhancing energy security;
79. Urges OSCE participating States to intensify their involvement in the consideration of economic and environmental issues, both at a national and international level, also taking into account the key role of local governments in providing specific measures against climate change, acknowledging that they constitute essential pillars of the security structure of the OSCE area in line with the commitments enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act;
80. Stresses that the climate crisis represents an immediate threat to the security of the OSCE area and needs to be addressed with extreme urgency in line with the OSCE's comprehensive approach to security;
81. Stresses the central role of education in States' efforts to address global warming by promoting environmental literacy, innovation, responsibility, ownership and solidarity among citizens to the benefit of ecological integrity, economic growth and social cohesion;
82. Calls on parliaments of OSCE participating States to promote universal ratification of the Paris Agreement on climate change and to boost the implementation of the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions to strengthen the global response to climate change aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions and keeping the increase of global average temperature below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels;
83. Urges parliaments to adopt legislation to establish or further develop anti-corruption policies, including beneficial ownership transparency and to promote best practices to ensure a genuinely free and competitive market, as well as enable sustainable and environmentally friendly economic growth;
84. Calls on OSCE participating States to further elaborate and implement policies that promote environmental good governance to place renewed attention on the development and expansion of renewable and sustainable energy with the ultimate aim of reaching energy efficiency through clean energy sources;
85. Calls upon OSCE participating States to desist from nuclear energy programmes on environmentally or otherwise high-risk sites, which pose a serious threat to human life and health, the environment and overall security;
86. Invites all OSCE participating States to develop incentives and economy funds to encourage the use of clean, renewable energy sources;
87. Urges the OSCE and the OSCE PA to establish forums and tools designed to facilitate the sharing of best practices relating to carbon pricing mechanisms;
88. Urges OSCE participating States and their parliaments to encourage gender-inclusive dialogue on the second dimension and advance women's participation by implementing economic, environmental, social, and educational policies and reforms;

89. Calls on OSCE parliamentarians to spare no effort in conveying OSCE pledges and values to parliamentary colleagues to promote and approve laws to implement OSCE commitments and guarantee their effective execution through parliamentary oversight on governments;
90. Emphasizes the role of parliamentarians in raising public awareness of the OSCE, its values and commitments, through parliamentary dialogue and outreach to the media to encourage public debate;
91. Calls on parliaments of OSCE participating States to consider the need to modernize national legislation in the fields of science and ecology with the aim of solving the problems of technological impact on the environment;
92. Underlines that rapid advances in digitalization are causing fundamental changes in all aspects of life, and emphasizes the role of parliamentarians in the modernization of national and international legislation and legislative flexibility to adapt to an ever-changing world order;

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly calls the attention of OSCE governments to the following. It:

93. Calls on OSCE participating States to draft and implement forest conservation regulations to gradually reduce and ultimately stop deforestation and to develop agro-responsible strategies to limit the emissions of greenhouse gas mainly due to fertilization;
94. Calls on the OSCE to establish a system of ecological monitoring of war-torn and occupied territories to assess the disruptive and disastrous consequences of conflicts on the environment and consequently formulate recommendations in line with the OSCE principle of comprehensive security;
95. Calls on OSCE participating States to establish institutional mechanisms for anti-corruption policy co-ordination and monitoring through increasing partnerships and co-operation;
96. Urges OSCE participating States to speedily implement effective, coherent and comprehensive policies to respond to migration flows, with particular attention to vulnerable groups such as women, girls and unaccompanied minors;
97. Encourages the drafting of an international document legitimizing the category of environmental refugees and recognizing the right to asylum for people fleeing their countries because of environmental deterioration;
98. Calls on OSCE participating States to redouble their efforts to identify and address the root causes of forcible displacement, and encourages the inclusion of internally displaced persons in the OSCE working agenda;
99. Urges OSCE participating States to establish partnerships between governments and other relevant actors to promote effective migration management policies and strategies, including through the exchange of best practices that encourage legal migration.

## CHAPTER III

### DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS

100. Alarmed by the continued deterioration of the human rights situation in the OSCE area in the past year, and recalling the OSCE participating States' commitments to the values enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act,
101. Noting with concern that parliaments have not been sufficiently proactive in safeguarding the oversight of the commitments assumed by the Helsinki Final Act, and regretting that between several parliaments no form of co-operation and dialogue exists,
102. Calling on parliaments to strengthen the oversight of the commitments assumed by the Helsinki Final Act, and to enhance co-operation and dialogue between parliaments,
103. Alarmed that ongoing conflicts within the OSCE area and in adjacent highly volatile regions, e.g., the Eastern Mediterranean region, are leading to further destabilization and thus exacerbate the danger for further deterioration of human rights protection,
104. Expressing serious concern over the repeated denial of access to international and regional human rights mechanisms to conflict zones and occupied territories,
105. Deploring the fact that in the context of a state of emergency, some OSCE countries are not upholding democratic standards and are disregarding their commitments to human rights and the rule of law,
106. Dismayed that refugees and migrants, particularly child migrants, suffer grave abuses of their rights instead of enjoying special protection by States as a vulnerable population,
107. Outraged by the persistence of human trafficking worldwide, including sex trafficking, a form of modern slavery, which particularly targets women and children,
108. Alarmed by the increasing threat that drug trafficking poses to societies, particularly youth,
109. Noting with concern the continued occurrence of extrajudicial killings and forced disappearances, as well as the high number of killings within the OSCE region resulting from excessive use of force, including deadly force, by law enforcement officers,
110. Noting with regret that in some OSCE participating States Roma children, children with disabilities, migrant and refugee children and economically disadvantaged children are deprived of access to mainstream education,
111. Reaffirming the need for a high-level conference to address racism and xenophobia and to develop an OSCE Anti-discrimination and Inclusion Action Plan for racial justice, to include adopting laws, policies and practices ending discriminatory policing in the wake of numerous deaths caused by law enforcement officers of people of African descent, migrants, refugees, Muslims and others across the OSCE region,

112. Convinced that children and youth must be considered as a strategic long-term priority for OSCE advocacy activities in order to ensure continued awareness of, as well as respect for, the Helsinki Final Act and OSCE commitments,
113. Deeply concerned by the growing tide of populism which is negatively impacting the level of human rights in OSCE participating States, and reaffirming the need for the OSCE and its Parliamentary Assembly to work together in order to counter this negative trend,
114. Alarmed by the increased prejudice and violence in politics and the public sphere, which is undermining democracy by discouraging participation and leadership in the public sphere, especially for women, and gender, racial, ethnic, religious and other minorities who, in some cases, have been targeted in person and online with threats of death, rape, and/or other sexist, racist, anti-religious, and xenophobic vitriol,
115. Noting with deep concern the high number of acts of intolerance and violence motivated by hatred in the OSCE region, including acts of vandalism against and desecration of places of worship, cemeteries, religious monuments and artefacts, and underscoring the need for the OSCE to implement a long-term strategy to combat intolerance and uphold stable and democratic societies where freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief are protected,
116. Recalling its declaration, adopted in Minsk on 9 July 2017, which called on OSCE participating States to adopt the working definition of anti-Semitism, which has also been adopted for use by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance and endorsed by the European Parliament,
117. Noting that modern technologies enable misinformation to be promoted and spread to an unprecedented degree, and concerned that the purposeful use of such “fake news” is already being operationalized to confuse citizens, with serious consequences for democratic systems and for human rights protection,
118. Concerned by the proliferation of unprofessional election monitoring, often promoted by host governments, which undermines public trust in election observation overall,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

119. Stresses that international humanitarian and human rights law must be upheld during armed conflicts and are applicable in their entirety in areas under military occupation, including the right of safe return of refugees and internally displaced persons to their hometowns;
120. Calls for investigations into the serious human rights violations of people in conflict zones and occupied territories such as in the South Caucasus, Ukraine, including in Crimea, and Cyprus, in particular those related to internally displaced persons, enclaved persons and missing persons, and calls for the restoration of freedom of movement, freedom of expression, and property and educational rights, particularly for children in conflict areas;

121. Affirms the importance of OSCE participating States holding each other to account to the commitments undertaken within the OSCE, particularly in the human dimension, which are to the benefit of all citizens of OSCE participating States;
122. Affirms that OSCE participating States should strengthen their efforts to eradicate torture and inhumane or degrading treatment;
123. Recognizes the Government of Uzbekistan's ongoing reforms to strengthen the judicial system and its independence, and to advance religious freedom and media freedom, secure the release of journalists and human rights defenders and improve regional relations, and that all national institutions should be encouraged to continue their work to align national policies with Uzbekistan's OSCE and other international commitments, particularly concerning human rights and democratic institutions;
124. Calls upon countries applying the death penalty to declare an immediate moratorium on executions and to develop legislative initiatives leading to the abolition of the death penalty for all crimes, and notes with concern public consideration of its reintroduction in OSCE participating States where it has been abolished;
125. Affirms that governments should strengthen monitoring activities aimed at promoting adherence to commitments related to the rule of law and human rights to ensure a democratic order within OSCE participating States, based on impartial and independent judiciaries, freedom of expression, freedom of assembly and association, freedom of religion, democratic institutions and inclusive societies;
126. Calls on the national parliaments of OSCE participating States to uphold their OSCE commitments regarding the promotion of gender equality, including by implementing policies, programmes and legislation in accordance with those commitments, including those relating to preventing gender-based violence, ensuring equal participation of women in political and public life and promoting the advancement of women in the economic sphere;
127. Recalls the OSCE participating States' commitments to fully respect and preserve the rule of law and to guarantee the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and stresses the particular relevance of attention to such commitments when confronted with serious security concerns;
128. Recalls that restrictions on human rights as a result of a state of emergency are exceptional, and are legally justifiable only if their remit and duration are proportionate and appropriate;
129. Regrets the protraction of the state of emergency in Turkey, and calls for the full restoration of the constitutional order and the rule of law, including an independent legal review of all judicial cases involving foreign citizens whose charges and ongoing detention appear to be politically motivated in order to create leverage over other countries, such as American citizens Andrew Brunson and Serkan Golge, German journalist Mesale Tolu and Greek soldiers Lt. Angelos Mitretodis and Sgt. Dimitris Kouklatzis;



130. Expresses its solidarity with parliamentarians who are detained or imprisoned, and declares its willingness to observe their conditions of detention or imprisonment, including through site visits;
131. Stresses the importance of OSCE participating States fully respecting the rights of lawyers, notably lawyers specializing in the protection of human rights, to engage in their professional activities with full independence, without any interference or restrictions;
132. Reaffirms the critical importance and fundamental value of NGO participation in all dimensions of OSCE activities;
133. Emphasizes that the role of parliaments is essential in overseeing and scrutinizing the effective implementation of OSCE commitments by governments;

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly calls the attention of OSCE governments to the following. It:

134. Calls on the Foreign Ministers of the OSCE, at the 2018 Ministerial Council, to collectively recommit to upholding all human dimension commitments agreed within the CSCE and OSCE processes;
135. Calls upon OSCE participating States which, in violation of international law, have occupied areas of other States, turning them into ghost towns, to immediately restore the human rights of the lawful inhabitants forcibly expelled from these areas;
136. Calls on OSCE participating States to accept international observers in the areas under their military occupation for the purpose of monitoring the human rights situation in these areas;
137. Calls on OSCE governments, where applicable, to immediately cease the harassment, imprisonment and mistreatment of parliamentarians, judges, political opponents, human rights defenders, lawyers, journalists, academics and other members of civil society and to restore their rights;
138. Calls on OSCE participating States to support the reform processes conducted by Interpol since 2016 aimed at preventing the instrumentalization of its services for political ends;
139. Stresses the importance of European co-operation with third countries on migration management, and calls upon all OSCE participating States to protect the rights of migrants and refugees, especially their freedom from arbitrary detention, and to actively work on the integration of refugees and protect their right to family reunification, with particular consideration for unaccompanied minors;
140. Expects all OSCE participating States to fully implement and uphold their international commitment to refrain from forced returns of refugees and asylum seekers to countries where they could face torture or inhuman treatment, and furthermore emphasizes that the principle of *non-refoulement* is a principle of customary international law which applies also to States that are not parties to the 1951 Refugee Convention;

141. Encourages OSCE participating States to act together in order to fight and dismantle organized criminal networks that exploit human beings, particularly migrants, to work to prevent the misuse of the internet as a trafficking facilitator, and to treat migrants engaged in prostitution as likely victims of trafficking, while prosecuting illegal purchasers of commercial sex;
142. Urges OSCE participating States to create joint responses to the Chinese Government's international campaign of repression targeting Uighur, Kazakh, Kyrgyz and other ethnic minorities, including co-ordinated efforts to challenge the detention in China of family members of Uighur ethnic minority activists and journalists who are active in OSCE participating States, and to ensure protection for citizens of OSCE participating States visiting or working in the Xinjian Uighur Autonomous Region;
143. Urges OSCE participating States to take all necessary measures, including within their migration policies, to make sure that the slave trade, reportedly carried out from Libya, is eradicated;
144. Exhorts OSCE participating States to adopt and implement stricter legislation to combat human trafficking, which places greater focus on prevention, including through curbing the demand for and purchase of services involving trafficked persons;
145. Stresses the urgent need for States to enhance efforts against drug trafficking, with greater emphasis on prevention and awareness-raising among youth of the extensive and multiple threats which drugs entail, and stresses at the same time the urgent need for States to adopt appropriate legislation and adequate policies to ensure the effective protection of victims of drug addiction, as a vulnerable societal group, and to respect their fundamental human rights pertaining to life and bodily integrity, access to information, assistance, treatment and rehabilitation;
146. Urges OSCE participating States to eradicate forced and child marriages, including by adapting domestic legislation where necessary;
147. Calls on governments of OSCE participating States to ensure an inclusive approach to education to ensure that vulnerable and disadvantaged children are not deprived of access to quality mainstream education;
148. Calls upon OSCE participating States to integrate education about human rights into primary and secondary school curricula, based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, under the oversight of national Parliaments, in the interests of long-term understanding and implementation of human rights commitments by OSCE participating States;
149. Regrets that persons with disabilities remain widely under-represented in parliaments across the OSCE region more than a quarter of a century after OSCE participating States agreed to ensure protection of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of persons with disabilities and to promote their participation in decision-making and public life, and therefore calls on all OSCE participating States to commit, through a Ministerial decision, to promote more inclusive and representative societies and ensure participatory processes for persons with disabilities in all phases of developing legislation or policies

in the spheres of political and public life, in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;

150. Encourages OSCE participating States to enhance efforts to combat intolerance and discrimination through further strengthening relevant policies, building on the work carried out by the OSCE in this field, and upon the recommendations contained in the OSCE PA's Resolution entitled "A Call for OSCE Action to Address Violence and Discrimination" (Tbilisi Declaration, 2016);
151. Calls on OSCE participating States to adopt the working definition of anti-Semitism at the Milan Ministerial Council of 6 and 7 December 2018;
152. Stresses the pressing need to improve regulation of the internet, while ensuring full respect of human rights, particularly freedom of expression;
153. Calls on OSCE participating States to take steps to strengthen national legislation to combat the growing prevalence of disinformation and propaganda by promoting high-quality journalism, developing norms and standards that apply equally to both traditional and digital platforms and encourage accurate and diverse media content, and ensuring that any efforts to address disinformation and propaganda comply with international legal guarantees of the rights to freedom of expression and freedom of the media;
154. Calls on OSCE participating States to take further necessary measures to prevent linguistic discrimination in multinational countries and, in particular, underscores the need to respect the right of national minorities to have access to education in their native language;
155. Underlines the importance of calling on the owners of major news outlets to take appropriate oversight measures at their own initiative and in co-operation with States and the international community, so as to counteract misinformation and "fake news";
156. Underlines the importance of promoting media and digital literacy, including by developing educational tools and outreach strategies in conjunction with civil society organizations, the private sector and relevant OSCE institutions, including the Representative on Freedom of the Media, in order to increase resistance to the spread of disinformation and propaganda;
157. Calls on all OSCE participating States to welcome NGO participation in OSCE events, and to reject all efforts to restrict participation in OSCE human dimension events so long as these groups do not resort to or condone violence or terrorism, to ensure the broadest possible contribution from NGOs to the OSCE's work and a full and unrestricted exchange of information and opinions;
158. Calls on OSCE participating States to engage in necessary reforms in order to eliminate practices of discriminatory and excessively violent policing;
159. Urges all OSCE participating States, with the support of their national parliaments, and in consultation with NGOs, to engage in a structural reform of their penitentiary systems to demilitarize and democratize penitentiary services, establish functioning monitoring

systems, and increase prisoners' access to the outside world, on the basis of legislative changes, including the modification of punishment policies and remedies systems;

160. Urges OSCE participating States to guarantee full access for domestic and international monitors to review prison conditions;
161. Calls on OSCE participating States to take decisive action towards the implementation of the provisions and principles included in relevant OSCE PA resolutions;

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly calls the attention of OSCE national parliaments to the following. It:

162. Emphasizes the importance of codes of conduct for Members of Parliament and national parliaments as a tool to counteract defamatory, racist, xenophobic, nationalistic or belligerent rhetoric, to foster peaceful coexistence, tolerance and social cohesion, and considers that promoting a common code of conduct also at the level of the OSCE PA would be a meaningful step in this direction;
163. Requests national parliaments and OSCE participating States to refrain from participating in election observation processes that are not based on well-organized and transparent processes with a systematic methodology, and to publicly affirm that OSCE-led Election Observation Missions take precedence over bilateral arrangements;
164. Encourages national parliaments to request legislative review of draft legislation by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights to ensure compliance with OSCE commitments;

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly calls the attention of OSCE structures to the following. It:

165. Calls on the OSCE to actively engage in countries which face a growing polarization of tensions and the rise of aggressive nationalist and revisionist forces;
166. Encourages the OSCE to develop guidance for OSCE participating States on improving regulation of the internet in a comprehensive and human-centred way that can help to address Information and Communication Technologies challenges;
167. Calls on the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media to publicly denounce violations of freedom of expression, freedom of the media and the safety of journalists and to emphasize the inadmissibility of discriminating against journalists, exerting pressure on them and employing other methods for unduly restricting their ability to work which are now used increasingly in several countries;
168. Encourages the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media to continue to provide guidelines and support on addressing “fake news” and propaganda;
169. Calls on the OSCE/ODIHR to expand its monitoring activities and to draw attention to cases in which parliamentarians, human rights lawyers, human rights defenders, journalists and other members of civil society are harassed, detained or imprisoned;

170. Considers as relevant an OSCE PA visit in response to the reported slave trade in Libya;
171. Considers the development of dialogue between the OSCE PA General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions and competent human rights committees of national parliaments useful for the purpose of information and examination of cases of human rights abuses.

## RESOLUTION ON

### MINORS ON THE MOVE: THE ROLE OF THE OSCE AND THE OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY IN BUILDING AN EFFECTIVE PROTECTION FRAMEWORK

1. Recalling OSCE commitments in the field of migration, as enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act's chapter on economic co-operation, which calls for optimizing the economic and social benefits for countries of origin and destination as well as for migrants themselves, and includes a recommendation to OSCE participating States to enable migrant children to receive education under the same conditions as children of the host country as well as supplementary education in their own language, national culture, history and geography,
2. Reaffirming that all individuals who have crossed or are seeking to cross international borders are entitled to due process in the assessment of their legal status, entry and stay, and expressing concerns about government policies that criminalize cross-border movements,
3. Also recalling previous Parliamentary Assembly resolutions in the field of migration, in particular the Resolution on Ensuring a Coherent, Shared and Responsible Governance of Migration and Refugee Flows (2017), as well as Ministerial Council Decision No. 3/16 on the OSCE's Role in the Governance of Large Movements of Migrants and Refugees (2016),
4. Underlining that, by adhering to the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (2016), OSCE participating States have also committed to strengthen and enhance mechanisms to protect people on the move, and to specifically protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all refugee and migrant children regardless of their status, giving primary consideration at all times to the best interests of the child,
5. Emphasizing the opportunity which the elaboration of the global compact on refugees and the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration represents to achieve common understanding and to create new, shared protection, regulation, co-ordination and implementation mechanisms, in which the OSCE, as a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter, has a key role to play,
6. Welcoming the prioritization by the 2018 Italian OSCE Chairpersonship of the challenges and opportunities arising in the Mediterranean, including migration, as stressed at the OSCE Mediterranean Conference in Palermo on 24 and 25 October 2017,
7. Noting with concern the ongoing challenges faced by children on the move, in particular unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), who for example constituted 92 per cent of all children arriving in Italy through the Central Mediterranean Route in 2017, and their particular vulnerability to trafficking and sexual and other forms of exploitation, as well as the need to promote a comprehensive regional strategy to ensure their protection and develop durable solutions tailored to each individual's needs,
8. Alarmed that "zero tolerance" immigration enforcement policies try to deter migration by individuals fleeing violence and persecution in their home countries by pushing countries to endorse actions which fail to protect children even if they are possibly

eligible for asylum, such as family separation, denying children's rights under international and domestic laws, and which may inflict irreversible damage on children's health and well-being,

9. Welcoming the sustained efforts of the OSCE PA Special Representative on Human Trafficking Issues, the action-oriented recommendations of the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings contained in the report *From Reception to Recognition: Identifying and Protecting Human Trafficking Victims in Mixed Migration Flows*, notably with respect to sharing effective practices of assisting unaccompanied minors, as well as the efforts led by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees based on consultations with a broad range of stakeholders including children themselves, to develop comprehensive guidelines for the protection of UASC in Europe,
10. Drawing attention to best practice at the national level in the area of unaccompanied minors in a number of OSCE States, such as Italy and Belgium,

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11. Calls on the Foreign Ministers of the OSCE meeting at the 2018 Ministerial Council in Milan to adopt a clear decision providing for an enhanced mandate with accompanying resources for the OSCE to comprehensively address the issue of migration, with a view to tackling the root causes and stemming the flow of irregular migration, based on its accumulated expertise in all three dimensions and drawing upon the OSCE's presence in the field, and in close co-operation with other relevant international organizations and agencies;
12. Calls upon OSCE participating States and their respective national parliaments to take a leading role in the effective implementation of the global compact on refugees and the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration, due to be adopted at the end of 2018, for example through the establishment of parliamentary oversight mechanisms;
13. Urges OSCE participating States to implement adapted reception frameworks for unaccompanied minors which take into account their specific needs (for example, through specialized facilities for pregnant girls), their gender, their age but also their level of dependency, and which prioritize foster care and small reception structures over large reception centres, and aim to provide them with greater autonomy and life skills;
14. Calls on participating States to put in place and/or strengthen migration policies that advance the best interests of children seeking refuge or asylum or migrating to the country, in part by ensuring that children are not placed in detention, needlessly separated from their families by immigration officials, remain with a parent at all times, if possible, and/or are reunited with their families as quickly and expeditiously as possible;
15. Stresses the importance for OSCE participating States to provide to all unaccompanied minors quality and comprehensive information, including proper access to their personal information and personal files, as well as expert guidance and legal advice, including by appointing at the earliest stage possible a qualified legal guardian with specific knowledge in the field of migration, asylum procedures and child protection who can

assist the minor in every step and take the necessary decisions according to the minor's best interests;

16. Reiterates the call for OSCE participating States to better co-ordinate their procedures and harmonize their guidelines with respect to minors, keeping the minor's safety and best interests in mind, and with a view to achieving:
  - a. greater uniformity with respect to age determination methods, based on a combination of medical and supplementary psychosocial and developmental examinations;
  - b. better exchange of information on minors in transit between the various countries concerned;
  - c. better exchange of "best practice" and policies in the areas of reception, family reunification, access to education and integration;
17. Encourages OSCE participating States to consider granting unaccompanied minors who do not qualify for asylum or subsidiary protection a special protection status until a durable solution can be found;
18. Also encourages OSCE participating States to involve, to the extent possible, children themselves in the decision-making processes concerning them and to put into place a complaints mechanism to ensure quality of care and an effective remedy;
19. Also recommends that OSCE participating States:
  - a. provide free primary and secondary education, including instruction in the official language(s) of the host country, to all children regardless of status;
  - b. work together with parents, teachers and qualified experts to identify and address economic, social, cultural and psychosocial obstacles to the child's school attendance, for example through the implementation of non-formal educational programmes for children within schools;
  - c. enable supplementary education in the child's mother tongue, national culture, history and traditions;
  - d. continue to provide guidance, legal advice and support to unaccompanied minors after they reach the age of 18 and for a reasonable period of time, even if the applicable procedure changes;
20. Calls upon OSCE participating States to protect children against human trafficking, exploitation and violence by:
  - a. taking measures to strengthen their systems for the protection of children, for example by co-operating with professional groups and non-governmental organizations;
  - b. establishing clear guidelines for officials who decide on the status of the child to prevent children from being sent back to a country where they might be persecuted or at risk;
21. Recommends that OSCE participating States:



- a. speed up and simplify family reunification procedures for unaccompanied minors, while ensuring that the child's best interests are the primary consideration in all decisions;
  - b. ensure that, for the purposes of applying for family reunification, a child is regarded as such as long as the application is submitted before he or she turns 18;
  - c. prevent the separation of children and their relatives at border controls and during any other procedures in line with national and international legislation and agreements;
22. Encourages OSCE participating States to pay as much attention as possible to the background and culture of both the child and the family when matching children and foster parents in line with national and international legislation and agreements;

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

23. Recommends that the European Union incorporate in the Common European Asylum System adapted procedures and practices with respect to UASC seeking asylum;
24. Demands more forceful and efficient action by participating States and international bodies active in the fight against criminal organizations involved in human trafficking, particularly of minors, for sexual or labour exploitation or any other purposes. To that end, active co-operation with the countries of origin or transit is essential.

## RESOLUTION ON

### PREVENTING AND COMBATING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

1. Reiterating that the OSCE participating States have committed to upholding the principles enshrined in the 1975 Helsinki Final Act, which include the peaceful settlement of disputes, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, equal rights and self-determination of peoples, co-operation among States and the fulfilment in good faith of obligations under international law,
2. Deeply concerned that the persistence of gender-based violence in all of its forms – including domestic and sexual violence, harassment, human trafficking, and early and forced marriage – is one of the most pervasive human rights violations throughout the OSCE region,
3. Recalling Ministerial Council Decisions No. 14/04 on the Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality, No. 15/05 and No. 7/14 on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women, No. 14/05 on Women in Conflict Prevention, Crisis Management, and Post-Conflict Rehabilitation, and No. 3/11 on Elements of the Conflict Cycle, Related to Enhancing the OSCE's Capabilities in Early Warning, Early Action, Dialogue Facilitation, and Mediation Support, and Post-Conflict Rehabilitation,
4. Highlighting United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, as well as subsequent resolutions that comprise the comprehensive women, peace and security agenda, which call for – *inter alia* – the full participation of women in all efforts designed to maintain and promote peace and security,
5. Reaffirming that the OSCE's commitments to promoting and protecting equal rights and opportunities are essential for sustainable peace, democracy and economic development, and thereby for security and stability in the OSCE region,
6. Referring to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's Tbilisi Declaration (2016), which calls on participating States to implement commitments regarding women's leadership and their participation in conflict prevention, resolution and recovery, and its Minsk Declaration (2017), which urges participating States to mainstream gender into conflict prevention activities and in peace agreements,
7. Bearing in mind the significant impacts of gender-based violence on victims, families and society as a whole, including psychological, cultural and economic,
8. Noting the recommendations of the Conference on Combating Violence Against Women in the OSCE Region and the 2nd Gender Equality Review Conference, which were held in Vienna in June 2016 and June 2017, respectively,
9. Underscoring that research demonstrates a correlation between high rates of gender-based violence and outbreaks of conflict, and that efforts to enhance women's participation and influence in peace and security matters are shown to improve operational effectiveness, build resilience, prevent and resolve conflicts and sustain peace,

10. Emphasizing that multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and violence based on identity factors – such as ethnicity, race, religion, disability, sexual orientation and gender identity and expression – are intensified by armed conflict, and that refugees and migrants are especially vulnerable to violence,
11. Recognizing the importance of engaging men and boys as allies in efforts aimed at eliminating discrimination and all forms of gender-based violence by promoting an understanding of – and addressing – the root causes of gender inequality,
12. Emphasizing that, while violence in politics occurs both for men and women, a critical difference is that the type of violence against women seeks to restrict their political participation to prevent them from having their voices heard,
13. Underscoring that participating States should address prejudice and violence to ensure that women can exercise their fundamental human and political rights, and noting that normalization of prejudice and violence against visible and prominent women in politics can lead to the normalization of violence against women in society at large,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

14. Calls on all OSCE participating States that have not yet done so to pass legislation consistent with international norms and standards that addresses domestic and sexual violence, harassment, including workplace harassment and abuse of authority;
15. Asks all OSCE participating States that have not already done so to develop and implement National Action Plans on Women, Peace and Security, as required by United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325;
16. Recommends that the OSCE and participating States work together to accelerate implementation of their existing commitments by developing a comprehensive, multisectoral action plan to prevent and combat gender-based violence in the OSCE region, and by allocating sufficient funds and other resources to this effort;
17. Encourages the OSCE and the OSCE PA to create platforms for the exchange of best practices, capacity-building tools, and training materials to assist participating States in their efforts to combat gender-based violence, including by supporting the increased participation of women throughout security sector institutions, including in state armed and security forces; peacekeeping forces; border control services; migrant camp staff; state oversight and management agencies; independent oversight bodies; and justice systems;
18. Urges the OSCE and participating States to fill critical data and knowledge gaps about the prevalence of gender-based violence in the OSCE region by improving the collection of sex-disaggregated data, including in relation to online harassment and other emerging forms of gender-based violence, and also urges OSCE participating States to closely monitor the results of the ongoing OSCE Survey on the Well-being and Safety of Women;
19. Also calls on the OSCE, OSCE participating States and the OSCE PA to combat workplace sexual harassment in OSCE executive structures, government bureaucracy,

national parliaments and the private sector, as gender-based violence hampers the full participation of women in public life;

20. Recommends that the OSCE MenEngage Network continues to mobilize men and boys as powerful agents of change and beneficiaries of gender equality by facilitating public dialogue on the links between masculinity norms and gender-based violence;
21. Requests that the OSCE assist participating States in preventing sexual violence in armed conflict situations, including by taking appropriate measures to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse by armed forces and uniformed personnel, in adopting measures to end impunity, and in developing measures for the effective support, care and rehabilitation of victims;
22. Calls for the OSCE to enhance its efforts to recruit more women for positions in its politico-military dimension.

**RESOLUTION ON**  
**PREVENTING AND COUNTERING TERRORISM AND VIOLENT EXTREMISM**  
**AND RADICALIZATION THAT LEAD TO TERRORISM**

1. Condemning terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations, in the strongest possible terms, and offering heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims and to the people and governments that have been targeted,
2. Reiterating that terrorism constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security, that any act of terrorism is criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of its motivation, and that terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any race, religion, nationality or civilization,
3. Noting with concern the increasing number of terrorist attacks and victims in the OSCE area, including attacks by terrorists acting alone or in small cells, as well as the proliferation of the terrorist and violent extremist ideology and narratives that motivate all these acts,
4. Reaffirming our determination to remain united in preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism (VERLT), and stressing that terrorism can only be defeated through increased international co-operation and by a sustained and comprehensive approach with the active contribution of all participating States and relevant international and regional organizations, as well as local communities and civil society,
5. Noting with appreciation the international counter-terrorism efforts and emphasizing in this context that security in the OSCE area is intricately linked to security in adjacent areas,
6. Underscoring the central role of the United Nations (UN) in preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism, and reaffirming our commitment to taking the measures needed to protect all people within our jurisdictions against terrorist acts and the need for all actions to be conducted in accordance with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, and all other applicable obligations under international law, in particular international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law, as well as relevant UN Security Council resolutions,
7. Underscoring the importance of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the need to continue to implement all of its aspects in an integrated manner in close co-operation with the newly created UN Office of Counter-Terrorism,
8. Recognizing that OSCE participating States bear the primary responsibility in preventing and countering terrorism and VERLT, while respecting their obligations under international law, in particular human rights and fundamental freedoms, and reiterating that all participating States should refrain from providing any form of support, active or passive, to entities or persons involved in terrorist acts,
9. Reaffirming that those who participate in the financing, planning, facilitating, preparing or perpetrating terrorist acts must be held accountable and brought to justice, on the basis

of the principle “extradite or prosecute” in compliance with relevant obligations under international law, as well as applicable domestic legislation,

10. Reaffirming our determination to pursue a sustained and comprehensive approach and to strengthen co-operation at all relevant levels on preventing and countering terrorism and VERLT, including by emphasizing the importance of strengthening inter-agency co-operation and co-ordination,
11. Deploring all the acts, methods and practices of terrorism, including indiscriminate or targeted killings, torture, sexual and gender-based violence, kidnapping and hostage-taking, abductions, and acts of violence which cause destruction and displace people, and also condemning the incitement of terrorist acts, and repudiating attempts at the justification or glorification of terrorist acts that may incite further terrorist acts,
12. Stressing the need to respect the right to freedom of expression reflected in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR),
13. Acknowledging that the OSCE, as the largest, most inclusive and comprehensive regional security organization, is a privileged platform for the exchange of good practices and lessons learned on preventing and countering terrorism and VERLT, and emphasizing that the profile of the OSCE in this field could be strengthened further in accordance with and building upon the existing mandates,
14. Recalling and reaffirming all relevant OSCE commitments adopted in the field of preventing and countering terrorism and VERLT,
15. Reaffirming the urgency of fully implementing UN Security Council Resolutions 2396 and 2178 and relevant OSCE commitments to counter the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs) to the countries of origin, transit and destination, including those returning to their countries of origin or relocating from/to conflict zones,
16. Stressing the need to further boost border control and information sharing, including through systems for advance passenger information (API), passenger name record (PNR) and biometric data, as well as by developing watch-lists or databases of known and suspected terrorists, in compliance with domestic and international law, including human rights law,
17. Underlining the need to prevent and suppress terrorist financing through enhanced international and regional co-operation within the UN, the OSCE, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and FATF-style regional bodies,
18. Calling urgently for a strengthening of the measures against the financing of international terrorist groups, in accordance with the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, and urging the swift and effective implementation of the Financial Action Task Force’s (FATF) standards,
19. Noting with increasing concern the multifaceted nexus between international terrorism and transnational organized crime, and stressing the need for all participating States to make full use of available multilateral and bilateral mechanisms and data-sharing systems

and to contribute to existing databases and update them systematically, while fully respecting their obligations under international law,

20. Remaining committed to ensuring national criminal justice systems based on the respect for human rights and the rule of law, due process and fair trial guarantees, which are effectively complemented by appropriate preventive measures and stressing the importance of the development and maintenance of effective, fair, humane, transparent and accountable criminal justice systems, as well as of ensuring effective prison management consistent with applicable international law and national legislation, as a fundamental basis of any strategy to prevent and counter terrorism and VERLT,
21. Emphasizing the importance of a comprehensive approach to preventing and countering terrorism and VERLT, aimed at effectively addressing all internal and external conditions conducive to their spread, while also recognizing that none of these conditions can excuse or justify terrorism or VERLT,
22. Emphasizing the importance of developing tailored and human rights-compliant strategies, policies and programmes, including a gender perspective, in line with applicable international law and domestic legislation, designed to reduce the appeal of terrorism and VERLT,
23. Welcoming the adoption of the UN Security Council Resolution 2354 (2017) and of the “Comprehensive International Framework to Counter Terrorist Narratives (S/2017/375), with recommended guidelines and good practices to counter effectively the ways that terrorist groups and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities use their narratives to encourage, motivate and recruit others to commit terrorist acts,
24. Stressing the importance of building whole-of-society resilience to terrorism and VERLT, as well as of fostering the role of civil society in supporting a global campaign against terrorism and the need to further promote public–private partnerships,
25. Underscoring the importance of involving civil society, in particular families, youth, women, victims of terrorism, and religious, cultural and educational leaders, as well as the media and the private sector, including information technology companies (ICT), in preventing terrorism and VERLT,
26. Recognizing the need to foster an environment that is not conducive to terrorism and, in this context, stressing the importance of counter-narratives which should aim not only to rebut terrorist messages but also to amplify positive narratives, to provide alternatives and address issues of concern to audiences who are targeted by terrorist narratives, and emphasizing the value of public–private partnerships in countering terrorist narratives, along with the need to involve a wide range of actors, including families, youth, women and religious, cultural and educational leaders,
27. Noting the importance of the role played by the media, civil society, religious groups, the private sector, and educational institutions in efforts to enhance dialogues and broaden understanding and in promoting tolerance and peaceful coexistence, and fully respecting the right to freedom of opinion and expression, stressing the necessity to act co-operatively, including with ICT and social media companies, to continue to develop and implement practical measures to counter the exploitation of the Internet and other

information and communication technologies for terrorist purposes, including to commit, incite, recruit, fund or plan terrorist acts,

28. Recognizing that efforts to prevent terrorism and VERLT can benefit from increasing youth participation and sense of their belonging to societies, including by the creation of an enabling environment and opportunities for youth to participate and engage voluntarily and freely in public life and in the promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms, democratic principles and the rule of law, tolerance and non-discrimination, and dialogue and mutual respect, and that such efforts can also benefit from the facilitation of youth access to social services and employment and from support being given to youth-led and youth-focused awareness-raising initiatives, including through the Internet and social media,
29. Underscoring the important role of education in building relevant skills, such as critical thinking, media literacy, and sense of responsibility, in order to enable youth to reject and better challenge terrorist narratives, and in this context, underscoring the need to enhance the exchange of information, lessons learned and good practices on how to effectively engage with youth in preventing terrorism and VERLT,
30. Acknowledging the differential impact terrorism and VERLT have on women and children, with particular respect to such matters as violations and abuses of human rights and that they are often directly targeted by terrorist groups, and highlighting the need to consider evidence-based policies in mechanisms and strategies for preventing terrorism and VERLT,
31. Recognizing that children formerly associated with terrorist groups or who have been forced to travel to conflict zones affected by terrorist attacks should be treated in a manner consistent with their rights, dignity and needs,
32. Stressing the urgency to address the threat posed by terrorists, including relocating and returning FTFs, by *inter alia* developing and implementing, after prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration strategies, policies and programmes before, during and after imprisonment and as part of non-custodial measures of justice, and that such programmes should be compliant with international law, in particular human rights law, international humanitarian law and international refugee law and should also ensure national ownership and address specific concerns, vulnerabilities and needs of men, women and children, including accompanying family members of FTFs, as well to those of incarcerated offenders, as appropriate,
33. Emphasizing the importance of further research, thematic discussions, sharing of good practices and international guidelines, as well as of tailored technical assistance offered by relevant international organizations, including the OSCE,
34. Welcoming the comprehensive efforts of the 2017 Austrian Chairpersonship of the OSCE, including the relevant Declaration on which the present text builds upon, to push forward the agenda of the Organization on the fight against terrorism, violent extremism and radicalization that leads to terrorism, and taking positive note of the activities pursued by OSCE executive structures, including OSCE Institutions and Field Operations, in support of the implementation of OSCE commitments in the field of preventing and



countering terrorism and VERLT, in line with the OSCE's comprehensive approach to security,

35. Acknowledging the role that national Parliaments can play in the field of countering and preventing terrorism and VERLT, especially by developing targeted counter-terrorism legislation in line with international law, including human rights law, by promoting the full implementation of existing international legal frameworks, by providing effective oversight of governmental counter-terrorism policies and authorities, and by fostering greater inclusion of local communities and civil society in national counter-terrorism efforts, in accordance with the principle of national ownership of counter-terrorism strategies and programmes,
36. Recognizing that international parliamentary forums, such as the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, can serve as useful platforms for promoting political dialogue and facilitating the exchange of innovative ideas, lessons learned and best practices on counter-terrorism legislation and policy, thereby providing a distinct contribution to the global fight against terrorism by promoting greater policy coherence and international co-operation,
37. Recalling and reaffirming relevant OSCE PA resolutions on countering terrorism and violent extremisms, including the 2017 Minsk Declaration on Strengthening the Role of the OSCE in Countering Terrorism, the 2015 Helsinki Declaration on a Comprehensive Legislative Reform on Foreign Terrorist Fighters from the OSCE Area, the 2014 Baku Resolution on the Fight Against Terrorism and the 2012 Monaco Resolution on Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalization that Lead to Terrorism,
38. Welcoming the work conducted by the OSCE PA and by its Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism since its establishment in 2017, and in particular its focus on identifying the most pressing policy and legislative challenges faced by the OSCE participating States in countering terrorism and VERLT, as well as on building strategic partnerships with relevant stakeholders in the field to contribute to the global counter-terrorism agenda by leveraging on the Assembly's comparative advantages,
39. Commending the efforts of the Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism to promote the exchange of lessons learned and good practices in countering and preventing terrorism and radicalization in the OSCE region, including through the organization of field visits to Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime, and the OSCE executive structures, as well as through the active participation in numerous international conferences and expert events,
40. Taking note of the recurring themes identified by the Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism as potential areas where the OSCE PA could add value in the future, including, but not limited to, information sharing and co-ordination mechanisms, prevention of radicalization, countering the spread of terrorist and violent extremist ideologies and narratives, challenges stemming from the phenomenon of FTFs, links between terrorist networks and transnational organized crime, support to the victims of terrorism, protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms in countering terrorism, and the challenges stemming from the improper use of new technologies for terrorist purposes,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

41. Calls on the OSCE participating States to swiftly and fully implement the international legal framework on countering terrorism, as well as relevant OSCE commitments in this field;
42. Calls on the OSCE participating States to co-operate, share relevant information and consistently support each other in preventing and countering terrorism, including by eliminating the supply of weapons to terrorists, preventing the recruitment and mobilization of individuals as terrorists, and responding to the challenges stemming from returning and relocating FTFs;
43. Invites the OSCE participating States and OSCE Partners for Co-operation to actively engage in and reinforce their work to address the spread of terrorist narratives, and to this aim undertake appropriate national and international measures, in accordance with their obligations under international law, in line with the relevant UNSC resolutions and consistent with relevant OSCE commitments, and also invites the OSCE executive structures, within their mandates and available resources and complementing ongoing UN efforts, to facilitate thematic discussions, focused on implementing on a regional level UNSCR 2354, and on exchanging lessons learned and good practices to promote a comprehensive response to the spread of terrorist and violent extremist ideologies and narratives;
44. Urges the current, incoming and future OSCE Chairpersonships to continue to strengthen the contribution of the OSCE executive structures on the topic of preventing and countering terrorism and VERLT, leveraging the added value of the OSCE comprehensive approach to security;
45. Invites the OSCE participating States, the OSCE Partners for Co-operation and the OSCE executive structures to actively co-operate and co-ordinate with the OSCE PA on the topic of preventing and countering terrorism and VERLT, with a view of ensuring inclusive and human rights-compliant responses for the benefit of all in the OSCE region;
46. Calls upon Parliaments in the OSCE region to retain the topic of preventing and countering terrorism and VERLT high on their national agendas, and to continue to act as a driving force, in accordance with national legislation and procedures, to advance counter-terrorism efforts, including by allocating adequate resources to counter-terrorism, by adopting inclusive and human rights-compliant legislation in line with the international counter-terrorism legal framework, by ensuring oversight of national security forces, by monitoring the implementation of relevant national policies and strategies, by promoting transparency, respect for human rights and the rule of law, by building trust and dialogue among all levels of society, by advocating solidarity with the victims of terrorism and by supporting counter-terrorism narratives at national and local levels;
47. Encourages Parliamentarians in the OSCE region to continue to engage at regional and international levels with a view to strengthening relevant legislative and policy frameworks and exchanging best practices and lessons learned on preventing and countering terrorism and VERLT;

48. Calls upon the OSCE PA and the OSCE PA Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism to further explore possible areas of potential added value for the OSCE PA in preventing and countering terrorism and VERLT, with a view of promoting complementarity of efforts with other stakeholders and avoiding duplication;
49. Calls upon the OSCE PA Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism to continue to identify key challenges in this field, to build strong partnerships with the OSCE participating States and executive structures – including the Security Committee, the Secretariat and the Field Operations – and other relevant global, regional and national stakeholders, to consider forward-looking policy guidance wherever needed and to engage in targeted initiatives to bring an increased parliamentary perspective in this critical field of the international security agenda, in full compliance with its mandate;
50. Tasks the OSCE PA International Secretariat to continue to provide technical support to the work of the OSCE PA Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism through the organization of regular meetings, field visits and other targeted initiatives, as relevant and within available resources.

## RESOLUTION ON

### TEN YEARS AFTER THE AUGUST 2008 WAR IN GEORGIA

1. Reaffirming full adherence to the Charter of the United Nations and to all OSCE norms, principles and commitments, starting from the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris, the 1992 Helsinki Document, the 1994 Budapest Document, the 1996 Lisbon Document, and the Charter for European Security adopted at the 1999 Istanbul Summit,
2. Recalling all relevant OSCE PA documents, including the Oslo (2010), Monaco (2012) and Tbilisi (2016) Declarations,
3. Reaffirming full support for the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Georgia, within its internationally recognized borders,
4. Expressing deep regret that ten years after the August 2008 war, the conflict between the Russian Federation and Georgia remains unresolved and, in this regard, stressing the necessity of full implementation of the EU-mediated 12 August 2008 Ceasefire Agreement, including the withdrawal of the Russian Federation's military forces from Georgian territory and the establishment of international security mechanisms in occupied Abkhazia, Georgia, and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, Georgia,
5. Expressing concern over the repeated denial of access to international and regional human rights mechanisms, including the relevant OSCE executive structures, to Abkhazia, Georgia, and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, Georgia,
6. Supporting the Geneva International Discussions as an important format for addressing the security and humanitarian challenges stemming from the conflict pursuant to the EU-mediated 12 August 2008 Ceasefire Agreement,
7. Expressing serious concern over the dire security and humanitarian situation and reports of discrimination based on ethnic grounds in the occupied territories of Georgia, and reaffirming support for the fundamental right of hundreds of thousands of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees expelled from Abkhazia, Georgia, and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, Georgia, to return to their place of origin in safety and dignity,
8. Noting that since 2009, following the closure of the OSCE Mission in Georgia and the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG), the EU Monitoring Mission (EUMM) is the only international monitoring mission on the ground, regrettably unable to implement its mandate in full, while being denied access to the occupied territories of Georgia,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

9. Calls for the peaceful resolution of the Russian Federation–Georgia conflict in line with international law and the Helsinki principles;
10. Supports the policy of the Government of Georgia towards a peaceful conflict resolution, directed towards the de-occupation of Georgian regions, on the one hand, and

reconciliation and confidence-building between the communities divided by occupation lines, on the other hand;

11. Welcomes the new peace initiative of the Government of Georgia “A Step to a Better Future”, aimed at improving the humanitarian and socio-economic conditions of people residing in Abkhazia, Georgia, and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, Georgia, as well as at fostering people-to-people contacts and confidence-building between the divided communities;
12. Calls for achieving tangible results in the Geneva International Discussions, including the affirmation and implementation of the non-use of force commitment, establishment of international security mechanisms in Abkhazia, Georgia, and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, Georgia, and the return of IDPs and refugees;
13. Reaffirms the necessity of the full implementation of the EU-mediated 12 August 2008 Ceasefire Agreement, and calls on the Russian Federation to withdraw its military units from the territory of Georgia and reverse its recognition of Abkhazia, Georgia, and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, Georgia, as independent States;
14. Condemns the killing of Georgian citizens – Mr. Tatunashvili, Mr. Otkhozoria and Mr. Basharuli – in Abkhazia, Georgia, and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, Georgia, and urges the Russian Federation to refrain from the obstruction of the thorough investigation conducted by the Georgian authorities on the cases of Mr. Tatunashvili, Mr. Otkhozoria and Mr. Basharuli, including with the participation of international partners, and that perpetrators are brought to justice;
15. Stresses the responsibility of the Russian Federation, as a power exercising effective control, to uphold the fundamental freedoms and human rights of all people living in Abkhazia, Georgia, and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, Georgia, and ensure the access of international human rights monitoring mechanisms on the ground;
16. Urges the Russian Federation to allow the safe, dignified and unhindered return of displaced persons to their place of origin;
17. Calls upon the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office to strengthen its efforts towards the re-establishment of a fully fledged and meaningful OSCE presence with access to the entire territory of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders.

**RESOLUTION ON**  
**STRENGTHENING THE OSCE'S APPROACH TO SUPPORTING SECURITY**  
**SECTOR GOVERNANCE AND REFORM IN PARTICIPATING**  
**AND PARTNER STATES**

1. Recognizing that the nature of conflict has changed over recent years and that the concept of security no longer limits itself to a narrow State-centric approach, but has broadened its reach to include the well-being, vulnerabilities and human rights of people,
2. Recalling that by transforming the security sector into one that is inclusive, accountable and democratically controlled, security sector governance and reform (SSG/R) enhances State and human security, thus enabling security authorities to address today's multifaceted and emerging security challenges,
3. Stressing the importance of reforming the security sector to effectively provide both State and human security, strengthen the rule of law and good governance, and underlining that an accountable, effective and responsive security sector is a cornerstone for sustaining peace and sustainable development as well as an important instrument of conflict prevention and management which contributes to greater trust and stability in the OSCE region and beyond,
4. Convinced that all SSG/R processes should be nationally owned, backed by strong political commitment, rooted in the country's institutions and responsive to local needs and conditions, while at the same time upholding good governance, the rule of law and respect for human rights,
5. Stressing that SSG/R is in line with the OSCE's comprehensive approach to security and provides for cross-dimensional co-operation, including across the politico-military dimension, economic and environmental dimension as well as the human dimension of the OSCE,
6. Recalling United Nations Security Council Resolution 2151 (2014) and other international and regional SSG/R frameworks such as the European Union's Strategic Framework to Support the Security Sector Reform (2016), and the African Union's Policy Framework on Security Sector Reform (2013), all of which stress the importance of SSG/R for sustainable peace and development,
7. Reaffirming, as in the 2015 Helsinki Final Declaration and its Resolution on the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security (the Code) adopted in 1994, the importance of this Code as a normative key document for the democratic control of armed forces in democratic societies and the necessity to reinforce it as a fundamental principle of SSG/R,
8. Recalling the importance of effective democratic, and in particular parliamentary, control over the public and private security sectors, in accordance with the 2014 Baku Final Declaration's Resolution on the Democratic Control of the Public and Private Security Sectors,

9. Recalling United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000), which stresses the importance of ensuring increased representation of women at all decision-making levels in national, regional and international institutions,
10. Noting with satisfaction that the OSCE and its participating States have addressed the topic of SSG/R in the framework of a joint FSC–PC meeting and OSCE-wide Conferences, and that internal SSG/R guidelines have been adopted as well as an internal SSG/R focal point network put into place,
11. Recalling, as underlined by the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) mapping study on the Role of the OSCE in SSG/R of December 2013 (CIO.GAL/18/14), that the OSCE is to a large extent already engaged in supporting national SSG/R processes both at the normative and operational levels, but that an encompassing strategic framework is lacking, resulting in a scattered approach and a loss of sustainability and efficiency,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

12. Commends the OSCE Executive Structures for the progress made towards developing a more coherent and co-ordinated approach to SSG/R, with the OSCE Guidelines on SSG/R providing a good practical tool to this end, and welcomes progress in their implementation;
13. Reiterates the importance of taking a comprehensive and inclusive approach when supporting national reform efforts, by involving all relevant actors, including civil society, particularly with regard to exercising oversight;
14. Calls on the OSCE Executive Structures to increase their efforts towards the development of an OSCE-wide strategic approach to support nationally led SSG/R processes and to ensure that OSCE efforts are complementary to other initiatives at the international and regional levels, spearheaded by the work of the United Nations towards the implementation of UNSCR 2151, the Sustaining Peace Agenda, as well as the Sustainable Development Goals;
15. Stresses the importance of adopting a cross-dimensional, comprehensive, human rights-based and gender-responsive approach to SSG/R support, while taking into account regional and national sensitivities and engaging all participating States in a transparent manner, recognizing the key elements of national ownership and accountability;
16. Emphasizes the importance of adopting a gender-sensitive approach to adequately respond to the security needs of men, women, boys and girls, and of including women and their perspectives in all the stages of SSG/R, given the importance of having gender responsive security institutions and in recognition of the important role inclusive teams play in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, in particular because the inclusion of women and their perspectives in the security sector not only enhances legitimacy and local ownership, but also increases the long-term success of any reform;
17. Calls on OSCE participating States to ensure that SSG/R initiatives prioritize the prevention of sexual abuse and exploitation in armed conflict and post-conflict situations by delivering robust training on sexual abuse and exploitation to military, civilian and

police personnel, prosecuting perpetrators, and ensuring that survivors of sexual violence have equal protection under the law, access to justice, and access to healthcare and psychosocial support;

18. Encourages the OSCE to collaborate with the United Nations and other international and regional organizations active in supporting SSG/R with the aim of co-ordinating activities and initiatives, and invites the participating States to exchange information concerning their experiences in this domain;
19. Confirms its belief that security should be enhanced by the greater empowerment of women in related positions within civil society, policy analysis, government and international organizations, and by ensuring that they have a direct and concrete role in the policy-making process and intergovernmental dialogue;
20. Calls upon participating States to support this process with the necessary political ownership by engaging in an inclusive discussion on the development of a common understanding of SSG/R in the context of the OSCE among all participating States and by strategically addressing the topic in meetings of the OSCE's different political bodies, across all three OSCE dimensions, and to consider the adoption of a Ministerial Council Decision in this respect;
21. Further encourages the current and incoming OSCE Chairpersonships and the participating States to exploit their convening power to call upon the relevant actors to share their experiences at the regional and subregional levels;
22. Encourages the OSCE Secretary General to report on progress made by the OSCE in strengthening its approach to SSG/R support;
23. Underlines the role and responsibility of parliamentarians and parliamentary security commissions regarding the oversight of the security sector in participating States, and calls upon national parliamentarians to foster discussions on parliamentary oversight of the security sector at the national and regional levels;
24. Further emphasizes the importance of fully implementing and strengthening the norms and provisions of the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security as a prerequisite for successful and sustainable SSG/R processes;
25. Calls upon Members of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly to support efforts to enhance coherence and to develop an OSCE approach to SSG/R and to institutionalize the discussion on SSG/R at the level of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly by regularly setting an item related to SSG/R on the agenda of its General Committee on Political Affairs and Security;
26. Resolves to remain involved in discussions pertaining to SSG/R.



## RESOLUTION ON

### REAFFIRMING THE COMMITMENT TO AND GUARANTEES OF THE EFFECTIVE OPERATION OF THE OSCE

1. Having regard for the Helsinki Final Act of 1 August 1975, the Paris Summit of November 1990, the Istanbul Charter of 1999, the Astana Declaration of 2010 and the fundamental principles, as set out in the Decalogue, concerning political, military, economic, humanitarian and environmental co-operation on which the OSCE is based,
2. Having regard for the unique role and position of the OSCE in the dialogue between its 57 participating States and 11 Partners for Co-operation spanning three continents, as the only over-arching regional organization for security and co-operation of these countries besides the United Nations,
3. Acknowledging the growing tensions within and between OSCE participating States, for example the recent flare-up of the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh and the continuing stalemate and enduring violence in Eastern Ukraine,
4. Underscoring the fact that the respect shown for human rights and fundamental freedoms and the strength of democratic institutions and the rule of law in OSCE participating States is directly and unambiguously related to the respect shown by OSCE participating States for each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity and the strength of the peace, security and co-operation existing between them,
5. Welcoming the statement of 2 February 2018 by OSCE PA President George Tsereteli that stressed the need for continued international co-operation to resolve issues in the South Caucasus,
6. Concerned by the rising distrust between OSCE participating States, illustrated by the series of diplomatic expulsions following the poisoning of a former Soviet Union spy residing in the United Kingdom,
7. Referring to the growing reports about OSCE missions and offices whose work is boycotted or for which no consensus has been reached about funding, with the closure of the office in Yerevan in 2017 serving as an example,
8. Concerned by the strong evidence regarding the influencing of elections by digital means in recent elections in the OSCE region, as illustrated by the scandal concerning Cambridge Analytica, potentially weakening democratic principles and credibility,
9. Welcoming the report and resolution of the General Committee on Political Affairs and Security on Implementing OSCE Commitments: The Role of Parliaments being presented to the OSCE PA Annual Session in Berlin on 7–11 July 2018,
10. Concerned about the increasing abuse of the national sentiment of peoples by leaders who wish to consolidate their domestic position, as indicated in the report *Xenophobia, Discrimination and Aggressive Nationalism in Europe* by Dr. Valery Engel of the European Centre for the Development of Democracy of June 2015, with the concern that

for these countries, it may lead to international isolation and a diminished will to engage in international dialogue,

11. Worried about the consequences for the security of the personnel of OSCE missions, for which guidelines drawn up by the OSCE Permanent Council could not go far enough, due to steps taken by the delegation of a participating State with that Council, according to reports from the Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 1 May 2017,
12. Welcoming the condemnation by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the threats and intimidation of OSCE observers and even sexual harassment of a female observer in Ukraine by armed members of a separatist group near Donetsk on 5 May 2017; and regretting the continuing precarious situation for the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission, as evidenced by the incident on 2 February 2018, in which an OSCE patrol was shot at,
13. Underlining the positive results and the importance for supervision of and monitoring of a properly functioning OSCE constitutional State and democracy, as illustrated by the report *Fair Trial Rights during States of Conflict and Emergency* of the expert meeting organized by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) in Warsaw, Poland, on 27–28 October 2016 and the various *Legal Opinions and Comments* that ODIHR regularly issues on legislative initiatives by participating States that can have an influence on democratic principles,
14. Recognizing the precarious security situation in which OSCE observers are increasingly finding themselves, as witnessed last year by the death of an American paramedic from the OSCE's Special Monitoring Mission in Eastern Ukraine on 23 April 2017 in the Luhansk region,
15. Convinced that the OSCE's work, if it can take place without being obstructed, is that of a neutral player, which can oversee the implementation of and respect for treaties and agreements between various parties,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

16. Calls on the OSCE participating States:
  - a. To rally unambiguously behind the assumptions and principles of the Helsinki Final Act and the Paris Summit, the Istanbul Charter of 1999, the Astana Declaration of 2010 and the fundamental principles, as set out in the Decalogue, concerning political, military, economic, humanitarian and environmental co-operation on which the OSCE is based;
  - b. In the spirit of the Helsinki Final Act and the Paris Summit, to contribute constructive and workable ideas to strengthen the effectiveness of the OSCE;
  - c. to implement their OSCE commitments fully at home, and to hold each other accountable regularly and consistently for violations of commitments whenever and wherever they occur;
  - d. to support more fully the essential work of the OSCE Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media in defending freedom of expression and advocating the safety of journalists at this particular time, as well as ongoing work by various OSCE

- institutions and missions to combat human trafficking and violence against women or any other person based on their gender or sexual orientation;
- e. To continue to strive towards consensus about the operation and funding of OSCE missions, both permanent and temporary;
  - f. To guarantee permanently the security of observers, personnel, equipment and infrastructure of OSCE missions;
  - g. To continue to provide the necessary funding for good and effective operation of the existing OSCE missions, as well as to provide the financial scope for possible expansion of the number of OSCE missions;
  - h. To the extent possible and within the limits of the rules of international law, to give OSCE missions the most broadly interpreted powers and the greatest possible freedom of movement in order to carry out their missions in the safest and most satisfactory manner for all participating States;
  - i. To investigate under what conditions fixed contributions to OSCE can be increased and be prepared to increase voluntary contributions to OSCE;

17. Calls on the OSCE Secretariat:

- a. To examine to what extent the current resources provided by the participating States are sufficient to carry out the missions of OSCE effectively and efficiently;
- b. To devise a transparent and efficient funding method for OSCE missions with a view to submitting it to the OSCE participating States for implementation, and which provides an answer to the stalemate in which the current system of fixed and voluntary conditions finds itself;
- c. To study and evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of other funding options besides funding by participating States, such as funds, options for financial autonomy, etc.;
- d. to encourage OSCE election observers to report on illicit efforts by digital means to interfere in elections and weaken the credibility and acceptance of their results;
- e. To study options for adopting procedures other than by consensus in order to reach decisions acceptable to all parties if no consensus is reached, with a view to submission to and approval by the participating States.

**RESOLUTION ON**  
**STRENGTHENING THE VISIBILITY OF THE OSCE PARLIAMENTARY**  
**ASSEMBLY WITHIN THE NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS OF THE**  
**PARTICIPATING STATES**

1. Recalling the St. Petersburg Declaration of 1999 that stresses the crucial role parliaments and parliamentarians play as guardians of democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights at both the national and international levels,
2. Stressing that the debates held in the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly cover a wide range of problems and challenges that the countries in the OSCE area face,
3. Acknowledging the significant role the Members of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly play in acting as intermediaries between the national and international levels, between national parliaments and the OSCE bodies and institutions,
4. Emphasizing the particular importance that the national parliaments of OSCE participating States have for the implementation of OSCE commitments,
5. Noting that the impact and success of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly are closely related to the public resonance,
6. Acknowledging the efforts being made by the Members of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, the Heads and Secretariats of Delegations, as well as the International Secretariat of the Assembly, for increasing the visibility of the work of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly within national parliaments and in public,
7. Regretting that the decisions made by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly are often not reflected in the policy of OSCE participating States and the work of the Parliamentary Assembly is not sufficiently known within many national parliaments,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

8. Calls upon the delegates to discuss the Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and its results in a plenary session as well as in other parliamentary formats in the time period between September and November;
9. Calls upon its Members to exchange best practices in communicating the decisions taken by the Assembly to their national parliaments;
10. Encourages the delegations and their secretariats to make greater use of information and material prepared and provided by the International Secretariat for presenting the results of the Annual Session in the national parliaments;
11. Encourages the delegates to develop concepts for strengthening the visibility of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly within the national parliaments of OSCE participating States.

## RESOLUTION ON

### PROMOTING CONNECTIVITY IN THE OSCE AREA THROUGH DEVELOPMENT OF TRANSPORT LINKS AND CORRIDORS, INCLUDING BY REVITALIZING THE ANCIENT SILK ROAD

1. Reaffirming the relevance of, and full respect for, all OSCE norms, principles and commitments, which guide relations among OSCE participating States and form the basis for their co-operation,
2. Reaffirming the importance of the economic and environmental dimension in the OSCE concept of comprehensive security,
3. Recalling OSCE commitments in the economic and environmental spheres related to transportation and trade facilitation, in particular those contained in the Helsinki Final Act adopted in 1975, the Document of the Bonn Conference on Economic Co-operation in Europe adopted in 1990, the OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension adopted in Maastricht in 2003, the OSCE Border Security and Management Concept adopted in Ljubljana in 2005, Ministerial Council Decision No. 11/06 on Future Transport Dialogue in the OSCE adopted in Brussels in 2006, Ministerial Council Decision No. 11/11 on Strengthening Transport Dialogue in the OSCE adopted in Vilnius in 2011, Ministerial Council Decision No. 4/16 on Strengthening Good Governance and Promoting Connectivity adopted in Hamburg in 2016 and other relevant OSCE documents, which provide a useful framework for co-operation in the field of transport and trade,
4. Underlining that promoting connectivity through transport and trade facilitation, within the scope of the Hamburg Ministerial Council Decision on Strengthening Good Governance and Promoting Connectivity, is an important part of economic co-operation among OSCE participating States that will create better conditions for small and medium-sized enterprises, will generate jobs and contribute to diversification of economies, thus contributing to their economic and social development,
5. Welcoming the efforts of the German, Austrian and Italian OSCE Chairpersonships to reinvigorate the second dimension with particular focus on further development of connectivity among OSCE participating States and building partnerships for sustainable development,
6. Recognizing the importance of enhancing the mutually beneficial economic co-operation and trade ties through developing efficient and secure multimodal transport links and corridors along the East–West and North–South axes that will ensure free and secure movement of persons, goods, services and investments across borders, in conformity with relevant legal frameworks, international law and OSCE commitments,
7. Welcoming the efforts of OSCE participating States to promote the establishment of transport networks and logistics systems, including further development of Euro–Asian transport links and corridors, that will revitalize the ancient Silk Road,
8. Welcoming the efforts of relevant international organizations and interested parties aimed at creating compatible transit systems and facilitating cross-border transportation that will

improve, *inter alia*, reciprocal railway transport of passengers and goods between OSCE participating States and will contribute to efficient, secure and sustainable transportation and trade,

9. Recognizing the importance of promoting connectivity and development of transport links and corridors in the OSCE area at the parliamentary level, and emphasizing, in this regard, the role of the parliaments of OSCE participating States both at national and international levels,
10. Considering the growing international interest to the Silk Road Economic Belt and other initiatives aimed at boosting connectivity, as well as potential benefits from the implementation of these initiatives for the OSCE region,
11. Emphasizing that the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly can support, strengthen and complement existing initiatives in the field of sustainable transport development in the OSCE area by providing a relevant platform for dialogue on broader transport-related issues,
12. Welcoming in this regard the establishment of the Silk Road Support Group within the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly,
13. Underlining that development of transportation links, including passenger transport among OSCE participating States, will contribute to the development of tourism, strengthen cultural ties and people-to-people contacts and will thus promote intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

14. Encourages further development of mutually beneficial economic ties and stronger partnerships between OSCE participating States with particular attention to the development of multimodal transport links and corridors;
15. Calls upon OSCE participating States to promote and facilitate public–private dialogue with regard to transportation issues and to encourage their private sectors to explore possibilities for carrying out projects of common interest with their counterparts in other OSCE participating States in the fields of transport and trade;
16. Stresses the importance of further development and early completion of infrastructure projects;
17. Calls upon OSCE participating States to exchange their experiences and best practices to create and maintain sustainable, secure, integrated and uninterrupted transportation links;
18. Calls upon the Members of the Assembly to adopt relevant motions in their respective Parliaments in support of promoting connectivity and development of transport links and corridors in the OSCE area, and, in particular, supporting the revitalization of the ancient Silk Road;
19. Encourages Members of the Assembly to actively participate in promoting dialogue on transport-related issues, including in the informal groups;

20. Calls upon the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly to extend support to the Silk Road Support Group;
21. Encourages OSCE participating States to build partnerships with relevant international partners, which focus on development of Euro–Asian transport links.

## RESOLUTION ON

### A SHARED PRIORITY: FOSTERING PEACE AND SECURITY THROUGH ENABLING YOUNG PEOPLE TO REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL

1. Recognizing that 50 per cent of the world's population is under 30 years of age and that 38 per cent of the OSCE's population is likewise aged under 30 years,
2. Acknowledging that despite there being varying definitions of youth and the age of legal majority among OSCE participating States, youth involves a critical transition between childhood and adulthood,
3. Asserting that young people are the backbone of society: they provide leadership to children through their actions, motivate and inspire adults, support and sustain a country's economy and social services, and are the future leaders who will change society's outlook and remedy the shortcomings of previous leaders; therefore, young people are integral to building sustainable peace, preventing conflict, countering extremism and solving the world's challenges,
4. Recalling the Helsinki Final Act and other relevant OSCE decisions aimed at asserting, protecting and promoting citizens' rights as well as the Supplement to the United Nations World Programme of Action for Youth, the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the United Nations Resolutions on Policies and Programmes involving Youth,
5. Stressing the need to acknowledge the different roles that young people play in working for and achieving sustainable peace, freedom and security, which include being victims, bystanders or perpetrators of discrimination, hate speech, violence, sexual exploitation, radicalization and terrorism, as well as being protagonists in the promotion of equity, inclusion, diversity, tolerance and peace; consequently, to proactively involve youth and address their well-being in community, regional, national and international efforts aimed at achieving sustainable peace, freedom, security and human personal and social development,
6. Acknowledging that the needs, concerns and interests of young people must be addressed in a comprehensive manner to engage young people in all spheres of life and of the community, so that young people will be involved, supported, and empowered to develop into resilient, independent, healthy adults with a civic commitment,
7. Further emphasizing that lack of economic and environmental sustainability, political instability and armed conflict decrease young people's psychological, social and physical dignity and well-being, since they adversely affect young people's access to housing, education and healthcare while placing them at increased risk of being trafficked, taken as hostages and forced to become soldiers, and of falling victim to sexual violence and exploitation,
8. Noting with concern the soaring youth unemployment in the Middle East and North African region and its multiplier effect on existing security challenges, and stressing the need to provide greater support to countries in the region in their efforts to transition towards sustainable growth, which will benefit economic development and job creation,



9. Mindful of the fact that a proportion of young people need to be further motivated and empowered to access and complete education and training programmes, seek and hold adequately remunerated employment, and actively, positively and successfully participate in the civic, economic, social and political development of their communities by exercising their leadership qualities and engaging with all democratic processes, including voting and contesting elections,
10. Concerned at bias, intolerance, discrimination and the violence associated therewith, often directed towards young people, particularly those who are marginalized or vulnerable, which has permeated into places that should provide safe and healthy environments for young people, such as families, neighbourhoods, schools, youth clubs, sports organizations, and online forums,
11. Concerned at the high proportion of young people, particularly those belonging to minorities, who are at risk of poverty, insecurity and social exclusion, which negatively impact their well-being, health, equality and ability to exercise their right to start a family, and encourage engagement in criminal activity,
12. Concerned at the lack of education on human rights and the shortage of comprehensive, integrated and evidence-based educational and support policies, programmes or strategies for overcoming such challenges and that many projects aimed at young people lack sustainable resources, which hinder their long-term strategic implementation,
13. Inspired and encouraged by the dedication and impact of young people who work towards social inclusion and cohesion, peace and security, and by increased opportunities provided to youth by globalization, transport, technology and innovation,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

14. Reaffirms the Supplement to the World Programme of Action for Youth and calls upon OSCE participating States to continue implementing it as a unified set of guiding principles for policies and programmes involving young people at the national, regional and international levels;
15. Calls upon OSCE participating States to give high priority to young people and their agendas;
16. Encourages OSCE participating States to undertake research on youth-specific issues to measure progress towards the implementation and monitoring of the United Nations World Programme of Action for Youth;
17. Urges the establishment of a forum of young parliamentarians, which takes a leading role in conflict resolution and diplomacy and, in so doing, strengthens democracies and fosters peace, security and mutual trust between OSCE participating States;
18. Underlines the importance of offering young people educational, training, career guidance, housing, family support and health and wellbeing programmes, which will enable them to reduce their risk of poverty and social exclusion, reach their potential, fulfil their personal development goals and have good lifestyle prospects;

19. Urges OSCE participating States to continually develop, evaluate and improve youth strategies and services in order to ensure that all young people have access to environments in which they can enjoy safety, friendship and appreciation, as well as access to comprehensive services which meet their short- and long-term needs;
20. Encourages the enhancement of international co-operation on matters relating to young people, including political dialogue as well as capacity-building and sharing of best practice among youth professionals and youth leaders, both of which are carried out with a view to ensuring the implementation of international agreements on youth and supporting young people to transition from minors into responsible adults who reach full employment and social integration and who promote and lead crisis reduction, conflict resolution and peace-building efforts;
21. Encourages OSCE participating States to continue to develop programmes aimed at supporting young people who are experiencing or have experienced economic depression, environmental crisis or armed conflict, with a view to helping them overcome trauma, regain access to education, healthcare and other services, enhance their talents and support them to engage in meaningful and fulfilling activity;
22. Urges OSCE participating States to identify, reassess, safeguard, monitor and enhance all their youth policies, education and outreach efforts, and participatory decision-making initiatives to continually develop innovative strategies which sensitize young people on matters relating to human rights and democratization, including such initiatives as giving young people a voice through listening to, engaging with and empowering young people and youth organizations, and reducing the voting age, so that OSCE participating States will enable young people to participate in the art and science of politics, cherish, protect and promote their own rights as well as the rights of others and actively contribute to the development and implementation of all agendas, policies and laws while upholding democratic principles and public standards;
23. Urges OSCE participating States to continue to develop strategies to encourage the provision of affordable career guidance, academic and vocational training aimed at nurturing young people's key competences, including e-literacy and linguistic communication, as well as their skills in leadership, critical thinking, mediation, negotiation, diplomacy, conflict resolution and minimizing employment skills mismatches;
24. Urges OSCE participating States to continue to develop evidence-based policies and programmes aimed at eliminating young people's involvement in crime, developing age-appropriate judicial systems, rehabilitation services and reintegration programmes which include continuing education and vocational training;
25. Urges OSCE participating States to address unemployment, underemployment, vulnerable employment, informal employment and those not in education, employment or training (NEETs) by working with civil society and the private sector to support school-to-work transitions and to develop and implement targeted and integrated youth employment policies which promote inclusive, sustainable and innovative job creation, thus improving the chances of integrating young people into labour markets, self-

employment, entrepreneurship and participation in co-operatives and other forms of social, economic or financial enterprises;

26. Urges OSCE participating States to engage in advocacy, thought leadership and outreach initiatives to instil in young people a sense of belonging, ownership and civic pride, with a view to encouraging them to bring about positive change in their communities, as well as at regional, national or international levels;
27. Encourages OSCE participating States to allocate or continue to allocate long-term, sustainable resources to youth-led organizations and networks, formal and informal youth groups, and individual youth initiatives, such as through the setting up of a national youth agency;
28. Urges OSCE participating States to sustain youth-led international platforms with the objective of ensuring that OSCE participating States are committed to a future that guarantees human dignity, freedom, justice, embraces true solidarity and invests in everlasting peace and security.

**RESOLUTION ON**  
**PROMOTION OF THE DIGITAL ECONOMY IN THE INTERESTS OF**  
**ECONOMIC GROWTH IN THE OSCE AREA**

1. Noting the relevance of the intellectualization of the economy in the OSCE region for contributing to sustainable development through a balanced strengthening of its economic, social and environmental components,
2. Bearing in mind that the OSCE provides a platform for dialogue and consultations on expanding interaction in the areas of the economy, digital and transport infrastructure, the convergence of standards and procedures for accelerating trade flows, and the development of logistics services,
3. Welcoming the realization of the transit potential of OSCE participating States, the promotion of existing logistics routes and the creation of new ones,
4. Aware that the introduction of digital technologies and the creation of digital transport corridors play an important role in ensuring barrier-free cross-border trade and the synergetic development of the digital and transport infrastructure and contribute to the expansion of trade and economic co-operation,
5. Stressing the need to continue research and improve the system of information exchange, record-keeping and document circulation on the basis of international standards and norms in order to harmonize digital markets,
6. Bearing in mind the priority areas in ongoing OSCE activities aimed at achieving economic progress and ensuring security through the use of innovations and human capital,
7. Noting with satisfaction the work of the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities in organizing the 1st Preparatory Meeting of the 26th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum on 22 and 23 January 2018 in Vienna, and welcoming the extensive discussions that took place during the meeting on the topic of the “Digital economy as a driver for growth and connectivity”,
8. Recognizing that regional and subregional integration and co-operation processes and relevant agreements can give a powerful impetus to trade growth and innovative development in the OSCE region and in OSCE participating States,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

9. Welcomes the promotion of the digital economy in the interests of economic growth in the OSCE area in order to best contribute to the adaptation of OSCE participating States to new economic realities;
10. Notes the importance of taking timely, co-ordinated decisions for introducing information technologies, including through interaction in trade and in the economic, banking, financial, information, sociocultural and other spheres;

11. Supports all measures aimed at taking into account the interests of all OSCE participating States in the area of barrier-free access to data sets and modern information technologies and solutions in order to narrow the digital divide;
12. Calls upon OSCE participating States and the OSCE executive structures to increase their interaction with States, international and regional organizations and financial institutions in order to provide financial, technical, advisory and other assistance for the promotion and development of the digital economy, noting the importance of the transparency of such interaction;
13. Calls upon OSCE participating States and their national parliaments to contribute to the creation of the requisite legal framework for the mutual recognition of data processing and protection standards, as well as the interaction of national regulators in the field of digital technologies;
14. Stresses the need for OSCE participating States to assist in making active use of the latest communication tools and distributed registry technologies for the development of electronic international trade, including cross-border electronic and payment services, compatible paperless trading systems and electronic trading platforms;
15. Calls for the harmonization of trade-related standards, the conversion of procedures and services into digital format and support for innovations along the major transport corridors;
16. Stresses the importance of creating a favourable business environment in OSCE participating States as an important precondition for the digital transformation of the economy;
17. Calls upon OSCE participating States to elaborate mechanisms to ensure confidence in electronic messages (documents) in transboundary electronic interaction;
18. Calls for the organization of productive and mutually beneficial co-operation in the educational sphere for the training and retraining of the specialists needed in the digital economy;
19. Stresses the importance of developing the digital economy in order to protect the environment and reduce the size of the resource-oriented economy by introducing promising new technologies;
20. Stresses the need for a balanced regulation of the labour market that takes into account digital transformation processes;
21. Draws attention to the importance of action to prepare people for life in the digital economy and to make the telecommunications infrastructure more accessible;
22. Calls upon OSCE participating States to develop common standards in response to the new challenges posed by digitalization, in particular for the legal protection of personal data, including in the case of their cross-border transfer, as an indispensable condition for guaranteeing respect for the rights and interests of the individual; legislative attention should also be given to the impact of new technologies on the environment;

23. Considers that fostering compatibility and complementarity between different integration processes in Europe helps promote trade, innovation and economic development;
24. Welcomes efforts to co-ordinate the policies and actions of the OSCE and other international organizations aimed at supporting the development of innovations and digital technologies as an important factor in ensuring economic growth, social progress and better government;
25. Invites OSCE participating States to use the OSCE platform to encourage the exchange of best practices and capacity-building initiatives in accordance with the provisions of this resolution.

**RESOLUTION ON**  
**CONNECTIVITY AND ALIGNMENT OF INTEGRATION PROCESSES**  
**IN THE OSCE AREA**

1. Reaffirming the conviction that efforts by OSCE participating States to develop co-operation in the fields of trade, industry, science and technology, energy, transport, investment, the environment and other areas of economic activity contribute to confidence-building and the reinforcement of peace and security in the OSCE area and in the world as a whole,
2. Reaffirming the determination to advance the strategic goal, proclaimed at the 2010 OSCE Summit in Astana, of forming a free, democratic, common and indivisible Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community free of dividing lines, conflicts, spheres of influence and zones with different levels of security,
3. Emphasizing the special importance and relevance of the Platform for Co-operative Security adopted at the 1999 OSCE Summit in Istanbul,
4. Taking into account Decision No. 4/16 “Strengthening Good Governance and Promoting Connectivity” adopted by the OSCE Ministerial Council at its 23rd meeting in Hamburg, Germany,
5. Recognizing that global economic challenges and growing worldwide economic interdependence call for more effective joint efforts to resolve major world economic problems, and emphasizing the need for stable and equitable international economic relations, which would contribute to the long-term, diversified economic development of all countries,
6. Reaffirming the need to develop and enhance interaction between integration processes and arrangements in the OSCE area, and noting, in particular, the role that the Organization could play as a platform for dialogue between OSCE participating States and their integration arrangements,
7. Reaffirming that economic co-operation and connectivity in the OSCE area should be based on principles of solidarity, transparency, equal and non-discriminatory partnership and full respect for the interests of all OSCE participating States,
8. Conscious of the growing role of international trade as one of the most important factors in economic growth and social progress,
9. Recognizing that regional and subregional integration processes and agreements can give a powerful impetus to trade and economic development in the OSCE area and OSCE participating States,
10. Reaffirming that co-operation between OSCE participating States as well as between the regional and international organizations of which they are members is one of the most important ways of strengthening security and stability and preventing possible conflicts in the OSCE area,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

11. Expresses concern over lack of progress on achieving the strategic goal, set by the 2010 OSCE Summit in Astana, of forming a free, democratic, common and indivisible Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community;
12. Reaffirms the need for efforts to promote connectivity and to align integration processes in the OSCE area with a view to enhancing economic co-operation, building trust among OSCE participating States and their integration arrangements and creating conditions for forming a common economic space from Vancouver to Vladivostok;
13. Calls for a more active use in this connection of the potential of the OSCE as a forum for establishing an equal and mutually respectful dialogue between international and regional organizations and integration arrangements in order to promote economic connectivity, remove barriers in various areas of economic co-operation and ensure sustainable economic growth, social progress and better living conditions for citizens of OSCE participating States;
14. Calls in addition for practical co-operation and partnerships between the OSCE and other international and regional organizations and integration arrangements to be strengthened and developed;
15. Invites OSCE participating States to take additional measures aimed at the facilitation of mutual trade and the development of multimodal international transport corridors, including the construction of the requisite transboundary transport infrastructure and harmonization of customs procedures, based on equal partnership and without prejudice to one another's interests, and to continue to assist one another to speed up the integration of the economies of OSCE participating States into the global economic and financial system;
16. Emphasizes the need for more active involvement of the OSCE Mediterranean and Asian Partners for Co-operation in efforts to promote economic connectivity, including with a view to providing a joint response to common challenges relating to transnational threats and the migration crisis in Europe;
17. Urges the Chairperson-in-Office, the OSCE Troika, its executive structures and participating States to intensify dialogue on these issues, including by organizing thematic meetings and forums at political and expert levels with the participation of leaders and representatives of relevant integration arrangements;
18. Tasks the International Secretariat of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly with elaborating and presenting proposals for holding a pilot pan-European parliamentary forum for representatives of parliamentary bodies of international and regional organizations and integration arrangements to discuss key issues of co-operation in the areas of the economy and the environment, as well as prospects for the promotion of economic connectivity and the alignment of integration processes.



## RESOLUTION ON

### RESPONSE TO DEMOGRAPHIC CHALLENGES IN THE OSCE AREA

1. Considering that OSCE participating States are undergoing a demographic transition characterized by a marked drop in birth rates, the speedy ageing of their societies, and a tendency for the population to concentrate in urban centres,
2. Bearing in mind that this demographic change presents major repercussions for the economic system, the labour market, the pension and social protection system, public health, territorial balance and the environment of the entire OSCE area,
3. Underlining that it is essential to respond adequately to this demographic challenge in order to maintain economic growth, social welfare systems and the dynamic nature of our societies,
4. Observing that this demographic transition affects all OSCE countries but does so in different ways and with varying intensity; thus, according to the projections, there are OSCE countries and areas that still maintain strong demographic growth, while others are in clear decline,
5. Highlighting the fact that the European Union will see its population fall in the decades ahead, after discounting the migration factor, from the current 507 million inhabitants to 461 million inhabitants by 2060, and observing that in this scenario, only eight countries (Ireland, Sweden, France, the United Kingdom, Cyprus, Luxembourg, Denmark and Finland) would see a positive trend,
6. Underlining that if forecasted immigration is included, the trend would be positive with an increase of 3.2 per cent in the population over this same period according to Eurostat, and that the average age will be close to 50 years old, up from the current 42.7 years, which would cause the dependency rate, i.e., the ratio between people working and dependent individuals, to rise from 53 at present to 62 or 91 depending on the different scenarios,
7. Considering that the Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia) would see a reduction of 12 per cent from their current population by around 2060, that this might be more than 30 per cent if current migratory trends continue, and that the forecast is for the mean age to grow from 39 to 53 years of age and for the proportion of the population over 65 to double,
8. Observing that Eastern Europe (Belarus, Moldova, the Russian Federation and Ukraine) would in turn see a drop of 18 per cent in population over this period, a drop that might be as little as 10 per cent if immigration is taken into account, indicating that the mean age will grow from 39 to 46 years of age and the population over 65 will grow from 14 to 28 per cent of the total,

9. Highlighting that Turkey is the OECD country forecasting the largest demographic growth of approximately 23 per cent over the coming three decades, and that the mean age of its population will grow from 39 to 44.5 years of age, and the percentage of the total population over 25 will grow from 8 to 23,
10. Foreseeing a significant increase in population by 2060 in Central and Trans-Caucasian Asia (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan) of as much as 34 per cent although it might moderate to 23 per cent with the forecast emigration, which shows that the mean age will grow from 28 to 40 years of age and the elderly population will triple,
11. Emphasizing that the expected progression in North America is for a stabilization in population numbers in the United States of America over the decades ahead (unless we consider the foreseeable flows) and a fall of 30 per cent in the case of Canada; nonetheless, the effect of immigration might result in an overall increase of more than 30 per cent in the population of both countries; however, the dependency rate will grow from 20 per cent in the United States of America to around 45 per cent and that of Canada will rise above 50 per cent,
12. Considering that there is a widespread tendency towards ageing populations in all OSCE participating States and also an organic decrease (excluding immigration) in the population of all the participating States except Turkey and Central Asia, and this trend towards greater urbanization of societies with the exodus from the rural world to the main cities and rural depopulation will continue over the coming decades,
13. Noting that the ageing process will in turn trigger a drastic reduction in the infant and juvenile population, population losses in many countries and a scarcity of qualified labour,
14. Underscoring that on the contrary, the significant increase in the population in other areas of the world, particularly in Africa, but also in major areas of Asia and Latin America, will foreseeably increase the migratory pressure on many countries in the OSCE area,
15. Stressing that the concentration of the population in large urban centres is in turn causing difficulties such as the depopulation of many regions, generating deficits in public services, increasing territorial imbalances, environmental risks, the abandonment of both material and immaterial cultural heritage, and problems of law and order,
16. Noting that these demographic changes are having a particular impact on environmental sustainability as the depopulation of rural areas and urban concentration is affecting ecosystems, the conservation of nature and the use of natural resources,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

17. Requests for all of these reasons that the demographic issue be included as a key element in consideration of the economic and social development of the entire area as it is necessary for the OSCE to be able to develop a Demographic Change Strategy as a useful guide for participating States;

18. Invites OSCE participating States to develop family support policies, whether of a tax nature or facilitating a balance between working life and family life, in such a way that maternity or paternity does not imply unbearable burdens, and requests that, in those countries with lower birth rates, effective measures be used to encourage births;
19. Encourages policies that support women, particularly in rural areas and especially mothers, in order to reduce their invisibility in the labour market, foster their employability, training and education, the recognition of their role in the family, the defence of their rights, the possibility of making motherhood compatible with a professional activity and the return to work of young mothers by facilitating the care of young children throughout the day;
20. Encourages the application of measures aimed at retaining young people in the countryside by ensuring handovers from one generation to another, entrepreneurship, self-employment, the social inclusion of immigrants, rural development and the search for new opportunities such as the so-called green economy;
21. Requests the adaptation of social services for ageing populations, with the adoption of the measures necessary to ensure the feasibility of public pension systems, promote adequate healthcare for the elderly, increase the number of places available for the care of dependent elderly individuals and the development of initiatives to combat the loneliness of those who live alone;
22. Encourages the support of the so-called grey economy by boosting those goods and services aimed particularly at retirees and taking advantage of the new opportunities offered by the changing demographics;
23. Calls for the development by OSCE participating States of a migration policy based on the principles of legality and full respect for human rights that will enable the demographic trends within the OSCE to become balanced in the short term and reduce the negative effects of that trend, and furnish the labour force required in the most developed economies by creating job opportunities for those who have no expectation of employment in their own countries;
24. Urges the exchange of good practices and experiences so that the national, regional and local authorities of the OSCE participating States, as well as civil society, can learn from each other about how to deal with this major challenge and forestall the negative consequences of demographic change;
25. Encourages investment in areas suffering particularly from ageing and depopulation in order to improve their infrastructure, transportation and telecommunications, and reduce the so-called digital gap and provide high-quality public services on an equal footing with urban settings;
26. Underlines the importance of support for those territories with less dynamic demographic trends through public and private investment in energy, transport, education, small and medium-sized companies and research in order to drive their social and economic development;

27. Highlights the importance of innovative co-operation strategies to enable the compatibility of mutually sustainable urban and rural development;
28. Emphasizes the need to boost education and training and encourage the employability of young people, especially that of women;
29. Highlights the importance of technological innovation and development as the best way to increase productivity, push economic growth, and ensure the sustainability of social welfare systems;
30. Calls for the implementation of new electronic health systems and remote medicine systems in order to enable high-quality specialist services to reach the most remote or particularly depopulated areas;
31. Supports the development of innovative social projects by local organizations, as well as projects encouraging interregional and even cross-border co-operation;
32. Calls for development co-operation policies on educational matters to bring about an improvement in the qualification of young people in less developed countries and a more balanced demographic transition.

**RESOLUTION ON**  
**IMPLEMENTING TRAFFICKING-FREE COMMUNITIES**

1. Recalling the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly resolutions on human trafficking adopted by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in St. Petersburg (1999), Brussels (2006), Oslo (2010), Belgrade (2011), Monaco (2012), Istanbul (2013), Baku (2014), Helsinki (2015), Tblisi (2016) and Minsk (2017), and all OSCE commitments related to combating human trafficking, as well as efforts by participating States to implement the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings (2003 and 2005), and the Addendum to the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings (2013),
2. Recalling the OSCE Sofia Ministerial Council Decision on The Special Needs for Child Victims of Trafficking for Protection and Assistance (2004), the OSCE Brussels Ministerial Council Decision on Combating Sexual Exploitation of Children (2006), the OSCE Madrid Ministerial Decision on Combating Sexual Exploitation of Children on the Internet (2007), the OSCE Vienna Ministerial Decision on Strengthening Efforts to Prevent Trafficking in Human Beings (2017) and the OSCE Vienna Ministerial Decision on Strengthening Efforts to Combat All Forms of Child Trafficking, including for Sexual Exploitation, as well as Other Forms of Sexual Exploitation of Children,
3. Recalling the 2000 Palermo Protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,
4. Alarmed that, according to the latest worldwide research by the International Labour Organization, 16 million people are exploited in labour trafficking, 4.8 million people are exploited in sex trafficking, and 4 million are exploited in state-imposed trafficking, such as prison labour, forced military service, and forced communal service,
5. Concerned that women and girls account for 99 per cent of trafficking victims in the commercial sex industry and 58 per cent in labour trafficking,
6. Encouraged that communities which have taken a whole of community approach to fighting human trafficking – including simultaneous action by schools, police, non-governmental organizations, law enforcement, shelter services, businesses, houses of worship and the media – have seen a measurable reduction in human trafficking over the course of a year, particularly when they include demand reduction efforts,
7. Commending participating States that have established task forces that meet regularly in communities where trafficking is prevalent, bringing together government and civil society to fight human trafficking,
8. Concerned that traffickers target and groom school-age children for human trafficking, and that young people are often too willing to take risks “for a better life”,
9. Encouraged that Serbia, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, and other participating States have worked with NGOs such as A21, the Frederick Douglass Foundation, Love 146, and others to educate thousands of children about human trafficking risks,

10. Alarmed that classified advertising websites on the internet knowingly and recklessly profit from advertisements of exploited women and children,
11. Commending participating States that prioritize prosecution of classified advertising website owners who are complicit in trafficking, and participating States that also allow for victims of trafficking to sue the websites that advertised them for exploitation,
12. Encouraged that classified advertising websites in the United States of America that were previously working with traffickers shut down operations or changed their policies when victims of trafficking were enabled to sue the websites that advertised them for exploitation,
13. Encouraged that NGOs such as THORN have developed technology to aid law enforcement in identifying and collaborating on cross-jurisdictional trafficking cases of potential trafficking victims seen on the internet or dark web,
14. Commending the United Kingdom for its ongoing efforts to implement age verification technologies to prevent the exposure of children to pornographic websites, which increase children's vulnerability to human trafficking,
15. Concerned that while international tourism has doubled in the last 20 years to more than 1 billion travellers a year, child protection laws in destination countries have not kept pace with the growth of the tourism industry,
16. Commending participating States, such as the United States of America, Ukraine, Belarus, Finland, Hungary, Ireland, the United Kingdom, and Montenegro, that have worked with the travel and tourism industry, including hotels, train companies, and airlines, to prevent human trafficking,
17. Commending participating States, including the United States of America and the United Kingdom, that keep registers of individuals who have sexually offended against children and that use those registers to warn destination countries about intended travel by the known sex offenders,
18. Encouraged that the OSCE and many participating States are reviewing procurement contracts for goods and services and encouraging businesses to do the same in order to prevent human trafficking in supply chains,
19. Alarmed that a high number of women and girls exploited in many OSCE participating States are economically vulnerable migrants from other OSCE participating States, Africa and China who may not speak the local language or have a support system,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

20. Calls on OSCE participating States to continue to implement or to develop multisectoral efforts – encouraging joint task forces and simultaneous action by schools, police, non-governmental organizations, law enforcement, shelter services, businesses, houses of worship, and media – to create trafficking-free communities;

21. Calls on OSCE participating States to ensure that those who are likely to be in contact with trafficking victims – including school, airline, bus, train, taxi, judicial, and law enforcement employees – are trained to recognize and respond appropriately to trafficking victims;
22. Calls on OSCE participating States to prioritize demand reduction as part of an integrated strategy against trafficking in the OSCE region;
23. Calls on OSCE participating States to establish a unified trafficking hotline for use throughout the region by airline, train, bus and taxi employees who identify trafficking victims;
24. Calls on OSCE participating States to take measures to discourage the practice of sexual tourism by known sex offenders traveling between OSCE participating States as well as to destination countries outside the OSCE region;
25. Urges OSCE participating States to implement all previous commitments concerning trafficking in persons.

**RESOLUTION ON**  
**COUNTERACTING PROPAGANDA FOR HATRED AND WAR**  
**IN THE OSCE AREA**

1. Reaffirming the commitments by the participating States in the Helsinki Final Act of 1975 to promote a climate of confidence and respect amongst peoples consonant with their duty to refrain from propaganda for wars of aggression or for any threat or use of force inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations and with the Declaration on Principles Guiding Relations between participating States, against another participating State,
2. Recognizing that respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law is at the core of the OSCE comprehensive concept of security, and reaffirming its determination to implement the existing OSCE commitments in the fields of tolerance and non-discrimination, and freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief, and recalling other relevant international obligations in this respect,
3. Recalling that Article 20 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) states that any propaganda for war shall be prohibited by law and that any advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence shall be prohibited by law,
4. Reaffirming that freedom of expression, online and offline, is a fundamental human right and a basic component of a democratic society, and that independent and pluralistic media are essential to a free and open society and of particular importance in safeguarding human rights and fundamental freedoms, and stressing that a well-functioning, open, diverse and dynamic media environment can effectively neutralize the harmful effect of propaganda for hatred and war,
5. Recalling that everyone has the right to hold opinions without interference and the right to freedom of expression online and offline, and stressing that the exercise of these rights carries with it special duties and responsibilities, and that it may therefore be subject to certain restrictions, while recalling that any restriction in the exercise of these rights will be prescribed by law and in accordance with international standards,
6. Expressing deep concern over the persistence of conflicts in some parts of the OSCE area, and acknowledging that conflicts in the OSCE area are commonly fuelled by national and international campaigns for propaganda for hatred and war,
7. Stressing that OSCE participating States have an important role in preventing and countering propaganda for hatred and war while respecting their obligations under international law,
8. Gravely concerned by the attempts of some participating States to engage in campaigns of propaganda for hatred and war directly through their State-run media or by proxy,
9. Recognizing that propaganda for hatred and war often involves efforts to justify actions that contravene the principles of the Helsinki Final Act,



10. Acknowledging that free, pluralistic and independent media as well as free and independent journalism are essential to counteract propaganda for hatred and war,
11. Cognizant of the damage propaganda for hatred and war does to the integrity of independent journalism and to the public service function of the media, and also cognizant of the dangerous effect propaganda for hatred and war can have on a free and open society,
12. Recognizing the essential contribution the media can make in combating intolerance and discrimination, in promoting mutual respect and understanding, as well as in countering – or exacerbating – misperceptions and prejudices,
13. Recognizing that media literacy and free media are essential to counter propaganda for hatred and war,
14. Commending the work in this regard of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, including tabling of the non-paper “Propaganda and Freedom of the Media” for discussions among the participating States, and their efforts to promote regional co-operation and confidence-building between media and media actors,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

15. Condemns propaganda for wars of aggression and advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred as inconsistent with the purposes and principles of the Helsinki Final Act and OSCE commitments on tolerance and non-discrimination;
16. Calls on OSCE participating States to refrain from funding and using propaganda for hatred and war, especially when it may lead to intolerance and discrimination or incite war, violence or hostility;
17. Invites the governments of OSCE participating States, in close co-operation with civil society, to develop a broad set of policy measures to counter propaganda for hatred and war, including through raising awareness of disinformation and providing effective communication, in consistency with agreed OSCE principles and commitments;
18. Strongly recommends that OSCE participating States adopt measures in compliance with international law to prohibit by law any propaganda for hatred and war, and to speak out against any form of propaganda for hatred and war;
19. Calls on OSCE participating States to support the independent, sustainable and accessible activities of public service media with strong professional standards and editorial independence;
20. Recommends that OSCE participating States promote media literacy programmes, including for children and youth;
21. Invites OSCE participating States to take advantage of the expertise and professional advice that the Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media can offer in the field of counteracting propaganda for hatred and war, media self-regulation and

ethical standards of journalism, enabling media freedom and pluralism and unhindered development of new media technologies.

**RESOLUTION ON**  
**VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS**  
**IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

1. Reaffirming its determination to promote peace, security, stability and compliance with OSCE norms, principles and commitments in building a secure and stable community based on respect for human rights and the rule of law,
2. Recalling the right to equality and non-discrimination as fundamental principles of human rights, set out in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international rights treaties such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the European Convention on Human Rights,
3. Recalling that at the Istanbul OSCE Summit the participating States pledged to strengthen their efforts to combat corruption and the conditions that foster it, and to promote a positive framework for good government practices and public integrity by making better use of existing international instruments and assisting each other in the fight against corruption, and working with NGOs that are committed to a strong public and business consensus against corrupt practices,
4. Reaffirming the unquestionable value of the right to freedom of religion, as well as of the related rights to freedom of opinion and expression, assembly and association, enshrined in the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights,
5. Recognizing that a pluralistic and strong civil society is an essential part of a functioning democracy,
6. Regretting the decision by the Russian Supreme Court in April 2017 that banned the Jehovah's Witnesses organization, which has more than 100,000 worshippers in the Russian Federation,
7. Acknowledging that the full and equal exercise by women of their human rights, including the right to sexual and reproductive health, is essential to achieve more peaceful, prosperous and democratic development,
8. Recognizing an increased number of violent incidents mainly targeting women and girls in several regions of the world as reported by Amnesty International,
9. Commending with great appreciation the continuous grass-roots advocacy of women and human rights organizations in promoting the topic of gender and safety on the national political agenda of the Russian Federation,
10. Recalling the obligations on protection of national minorities contained in the United Nations conventions and declarations, in the Helsinki Final Act, OSCE Parliamentary Assembly resolutions and basic OSCE documents,
11. Commending with appreciation the valuable work done by the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities,

12. Convinced that the OSCE has a duty to promote a clear message in favour of respect and non-discrimination in order for all persons to live with dignity regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity,
13. Concerned at reports from Human Rights Watch on the persecution, torture and disappearance of LGBT people in Chechnya and the ongoing anti-gay crackdown campaign in the region,
14. Underlining the unique and vital role played by an independent media and investigative journalists in exposing corruption and thereby contributing to the strengthening of democratic society,
15. Recognizing that the authorities and others frequently target investigative journalists for harassment, administrative and judicial measures, including imprisonment, as well as violent attacks and murder because of their journalistic endeavours,
16. Concerned at the decision by the Russian authorities on 13 March to include two further organizations in the register of so-called “undesirable organizations” (the European Platform for Democratic Elections and the International Election Study Centre),
17. Concerned at the high number of people who are punished administratively by the Russian authorities for supposedly violating the country’s regulations on public gathering,
18. Regretting that on 12 June 2017 the police in Moscow and St. Petersburg arbitrarily and violently detained approximately 1,500 peaceful protesters, including children, as reported by Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International,
19. Recalling the joint recommendations of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Opinion and Expression, and the Organization of American States Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression that the criminalization of defamation should be abolished, public bodies should not be able to bring defamation actions, truth should always be available as a defence to a charge of defamation, and politicians and public officials should have to tolerate a greater degree of criticism,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

20. Calls on the Russian Federation to abide by its obligations to the United Nations:
  - a. To respect Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, declaring “All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights”;
  - b. To respect Article 2 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, declaring “Each State Party to the present Covenant undertakes to respect and to ensure to all individuals within its territory and subject to its jurisdiction the rights recognized in the present Covenant, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status”;

- c. To adopt laws against hate crimes to protect all people from violence, including those attacked because of their sexual orientation or gender identity;
21. Calls on the Russian Federation to abide by its obligations to the OSCE:
  - a. To respect the human dignity and equal rights of all its citizens by implementing to the fullest extent all OSCE commitments concerning human rights, fundamental freedoms, pluralistic democracy and the rule of law;
  - b. To welcome an OSCE Field Mission for the monitoring of and reporting on human rights in the Russian Federation, in order to support the development of human rights and civil society;
22. Calls on the Russian Federation to abide by its obligations to the Council of Europe:
  - a. To respect Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights by effectively investigating all attacks on and intimidation of human rights and civil society activists and stopping the spread of impunity for each action by bringing suspected perpetrators to justice;
  - b. To respect Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights concerning the treatment of prisoners;
  - c. To implement fair trial standards as guaranteed under Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights and in accordance with the relevant judgment of the European Court of Human Rights;
23. Encourages all OSCE participating States to mainstream human rights across all sectors of bilateral or multilateral relations with the Russian Federation;
24. Requests that the Russian Federation release unconditionally all human rights defenders and other persons detained for peacefully exercising their rights to freedom of expression, assembly and association;
25. Urges the authorities of the Russian Federation to undertake a new, full and thorough investigation into the February 2015 assassination of Boris Nemtsov, a leading Russian political figure and defender of democratic reform, including the vigorous prosecution of those who ordered or facilitated the crime, and to co-operate with the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in regard to their ongoing interest in this case;
26. Urges the Russian Federation to accept and implement laws in line with the World Health Organization's statement that homosexuality is neither a disorder nor a disease, that homosexuality is a natural and non-pathological variation of human sexuality and that sexual orientation cannot be changed;
27. Calls for the repeal of the Russian Federation law "for the Purpose of Protecting Children from Information Advocating for a Denial of Traditional Family Values" of 2013, which criminalizes so-called "propaganda of non-traditional sexual relationships" to minors, effectively forbidding the provision of information or education about "non-traditional" sexual orientations to anyone below the age of 18;

28. Encourages all OSCE participating States to promote and protect sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR) as part of human rights, including addressing gender inequalities and discrimination against women and girls;
29. Calls on the Russian Federation to repeal the law that decriminalizes domestic violence that does not cause serious harm leading to hospital treatment, or which is not reported more than once a year, because the law leaves victims of domestic violence, mostly women, more vulnerable to the escalation of abuse;
30. Calls on the Russian Federation to eliminate administrative and other impediments that hinder the ability of investigative journalists to undertake professional activities, and to respect fully the right of journalists not to disclose their sources of information;
31. Calls on the Russian Federation to repeal the 2015 law “On Amendments of Certain Legislative Acts of the Russian Federation” on “undesirable organizations”;
32. Calls on all OSCE participating States, their Members of Parliament and civil society to continue their contact and broaden and deepen their co-operation with Russian human rights organizations and other civil society actors, as well as other types of people-to-people co-operation;
33. Encourages OSCE participating States to increase funding to Russian human rights organizations and other civil society actors to support the development of civil society and human rights in the Russian Federation;
34. Urges the Russian Federation to repeal the 2012 law “On Amendments to Legislative Acts of the Russian Federation regarding the Regulation of the Activities of Non-profit Organizations Performing the Functions of a Foreign Agent”, the so-called “foreign agent” law, lift restrictions on foreign media ownership or the excessive use of “anti-extremism”, and withdraw regulations that restrict the exercise of fundamental freedoms and severely limit the space for civil society in the Russian Federation.

**RESOLUTION ON**  
**ONGOING VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL**  
**FREEDOMS IN THE AUTONOMOUS REPUBLIC OF CRIMEA**  
**AND THE CITY OF SEVASTOPOL (UKRAINE)**

1. Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and all OSCE norms, principles and commitments, starting from the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris, the Charter for European Security and all other OSCE documents to which all participating States have agreed, and the responsibility to implement them fully and in good faith,
2. Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, international human rights treaties and other relevant international instruments and declarations as well as the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and Additional Protocol I thereto, of 1977, as applicable, as well as relevant customary international law,
3. Recalling the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's Resolution on Clear, Gross and Uncorrected Violations of Helsinki Principles by the Russian Federation, adopted at its 23rd Annual Session in 2014, whereby, *inter alia*, the Assembly affirmed that the Russian Federation has, since February 2014, violated every one of the ten Helsinki principles in its relations with Ukraine, some in a clear, gross and thus far uncorrected manner, and is in violation of the commitments it undertook in the Budapest Memorandum, as well as other international obligations,
4. Mindful of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's Resolution on the Continuation of Clear, Gross and Uncorrected Violations of OSCE Commitments and International Norms by the Russian Federation, adopted at its 24th Annual Session in 2015, whereby, *inter alia*, the Assembly recognized the actions by the Russian Federation in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol as acts of military aggression against Ukraine and that under conditions of occupation, the situation in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, Ukraine, continues to deteriorate, leading to serious violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms,
5. Recalling the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's Resolution on Violations of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol, adopted at its 25th Annual Session in 2016, whereby, *inter alia*, the Assembly called upon the Russian Federation as an occupying Power in effective control of the Crimean peninsula to abide by its obligations under international law,
6. Recalling the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's Resolution on Restoration of the Sovereignty and Territorial Integrity of Ukraine, adopted at its 26th Annual Session in 2017, whereby, *inter alia*, the Assembly recognized an ongoing campaign of discrimination and persecution targeting in particular the Crimean Tatar and ethnic Ukrainian communities in the temporarily occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, as well as the unwillingness of the Russian Federation to grant unimpeded access to international human rights monitoring missions and human rights non-governmental organizations to the temporarily occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol,

7. Taking into account UN General Assembly Resolutions 71/205 of 19 December 2016 and 72/190 of 19 December 2017 on the Situation of Human Rights in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol (Ukraine),
8. Reaffirming strong support to the sovereignty, political independence, unity and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders as confirmed by UN General Assembly Resolution 68/262 of 27 March 2014 “Territorial integrity of Ukraine” and guided by its provisions,
9. Condemning the temporary occupation of part of the territory of Ukraine – the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol (hereinafter “Crimea”) – by the Russian Federation, and reaffirming the non-recognition of its attempted annexation,
10. Strongly condemning all violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Crimea, marked in particular by increasing repression, violence and discrimination against the Crimean Tatar indigenous people and ethnic Ukrainians, including abductions, killings, torture and ill-treatment, enforced disappearances and harassment, arbitrary arrest, detention or incarceration,
11. Reaffirming serious concern at the decision of the so-called Supreme Court of Crimea of 26 April 2016 and the decision of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation of 29 September 2016 to declare the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People, the self-governing body of the Crimean Tatars, to be an extremist organization and to ban its activities,
12. Condemning the increasing pressure exerted upon religious minority communities, including through frequent police raids, threats against and persecution of those belonging to the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the Kyiv Patriarchate, the Protestant Church, mosques and Muslim religious schools, Greek Catholics, Roman Catholics and Jehovah’s Witnesses, and also condemning the baseless prosecution of dozens of peaceful Muslims for allegedly belonging to Islamic organizations,
13. Taking note of the preliminary measures established on 19 April 2017 by the Order of the International Court of Justice in the case concerning the Application of the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Ukraine v. Russian Federation),
14. Reiterating that under international law the Russian Federation bears full responsibility for human rights violations in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, Ukraine, as an occupying power in effective control of the Crimean peninsula, and is obligated to respect, protect and fulfil the human rights and fundamental freedoms in Crimea in line with the international treaties to which the Russian Federation is party, as well as its commitments as an OSCE participating State to uphold those human rights and fundamental freedoms,
15. Recalling the prohibition under the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 for the occupying power to compel protected persons to serve in its armed or auxiliary forces, including through pressure or propaganda that is aimed at securing voluntary enlistment,



16. Reaffirming the need to secure full and effective enjoyment of the rights and freedoms enshrined in the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and other relevant international instruments, which obligate the Russian Federation as the occupying power with binding standards of conduct and positive obligations toward residents of Crimea,
17. Taking note of the continued efforts by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the United Nations and the Council of Europe aimed at monitoring and reporting on the human rights situation in Crimea, and expressing deep concern that their representatives and missions have all had their access to the Crimean peninsula fully or partially restricted by the occupying authorities since the beginning of the illegal occupation in February 2014,
18. Being alarmed by the findings of the independent reports of human rights missions on the situation in Crimea undertaken upon the request of the Ukrainian Government, including the joint missions of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM), as well as report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, which documented numerous compelling accounts of human rights violations in Crimea under the Russian Federation's illegal occupation,
19. Emphasizing the important role played by the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, including on monitoring and supporting respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, in line with the agreed mandate which covers the entire territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders, including Crimea,
20. Recalling that the right to a fair trial is guaranteed by each State, and attempts to use justice as a tool for political persecution undermines the credibility of the judicial system as a whole,
21. Welcoming the efforts of Ukraine to develop an international negotiation framework with regard to the de-occupation of Crimea and its return under the control of the Government of Ukraine in line with international law provisions,
22. Welcoming the support provided by Ukraine to media outlets and civil society organizations that have fled Crimea, which improves the ability of the media and civil society to work independently and without interference,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

23. Strongly condemns the illegal occupation by the Russian Federation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, Ukraine, and reiterates its call on the Russian Federation to reverse the attempted annexation;

24. Reiterates its call on the Russian Federation to stop aggression against Ukraine and to fully comply with its obligations under the UN Charter, the Helsinki Final Act and other norms and principles of international law, and the OSCE principles and commitments;
25. Condemns violations, abuses, measures and practices of discrimination against the residents of temporarily occupied Crimea, including Crimean Tatars, as well as Ukrainians and persons belonging to other ethnic and religious groups, by the Russian occupation authorities;
26. Also condemns the unlawful imposition of laws, jurisdiction and administration in occupied Crimea by the Russian Federation, and demands that the Russian Federation respect obligations under international law with regard to respecting the laws in force in Crimea prior to occupation;
27. Calls upon the Russian Federation:
  - a. to uphold all of its obligations under applicable international law as an occupying power in effective control of Crimea;
  - b. to restore enjoyment of the rights of all individuals, without any discrimination based on origin, religion or belief, and to revoke the decisions that banned cultural and religious institutions, NGOs, human rights organizations, media outlets, and to restore enjoyment of the rights of individuals belonging to ethnic communities in Crimea, in particular Ukrainians and Crimean Tatars, including to engage in cultural gatherings;
  - c. to halt the eradication of education in and of the Ukrainian language, restriction and suppression of cultural, religious and other manifestations of the Ukrainian identity and to ensure the availability of education in the Ukrainian and Crimean Tatar languages;
  - d. to revoke immediately the decision declaring the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People an extremist organization and banning its activities, repeal the decision banning leaders of the Mejlis from entering Crimea and refrain from maintaining or imposing limitations on the ability of the Crimean Tatar community to conserve its representative institutions, including the Mejlis and the Kurultai;
  - e. to create and maintain a safe and enabling environment for journalists, human rights defenders and defence lawyers to perform their work independently and without undue interference in Crimea;
  - f. to end the practice of compelling Crimean residents to serve in the armed or auxiliary forces of the Russian Federation, including through pressure or propaganda;
  - g. to stop persecution and illegal detention of all those residents of Crimea who oppose the illegal occupation of the peninsula;
  - h. to conduct prompt, impartial and effective investigations into all cases of human rights violations in Crimea, including the cases of torture, abductions and enforced disappearances;
  - i. to stop imposing the application of the Russia Federation's laws in occupied Crimea, as well as forced conferral of Russian citizenship to residents of Crimea in violation of international law as well as forcible deportation of Ukrainian citizens without Russian passports from Crimea;

- j. to refrain from transferring persons in detention or social care institutions, including children, to the Russian Federation and other territories under its control;
  - k. to release immediately and unconditionally Crimean activists Oleg Sentsov, Olexander Kolchenko, Oleksiy Cherniy, Remzi Memetov, Seyran Saliev, Volodymyr Balukh, Oleksandr Kostenko, Muslim Aliev, Emir Usein Kuku, Vadym Siruk, Arsen Dzheparov, Refat Alimov and other Ukrainian citizens, who have been unlawfully detained or imprisoned under the fabricated charges by the de facto authorities in occupied Crimea;
  - l. to put an end to all forms of intimidation, harassment, discrimination and persecution of religious communities in Crimea;
  - m. to ensure respect for all human rights, including of persons belonging to national minorities, in line with the relevant international standards;
  - n. to protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol in issues related to, *inter alia*, freedoms of peaceful assembly and association, freedoms of media and expression, access to information, freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief, freedom of movement, right of residence, citizenship, labour rights, property and land rights, access to health and education, and all other civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights;
  - o. to implement all recommendations contained in the reports of the OSCE ODIHR/HCNM human rights assessment missions;
  - p. to grant immediately unimpeded access to Crimea for international agencies, institutions, special procedures and independent experts of the OSCE, the United Nations and the Council of Europe, as well as for any human rights NGOs or media outlets that wish to visit, assess and report on the situation in Crimea;
  - q. to cease the policy of shifting the demographic composition of the population of Crimea by moving its own population from Russian territory to the peninsula;
28. Calls on the participating States and the OSCE executive structures to refrain from any action or dealing that might imply, directly or indirectly, recognition of the change of status of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol as an integral part of Ukraine;
29. Encourages continuous active engagement of the OSCE Chairpersonship, the OSCE Institutions, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the participating States in seeking observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms in occupied Crimean peninsula;
30. Supports the efforts of Ukraine to uphold economic, financial, political, social, informational, cultural and other ties with its citizens in the illegally occupied Crimea in order to facilitate their access to democratic processes, economic opportunities and objective information;
31. Expresses deep sympathy with the great number of people affected by the crisis in and around Ukraine, including internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees, as well as those living in the Russian Federation-occupied territories, and urges the OSCE participating States to assist the Ukrainian authorities in their efforts to ensure the rights and social protection of IDPs;

32. Urges the Russian Federation to abide fully by its international obligations and the OSCE principles and commitments, in particular the Helsinki Final Act, and to take practical steps to implement the OSCE PA resolutions On Clear, Gross and Uncorrected Violations of Helsinki Principles by the Russian Federation; On the Continuation of Clear, Gross and Uncorrected Violations of OSCE Commitments and International Norms by the Russian Federation; On Violations of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol; On Abducted and Illegally Detained Ukrainian Citizens in the Russian Federation as well as On Restoration of the Sovereignty and Territorial Integrity of Ukraine;
33. Calls upon the OSCE Chairpersonship and the participating States to take exhaustive measures to address clear, gross and continuing violations by the Russian Federation of the basic norms and principles of international law and the OSCE principles and commitments.