

## RESOLUTION ON

### THE ROLE OF NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS IN PREVENTING AND COMBATING CORRUPTION IN THE OSCE AREA<sup>1</sup>

1. Recognizing that corruption poses a significant threat to security, undermines democracy, diminishes the rule of law, erodes the legitimacy of institutions and the confidence of citizens, impedes social and economic development, discourages investment, facilitates international crime and contributes to human rights violations,
2. Bearing in mind that the OSCE takes a comprehensive approach to security and that anti-corruption efforts are an integral part of this comprehensive approach,
3. Recognizing that corruption is caused by the failure of political, economic and judicial systems to provide robust and independent oversight and accountability,
4. Deeply concerned about the lack of improvement in the OSCE region in regard to anti-corruption,
5. Stressing that corruption cannot be tackled without strong political commitment at the highest level, regardless of the existence, skill and willingness of national oversight and law enforcement bodies,
6. Recalling previous OSCE PA Declarations, which confirm the commitment of participating States to address corruption, including the OSCE PA 2018 Berlin Declaration, in which the OSCE participating States expressed their dedication to the prevention and elimination of corruption,
7. Recalling key international legal instruments and key commitments assumed by OSCE participating States,
8. Welcoming the establishment by the Italian OSCE Chair-in-Office of the post of Special Representative of the OSCE Chair-in-Office on Combating Corruption and the fact that the post has been maintained by the current Slovak OSCE Chair-in-Office,

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<sup>1</sup> Resolution on the Role of National Parliaments in Preventing and Combatting Corruption in the OSCE Area of the Luxembourg Declaration and Resolutions, adopted by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly at the 28th Annual Session, Luxembourg, 4-8 July 2019. <https://www.oscepa.org/documents/annual-sessions/2019-luxembourg/3882luxembourg-declaration-eng/file>

9. Stressing the shared responsibility of all members of parliament in OSCE participating States to combat corruption and encourage governments to increase their efforts in anti-corruption, focusing in particular on corruption of high-level public officials,
10. Acknowledging the special significance of preventing corruption within the judiciary, which is of vital importance for maintaining the rule of law,
11. Acknowledging that an independent media is particularly well placed to investigate, report and expose corruption, especially through investigative journalism, and that a diverse and pluralistic media landscape is conducive in this regard,
12. Emphasizing the need for effective access to public information,
13. Cognizant of the significance of active civil society participation,
14. Acknowledging that new technologies and methodologies, including blockchain, offer new opportunities to increase transparency and combat corruption,
15. Underlining the increased significance of transparency and accountability in efforts to address corruption,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

16. Stresses that corruption is one of the most urgent challenges for the OSCE participating States;
17. Emphasizes that anti-corruption work must be integrated into all OSCE projects;
18. Encourages parliaments of OSCE participating States to evaluate and further develop existing anti-corruption legislation and to ensure compliance with existing legislation;
19. Encourages parliaments of OSCE participating States to adopt legislative and other measures to criminalize bribery of foreign public officials and officials of public international organizations;
20. Recommends that national parliaments of OSCE participating States see to the ratification of relevant international instruments, where applicable;
21. Recommends that, in the context of parliamentary scrutiny, national parliaments see to the implementation of assumed commitments by their governments, as stemming from their participation in the OSCE, as well as in the context of their participation in the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the United Nations, where applicable;
22. Urges all OSCE participating States to ensure the safety of whistle-blowers, members of anti-corruption non-governmental organizations, members of parliament who engage in combating corruption, and investigative journalists, including by special protection enshrined in legislation;

23. Calls on OSCE participating States to release journalists detained for their work in exposing corruption;
24. Reiterates that members of parliament need to adhere to strict transparency and accountability standards themselves, and calls upon national parliaments of participating States to adopt prevention measures that include:
  - a. adopting legally binding codes of conduct for members of parliament;
  - b. addressing conflict of interest situations through appropriate legislation which embodies international standards;
  - c. ensuring transparency and accountability in political party funding;
  - d. regulating lobbying activities with the highest degree of transparency;
25. Calls upon national parliaments of participating States to ensure that the highest standards of transparency and accountability regarding the appointment and evaluation of members of the judiciary are guaranteed through relevant legislative action;
26. Recommends that the OSCE PA Bureau and International Secretariat provide all necessary support to interested participating States to fully implement their OSCE commitments in combating corruption, including by the preparation of specific guidelines and/or questionnaires that members of OSCE PA delegations can utilize vis-à-vis their governments and by making sure that the OSCE PA is routinely being informed about developments in the domain of combating corruption at the OSCE level;
27. Calls on members of national parliaments to be actively engaged within international forums, especially GRECO;
28. Stresses that, given the link between corruption and organized crime, members of parliament who engage in combating corruption should be afforded protection, in order to preserve their independence;
29. Encourages national parliaments to hold an annual, public debate in parliament on the state of play of anti-corruption policies;
30. Encourages the establishment of closer co-operation with GRECO, including by inviting officials to address OSCE PA meetings and sessions;
31. Calls upon participating States to strengthen the OSCE's mandate to upgrade co-operation between participating States in addressing corruption, including by mobilizing technical assistance, the necessary expertise and resources, as well as to support participating States and OSCE Partners for Co-operation in utilizing relevant regional and international instruments and institutions to combat corruption;
32. Urges subsequent OSCE Chairs-in-Office to maintain the post of Special Representative on Combating Corruption.