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# **ISTANBUL DECLARATION**

**AND**

**RESOLUTIONS**

**ADOPTED BY THE**

**OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY**

**AT THE TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL SESSION**

**ISTANBUL, 29 JUNE to 3 JULY 2013**

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## **PREAMBLE**

We, Parliamentarians of the OSCE participating States, have met in annual session in Istanbul on 29 June to 3 July 2013 as the Parliamentary dimension of the OSCE to assess developments and challenges relating to security and co-operation, in particular on Helsinki +40, 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.

## **HELSINKI +40**

### **CHAPTER I**

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

1. Reaffirming the commitment to the vision of a free, democratic, common and indivisible Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community stretching from Vancouver to Vladivostok,
2. Commemorating the adoption of the 1999 Charter for European Security at the Istanbul Summit, which made important progress on confidence- and security-building measures and arms control,
3. Recalling the Helsinki +40 process established in the OSCE Ministerial Council Decision in Dublin and welcoming this opportunity for renewed dialogue on important aspects of the future of the OSCE,
4. Considering the Helsinki +40 process to be an opportunity for the OSCE to reaffirm, at the highest level, the relevance of its founding principles pertaining to international law and the UN Charter and to more actively ensure participating States' full and equal implementation of these principles,
5. Underlining the need to proceed with the ongoing discussions and negotiations in order to update and modernize the 1999 Vienna Document,
6. Regretting the lack of progress in settling unresolved conflicts in the OSCE area,

7. Stressing the lack of progress in fully implementing OSCE, Council of Europe (CoE) and UN documents,
8. Stressing that the settlement of protracted conflicts in the OSCE area and the need to step up efforts in this regard in accordance with international law and OSCE principles constitutes an essential condition for achieving a security community as called for by the Astana Commemorative Declaration,
9. Expressing concern about the possible implications for the security situation in Central Asia of the forthcoming withdrawal of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) from Afghanistan,
10. Stressing that the Helsinki +40 process must be reinvigorated by making steady, year-by-year progress towards achieving its fundamental goals of building security in the OSCE region, in particular:
  - i. resolving conflicts,
  - ii. preventing conflicts
  - iii. securing long-term arms reduction and
  - iv. curtailing provocative or threatening military actions,
11. Welcoming, however, the role played by Central Asian participating States through enhanced co-operation, in particular through the Istanbul Process for a secure and stable Afghanistan, whose latest conference was held in April 2013 in Almaty, Kazakhstan,
12. Convinced that the OSCE can play a vital role thanks to its expertise, especially after the ISAF withdrawal, in helping to strengthen the rule of law, security and development and in combating corruption,
13. Concerned about the vulnerability of women in conflicts and post-conflict situations to human trafficking because they are likely to be affected by statelessness and reduced economic opportunities,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

14. Calls for clarification of the goals and purpose of the Helsinki +40 process by the OSCE Chairmanship, in co-operation with the next two chairmanships, whilst informing the public about the process to increase the level of interest and transparency;
15. Urges participating States to make use of the Helsinki +40 process to rebuild mutual trust and to combine informal diplomatic dialogue with political engagement from capitals to achieve an agreement on essential updates for the OSCE, and calls upon OSCE participating States to take advantage of this process at the political level to reach concrete decisions on an action plan to achieve an indivisible Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community stretching from Vancouver to Vladivostok in line with the Declaration on Principles Guiding Relations between participating States of the Helsinki Final Act of 1975;

16. In this connection, recommends that participating States incorporate ideas about reform of OSCE decision-making bodies, especially the ones listed in the OSCE PA 2005 Colloquium Report, in order to be better able to take the necessary decisions for action;
17. Reiterates the obligation of participating States to provide for democratic oversight of their armed, internal, paramilitary and intelligence forces as well as the police, to ensure that their armed forces remain politically neutral and to guarantee that international humanitarian law (the Geneva Conventions) is respected;
18. Calls upon OSCE participating States to recognize the importance of democratic control of armed and security forces and to implement better and develop further the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, a landmark document in security sector governance;
19. Calls on participating States to incorporate ideas about reform of OSCE institutions and instruments in order to guarantee full implementation of all OSCE documents;
20. Urges the OSCE Secretary General to fulfil the 2004 OSCE Gender Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality, which includes increased representation of women as heads and deputy heads of OSCE field missions as well as in the leadership of OSCE institutions;
21. Calls on the OSCE Permanent Council to incorporate the Assembly's input and ideas into the Helsinki +40 process and to consider the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly as the most direct link to the people of the OSCE region, as a partner in the process;
22. Calls on participating States to continue to monitor their implementation of OSCE commitments, in all three OSCE security dimensions, including political and military security and economic and environmental co-operation, and democracy and human rights, and stresses the important role of parliaments in this respect;
23. Welcomes the United Nations General Assembly's adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty, which seeks to bring transparency to the arms industry and thus ensure respect for international humanitarian law, and calls upon parliaments of OSCE participating States to take measures necessary to ratify the Treaty so that it can enter into force;
24. Stresses the OSCE role in supporting global efforts to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and related materials and, in particular, its contribution to facilitating the implementation in the OSCE area of UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) in close co-ordination with relevant UN structures;
25. Reiterates the need for further updating the Vienna Document in order to increase transparency and predictability, including lowering the thresholds at which States are

- obliged to inform each other of their military exercises, increasing opportunities for verification activity, modernizing and updating the exchange of military information, strengthening risk reduction mechanisms and enlarging the scope of confidence- and security-building measures;
26. Supports the OSCE FSC decisions to provide assistance with collection and destruction and improving stockpile management and security, and encourages participating States to further request OSCE assistance on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and ammunition;
  27. Stresses the importance of the OSCE Documents on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition, and of FSC Decision 15/02 committing participating States to ensure effective controls of SALW and ammunition;
  28. Calls for renewed negotiations on the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) Treaty, and urges all States parties to the Treaty to honour their CFE obligations;
  29. Urges OSCE participating States that are parties to the Open Skies Treaty to investigate ways of asset sharing in order to allow sufficient financial means for certification processes, training and aerial observation in order to contribute to the further development and strengthening of peace, stability and co-operative security;
  30. Recalls that the Open Skies Treaty is a unique measure of confidence, openness and transparency, and urges OSCE participating States that are parties to this Treaty to overcome as soon as possible the crisis concerning the work of the Open Skies Consultative Commission, which is detrimental to the functioning of this agreement;
  31. Welcomes the Open-Ended Working Group established by the United Nations General Assembly to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations, and the decision of the Inter- Parliamentary Union to focus in 2013-2014 on “Towards a nuclear-weapons-free world: The contribution of parliaments”, and calls on OSCE participating States and OSCE parliamentarians to make use of these two opportunities to advance multilateral negotiations to achieve a nuclear-weapons-free world;
  32. Stresses the need for the rigorous implementation of Vilnius Ministerial Council Decision 3/11, Elements of the Conflict Cycle, which would allow the OSCE to enhance its capabilities in early warning, early action, dialogue facilitation, mediation support and post-conflict rehabilitation;
  33. Calls for intensified political efforts towards generating a peaceful and viable solution to the unresolved conflicts, urges the OSCE Chairmanship and parties to the conflicts to redouble efforts to find solutions to the tragic protracted conflicts in the Caucasus and the Republic of Moldova, calls on participating parties to ensure the beginning of the process of de-occupation of the territories of Georgia and recommends agreeing on mechanisms for the safe and dignified return of all internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali region;

34. Recalls United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security and urges participating States to continue promoting the active participation of women during all phases of the conflict cycle;
35. In this connection, reiterates its recommendation to re-establish a meaningful OSCE presence in Georgia, to maintain the OSCE Office in Baku and to strengthen the OSCE Office in Yerevan and the OSCE Mission in the Republic of Moldova;
36. Stresses in general the important role of OSCE field operations in areas related to all three OSCE dimensions, calls for this to be reflected in the political mandates of OSCE field operations and, in this regard, reiterates the need for the re-establishment of the OSCE presence in Belarus;
37. Calls on the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs to continue their engagement with Armenia and Azerbaijan to seek solutions to the conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh;
38. Supports the Geneva International Discussions for finding solutions to the consequences of the 2008 war in Georgia, welcomes the decrease of security-related incidents and the work of the Ergneti Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism, encourages the resumption of the activities of the Gali Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism and urges the OSCE to continue its work on confidence- and security-building measures in Georgia, including through increased engagement with civil society;
39. Supports the principles of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-violability of internationally recognized borders of participating States;
40. Urges an immediate implementation of the 2010 OSCE PA Oslo and 2012 OSCE PA Monaco Declarations with regard to fully implementing the EU-brokered ceasefire, as well as facilitating the voluntary return in safety and dignity of all refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) from the 2008 war in Georgia;
41. Welcomes the engagement of the Ukrainian Chairmanship and the progress made in the Transdnestrian settlement process, and strongly urges the parties involved in the conflict, as well as outside mediators, to work to maintain momentum and continue direct contacts between leaders from Chisinau and Tiraspol;
42. Urges the OSCE to pay close attention to the security situation in Central Asia in the lead-up to the withdrawal of ISAF from Afghanistan and to form a plan to deal with any spill-over effect within field operations, the Conflict Prevention Centre and the Transnational Threats Department;
43. Urges the OSCE to co-operate closely with other regional and international organizations in assisting the mitigation of possible security implications of ISAF withdrawal for the Central Asian region;

44. Encourages the OSCE to increase its co-operation with participating States in Central Asia and the Partner for Co-operation Afghanistan, in particular in terms of combating drug trafficking and organized crime, which are contributing to instability in the region, but also by supporting key democratic institutions;
45. Urges that any resolution to the protracted conflicts in the OSCE region include the promotion of the economic rights and empowerment of women;
46. Calls on the OSCE to increase efforts to train border guards and law enforcement agents in Central Asia to secure borders and prevent terrorism, drug trafficking and extremism, and recommends that the OSCE give greater attention to cross-border co-operation in general as a tool in the conflict cycle;
47. Recalls the OSCE PA 2012 Resolution on the development of OSCE Co-operation with Afghanistan by 2014 and Beyond and the Vilnius Ministerial Council Decision 04/11 of 2011 and again invites the OSCE to intensify contact and co-operation with Afghanistan and to help strengthen ties between Afghanistan and the Central Asian States in order to address security challenges;
48. Strongly urges participating States and partner States to increase their contributions to co-operation projects in Afghanistan and to support field operations in Central Asia, both in their work in the three dimensions and in the promotion of OSCE values, standards and commitments;
49. Reaffirms the need to ensure free and fair presidential elections, continue co-operation between ODIHR and Afghanistan and encourage the efforts of independent electoral institutions;
50. Stresses that the security of the OSCE area is linked to that of the Mediterranean, requests that the OSCE increase engagement with its Mediterranean partners, including by envisaging the possibility of extending the partnership to those Mediterranean countries which observe its principles, considers that the Parliamentary Assembly should play a more prominent role in this area, and insists on the need to renew and strengthen the Mediterranean Forum;
51. Strongly condemns the April terrorist attack in Boston at a sports event which served to bring people together in peace, and calls upon OSCE participating States to unite and increase international co-operation to fight terrorism in all its forms.



## CHAPTER II

### ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

52. Welcoming the OSCE's Helsinki +40 process as an opportunity to reflect upon the enduring relevance of the Helsinki Final Act, to take inspiration from the spirit of co-operation that infused those negotiations 40 years ago, and to reinforce as well as update OSCE commitments, particularly in the economic and environmental dimension,
53. Reiterating the central importance attached to the Second Dimension in the Helsinki Final Act and pointing out that through trade, industry, science and technology, real co-operation manifests itself concretely and pragmatically throughout the OSCE area every day,
54. Recognizing that there are issues of vital concern today that the original drafters of the Helsinki Final Act could not have anticipated, including the need to develop a common, multi-stakeholder approach to cyber security and Internet freedom, as well as border security and migration, and economic and environmental activities in the OSCE area,
55. Reiterating the Helsinki Final Act's recognition that "the protection and improvement of the environment" is a task "of major importance to the well-being of peoples and the economic development of all countries" and that many environmental problems "can be solved effectively only through close international co-operation",
56. Recognizing that environmental challenges such as biodiversity loss, ocean acidification, air pollution and climate change require world leaders to make compromises at an international level, and that in this regard the Helsinki +40 process can serve as a powerful reminder of the spirit of co-operation that brought together East and West in the context of the Cold War,
57. Mindful of the 10th anniversary of the adoption by the Ministerial Council in Maastricht in 2003 of the OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension and its important role in strengthening the economic and environmental dimension of the OSCE,
58. Bearing in mind that 2012 was one of the warmest years on record and that, at the global level, world leaders face the challenge of advancing a common international plan of action to address climate change within the UNFCCC process,
59. Alarmed at the persisting economic recession in Europe and the rapidly rising unemployment, in particular among young people,
60. Drawing attention to the problem of glaciers, which are an important source of fresh water and an indispensable element of nature,

61. Troubled that the ongoing economic and financial crisis and the austerity-driven spending cuts taken as a remedy for this crisis have not had the anticipated positive impact on the overall economic recovery and have negatively affected, in particular, economically vulnerable populations such as women, minorities and migrants,
62. Concerned at the increasing migration and brain drain of highly-skilled young people, in particular, from the countries of southern Europe, and at the negative impact that adverse economic environment factors have on efforts to develop a comprehensive and long-term migration management strategy,
63. Disturbed that the effects of reckless and non-regulated financial speculation by banks and hedge funds are fuelling food price rises which have disproportionate impact on the global poor, and when combined with stagnant wages can be destabilizing to societies and even deadly,
64. Welcoming innovative approaches to tackle environmental challenges while promoting economic growth, including the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Green Growth Strategy, the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group and the Global Green Growth Institute,
65. Reiterating the OSCE PA's call in the Monaco Declaration to encourage increased investment in the green economy, the development of energy-saving technologies and renewable sources of energy, as well as the incorporation of environmentally-friendly methods of economic activity to assist economic recovery,
66. Welcoming the holding of the OSCE's second annual Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting on 16 and 17 October 2012,
67. Commending the work of the OSCE field presences in the areas of energy supplies, energy efficiency, water management and other pressing environmental concerns,
68. Reiterating that water is essential for life and that a suitable supply of high-quality water is a prerequisite for economic and social progress,
69. Recalling that a study commissioned by the OSCE in 2010 described possible security implications of climate change, including the likelihood that it will alter the socio-economic foundations of society,
70. Stressing that since large cities are responsible for two thirds of global energy consumption and 70 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions, city governments are well positioned to bring about policies that can most swiftly bring about changes that affect millions of people,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

71. Invites the OSCE and the OSCE participating States to give thorough consideration to issues relating to the economic and environmental dimension within the framework of the Helsinki +40 process in order to further strengthen close and mutually beneficial co-operation aimed at building a genuine Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community;
72. Supports the work of the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, recognizing that increased urbanization in our region demands effective community planning and mass transit investments which are imperative to address global climate change and ensure future quality of life for the majority of our citizens;
73. Welcomes the establishment of the Global Green Growth Institute as a fully-fledged international organization and commends OSCE participating States Denmark, Norway and the United Kingdom for their leadership in founding this organization and further welcomes the EXPO 2017 in Astana, entitled “Future Energy”;
74. Urges the OSCE and all participating States to consider joining the Global Green Growth Institute;
75. Stresses the high potential of the green economy as a major driving force for energy efficiency and security, sustainable economic growth and job creation, poverty reduction and the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals;
76. Urges OSCE parliamentarians and other policymakers to utilize the OECD’s Green Growth Strategy, including its Study Papers, which provide concrete recommendations and measurement tools for achieving economic growth and development, while at the same time ensuring that natural assets continue to provide the ecosystem services on which our well-being relies;
77. Stresses the urgent need to introduce measures for effective growth, with particular focus on small- and medium-sized enterprises as the driving force of the European economy, through incentive-based policies that promote entrepreneurship and innovation, facilitate SME networking and access to global markets, reduce regulatory burdens and red tape and stimulate employment;
78. Stresses that, at a time when the crisis is causing great difficulties, in particular with the rise in unemployment in many countries, all instruments of economic policy aimed at promoting growth and employment must be used in parallel with the OECD Green Growth Strategy;
79. Stresses that green growth strategies should not lead to unequal conditions for economic development and trade;

80. Concerned by the risks posed by austerity policies on social peace and security, stresses that fiscal consolidation must go hand in hand with a sound strategy for growth and employment;
81. Emphasizes the importance of seeking new paths to economic growth particularly by taking meaningful measures to combat corruption, improve governance, increase co-ordination of fiscal policies, and strengthen education and training in the widest possible range of areas, and promote social cohesion while safeguarding the social, economic and cultural rights of the most vulnerable members of society;
82. Recommends that OSCE participating States introduce financial transaction taxes on stock trading and other financial purchases such as high-frequency trade to help to make short-term speculation more expensive and generate significant revenue for individual States, which is urgently needed to carry out forward-looking projects, promote growth and build a fair economy, and could be used for these purposes;
83. Calls upon OSCE participating States to improve people's living conditions, and in particular to include minorities, in order to avoid migration driven by impoverishment in the OSCE area and beyond and thus ensure that tensions do not arise between participating States;
84. Recalls the benefits of promoting women's economic autonomy for the prosperity of their families and countries, which is achieved by facilitating access to education, training, childcare, credit and financing and legal services, as well as by initiating and implementing legislation and programmes related to pay equity and employment, particularly in non-traditional sectors;
85. Urges the governments in the OSCE area to ensure, through transnational co-operation, the protection and sustainable use of water, and to fight against land degradation and soil contamination;
86. Encourages participating States to protect and preserve water resources and glaciers by preventing the impact of industry and other factors;
87. Calls upon OSCE participating States, in the spirit of Helsinki, to find the necessary political will to make the 19th Conference of the Parties (COP 19) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, taking place in Warsaw on 11-22 November 2013, a fruitful meeting that leads to concrete action to address climate change and binding limits on greenhouse gas emissions;
88. Calls upon the OSCE participating States and the OSCE executive structures to take further action to mobilize the provision of financial resources, technology transfer, technical assistance, capacity-building and the advancement of environmentally sound energy technologies;

89. Calls for OSCE field operations to receive all the funding they need in order to carry out their vital work in the economic and environmental dimension;
90. Points to the need for the OSCE to utilize the Helsinki +40 process in order to further strengthen co-operation with the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation, especially in the economic and environmental dimension, by acting as a dynamic mediator in support of their efforts to promote growth and attract investment, in line with their appeal at the Dublin Ministerial Council;
91. Supports the Ukrainian Chairmanship's prioritizing of energy efficiency and renewable energy and environmental aspects of energy security as issues that unite OSCE participating States;
92. Invites the OSCE participating States to co-operate closely in establishing technical know-how on the use of technologies for new and renewable energy sources;
93. Encourages the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities and other OSCE executive structures to continue to facilitate a global energy transformation in the OSCE region and to raise awareness of the importance of energy for sustainable development, including the need for the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy and the increased role they can play in energy supplies;
94. Encourages the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities to publicize the findings of future Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meetings by publishing summaries of the meetings on the Internet;
95. Urges the OSCE to develop confidence-building measures to reduce the risk of cyber conflicts and to promote a culture of cyber security while taking into account participating States' views on transnational information and communication technology;
96. Endorses an inclusive, transparent, multi-stakeholder approach to Internet governance issues such as cyber security and cyber crime, online freedom of expression and privacy;
97. Draws attention to the Joint Communication of the Commission and the High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of 7 February 2013 ("Cybersecurity Strategy of the European Union – An Open, Safe and Secure Cyberspace"), as well as the Decision of the Council of Heads of CIS Governments of 28 September 2012 "On the strategy of co-operation of the CIS member States in building and developing the information society and the Action Plan for its implementation up to 2015;
98. Calls upon OSCE permanent representatives to consider the new challenges of cyber security, Internet freedom, border security, migration and climate change in their deliberations on the Helsinki +40 process.

## CHAPTER III

### DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS

99. Recalling that the 1975 Helsinki Final Act indicates that the participating States recognize the universal significance of human rights and fundamental freedoms, respect for which is an essential factor for the peace, justice and well-being necessary to ensure the development of friendly relations and mutual co-operation among all States,
100. Alarmed at the increasing numbers of refugees, forcibly displaced persons and asylum seekers worldwide, mainly as a result of conflicts and human rights abuses, but also due to other interconnected negative factors, such as economic hardship, climate change, population growth and food shortages, which are also on the rise,
101. Concerned about the regression of human rights and fundamental freedoms in some OSCE regions, and the continuing non-compliance of some participating States with their human dimension commitments,
102. Recalling that in the 2010 OSCE Astana Declaration the OSCE Heads of State and Government emphasized the important role of civil society and the media and agreed that commitments in the human dimension need to be fully implemented,
103. Welcoming the Ukrainian Chairmanship's pledge in connection with Helsinki +40 to continue promoting media freedom, reinforcing co-operation with civil society, promoting youth education on human rights issues and combating trafficking in human beings,
104. Noting the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly resolution entitled "Implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons" adopted at the Belgrade Annual Session in 2011,
105. Recalling the 2012 OSCE PA Monaco Declaration's call for the OSCE and the OSCE PA to create a civil society board, comprised of representatives of leading NGOs working on OSCE issues,
106. Welcoming the adoption by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in October 2012 of a resolution confirming the definition of political prisoners,
107. Recalling the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly resolutions entitled "Improving Election Observation in OSCE participating States" and "Freedom of Movement in the OSCE Region" adopted at the Monaco Annual Session in 2012,
108. Recalling the affirmation in the Monaco Declaration that there should not be any political prisoners, retribution on political opponents or selective justice in the OSCE area,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

109. Reiterates its call on all the OSCE participating States to comply fully with their commitments regarding human rights, fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law;
110. Stresses the universality, indivisibility and interdependence of human rights, which also means that human rights and fundamental freedoms must carry equal weight when dealing with human rights violations resulting from intra- or inter-State conflicts or new or protracted conflicts in the OSCE area;
111. Welcomes the recent constitutional amendments and ongoing judicial reforms in Georgia to ensure a better balance between the executive and legislative branches and strengthen the independence of the judicial system;
112. Emphasizes that the OSCE relies on the consensus rule but has also adopted tools such as the Moscow Mechanism, which should be used in response to clear, gross and uncorrected human rights violations as mentioned in the Prague Document on Further Development of CSCE Institutions and Structures (30 and 31 January 1992);
113. Stresses that all OSCE activities, including in the the area of the Human Dimension, must be carried out in full conformity with the principle of sovereign equality of the OSCE participating States and other fundamental principles enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act of 1975;
114. Reiterates the important role that parliamentarians play in leading OSCE election observation missions and calls on ODIHR to support the leadership of the Parliamentary Assembly in election observation missions, as called for in the 1997 Co-operation Agreement;
115. Welcomes the decision by the Ukrainian Chairmanship to conduct a comparative analysis of electoral legislations in all OSCE participating States in 2013 and calls upon the OSCE/ODIHR and the OSCE PA to continue this process;
116. Reiterates its call for countries that hold the Chairmanship to fully respect their commitments regarding human rights and to provide a model example to the OSCE region;
117. Stresses the urgent need to uphold freedom of the media in the OSCE area and to promote sound interaction between the political system and media representatives so as to encourage good governance and combat corruption through appropriate legislation that will ensure journalists' fundamental human rights and the unimpeded performance of their duties, as well as through the fostering of a culture of international standards and ethics for journalists;

118. Calls upon the OSCE to monitor human rights in participating States and to act swiftly when States do not comply with their commitments in that regard;
119. Encourages the Ukrainian Chairmanship to continue efforts to reform the Human Dimension and to increase participation of civil society, the public and the media in key meetings and in the decision-making process;
120. Calls on the Ukrainian Chairmanship to remind all OSCE participating States of their obligation to promote, and not impede, freedom of assembly, freedom of speech, free elections and free NGO activity, and to combat, and not promote, hate speech, persecution and mistreatment of imprisoned persons;
121. Strongly encourages participating States to benefit from the Helsinki +40 process to promote the Human Dimension values at the core of the Helsinki Final Act;
122. Stresses the utmost relevance of the UN Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training as a valuable tool for OSCE field activities at all stages of the Conflict Cycle, and calls upon participating States to enhance efforts in this domain, in accordance with the relevant OSCE guidelines, *inter alia*, through appropriate human rights education policies that will guarantee citizens' rights to information and knowledge and their effective participation in democratic societies;
123. Urges the OSCE participating States to adopt the programmes, agendas and dates of human dimension events in an efficient and timely manner so that serious substantive preparations and adequate participation are made possible;
124. Strongly urges participating States to co-operate with international institutions such as the OSCE in allowing delegations to visit political prisoners, as well as to release and exonerate all political prisoners;
125. Regrets the escalation of decisions directly or indirectly relating to the Magnitsky affair, which are overshadowing the human rights issue and have been the subject of recent parliamentary debates in Ireland, Spain and the United Kingdom, demands that the responsibilities and unknown facts surrounding the case be determined once and for all and requests parliaments to continue to follow up the case;
126. Calls for enhanced international co-operation on increasing humanitarian assistance to refugees and internally displaced persons and effectively addressing the many human rights challenges associated with migration and the protection of the most vulnerable groups in particular, in accordance with relevant OSCE Human Dimension recommendations;
127. Calls on parliamentarians to promote the ratification of the 2000 Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, as well as the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and the 2005 Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings;



128. Recalls the UN Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons adopted in 2010 and calls upon the OSCE executive structures and participating States to contribute to its successful implementation;
129. Invites all participating States to take action regarding education and raising awareness of the issue of human trafficking and to co-operate fully with the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and relevant OSCE structures and Institutions, including Field Operations;
130. Invites all participating States to develop and implement a national action plan to help combat human trafficking through the co-ordination of policies and actions by Government and Non-Government bodies and through education and raising awareness of the issue of human trafficking;
131. Calls on all participating States to establish special anti-trafficking units (comprising both men and women) with advanced training in investigating offences involving sexual exploitation, forced labour, child trafficking, and/or trafficking for the purpose of the organ trade, in order to ensure that the response of participating States to the trafficking in human beings is effective and equates to the scale and scope of the problem in a given participating State;
132. Strongly encourages participating States to implement a counter-trafficking database within each anti-trafficking unit which would allow each participating State to collect and analyse data on the causes, processes, trends and consequences of trafficking within a given participating State, as well as to establish a national rapporteur or a similar national monitoring and reporting mechanism to ensure data collection, analysis and public debate on the efficiency of anti-trafficking measures;
133. Reiterates the need to include civil society, the public and the media in Human Dimension events;
134. Calls upon the OSCE PA and the OSCE PA delegations to include human rights NGOs, think tanks and academic institutes in their efforts to better monitor the implementation of OSCE commitments in the fields of human rights, democracy and rule of law;
135. Urges the Governments of the participating States to meet their commitments in full with regard to freedom of movement and the promotion of human contacts and to further strengthen co-operation between the relevant bodies and institutions with a view to promoting greater freedom of movement of persons across borders and ultimately abolishing visa regimes throughout the OSCE region;
136. Opposes attempts to downgrade or eliminate OSCE field operations by host Governments that continue to violate their OSCE commitments in significant ways and are in clear need of field operations based on existing mandates;

137. Expects that Parliamentarians will adopt measures to protect workers' rights to avoid a worsening situation for the rights of women, migrants (both women and men) and children and to prevent human trafficking for labour exploitation, and calls on diplomats and parliamentarians to set an example by ensuring the respect of these rights when applicable;
138. Calls on the participating States to respect and implement the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, in particular, article 19 on oppression, abuse or other forms of maltreatment of children and, in order to protect our children, calls on the participating States to enforce a legal ban on hitting children, in line with regulations in force in 11 European Union Member States;
139. Calls for the creation of mechanisms to remedy the consequences of ethnic cleansing referred to in OSCE, Council of Europe and UN documents and ODIHR assessments, and better instruments for the protection of internally displaced persons, refugees and persons with humanitarian status and, in this regard, calls for the implementation of all OSCE documents;
140. Stresses the importance of encouraging a gender-balanced policy in participating States and the adoption of legal and implementation measures to ensure equality between men and women;
141. Calls for an increase in funding and support for OSCE/ODIHR activities in the field of fundamental freedoms, in particular in the area of democratic development, human rights, tolerance and non-discrimination and the rule of law, in accordance with the mandate provided in the 1992 Helsinki Document;
142. Reiterates its call to OSCE participating States to ensure access to justice and the right to a fair trial, as well as freedom of expression, including for journalists, bloggers and civil society activists;
143. Calls upon the two remaining OSCE participating States still practising capital punishment, Belarus and the United States, to adopt a moratorium on all executions, leading to the complete abolition of the death penalty;
144. Calls on participating States to ensure access to justice for all those detained, and to ensure that people are not detained indefinitely, under arduous conditions and without adequate legal counsel;
145. Calls on Ukraine to respect international standards for judicial independence, impartiality, transparency and justice, including in the case of former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, a target of selective justice, whose arrest was not only politically motivated but also illegal, as evidenced by the recent ruling of the European Court of Human Rights;

146. Regrets that some OSCE participating States, including Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine, continue to abuse the Interpol system by seeking the arrest of opponents on politically motivated charges, including but not limited to the cases of Mr. Petr Silaev, Mr. William Browder, Mr. Ilya Katsnelson, Mr. Ales Michalevic and Mr. Bohdan Danylyshyn;
147. Calls on Interpol to continue reforms to improve its oversight mechanisms for detecting attempts to misuse its systems by OSCE participating States whose judicial systems do not meet international standards, and to enable individuals unjustly targeted by politically motivated charges to speedily expose and end this abuse of Interpol;
148. Calls on participating States to adopt decisions stating that internationally recognized freedoms such as of expression (both offline and online), assembly, association and religion do not change with new technologies and must be respected regardless of future technological advances;
149. Recognizes the growing opportunities for exercising freedom of expression and information on the Internet and the need to be attentive to any attempts by participating States to restrict it;
150. Underlines the importance of the fundamental rights of minorities in Turkey and expresses concern at the increasing intolerance regarding ethnicity, minority languages and religions in the region;
151. Reiterates its call for the Ministerial Council to adopt full, effective and long-term mandates for OSCE field operations;
152. Recalls the principles enshrined in the Resolution on the Situation in Georgia adopted in Monaco in 2012, welcomes the first ever peaceful electoral change of power, stresses the importance of the rule of law, calls upon the Government of Georgia to refrain from the application of selective justice and expresses concern at the pre-trial detention of Vano Merabishvili, former Prime Minister of Georgia and a likely presidential contender;
153. Strongly urges the Permanent Council to reopen the field missions in Belarus and Georgia, clearly prescribing the principle of the territorial integrity of participating States.

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

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

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

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

11. Encourages the OSCE PA to, in particular, increase its oversight of OSCE field presences, in order to strengthen them;
12. Recommends, generally speaking, that the OSCE PA be closely associated to OSCE decision-shaping and decision-making processes to provide the decision making bodies and the Secretariat with a larger variety of inputs, and to enhance its members' capacities to report about OSCE issues and policies in their national Parliaments;
13. Recommends in this regard that the OSCE PA actively participates in the Helsinki + 40 process launched under the Ukrainian Presidency;
14. Encourages the OSCE PA to increase its dialogue and co-operation with the PA of the Council of Europe, the European Parliament and the NATO PA on topics of common interest, especially in the economic and environmental dimensions, human rights and election observations in the OSCE area;
15. Strongly reiterates its proposal to the Ministerial Council to modify the consensus rule for decisions related to personnel, budget and administration, and indeed repeats that, if a participating State wishes to block or hold up consensus, it should do so openly and defend its position in public;
16. Further calls on the OSCE to make the proceedings of the Permanent Council more transparent to the public, including through live-streaming on the Internet.

**RESOLUTION ON**

**TRAFFICKING VICTIM WATCHFULNESS: PLANES,  
TRAINS, BUSES, AND HOTELS**

1. Recalling the resolutions on human trafficking adopted by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in St. Petersburg (1999), Oslo (2010), Belgrade (2011), and Monaco (2012), as well as efforts by participating States to implement the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings (2003 and 2005) and all OSCE commitments related to combating human trafficking,
2. Recognizing that according to the International Labour Organization, nearly 21 million people are enslaved at any given time, most of whom are women and children,
3. Aware that some 600,000 to 800,000 trafficking victims are moved across international borders each year, often on commercial airplanes, trains and buses, where they come into contact with transportation professionals,
4. Commending non-governmental organizations, such as Airline Ambassadors and Innocents at Risk, which have developed trafficking victim identification training for transportation professionals,
5. Commending non-governmental organizations such as ECPAT and The Global Business Coalition Against Human Trafficking for developing anti-trafficking guidelines and providing resources to businesses, including commercial carriers, hotels, and travel reservation companies to prevent the use of these businesses for human trafficking,
6. Commending airlines such as Delta and American Airlines, British Airways and Virgin Atlantic, as well as train service providers such as Amtrak, which have begun human trafficking prevention activities,
7. Noting United States government efforts to create airline-specific anti-trafficking training, including the Department of Homeland Security Blue Lightning program,
8. Commending hotel chains and travel groups, such as Accor, Carlson, Hilton Worldwide, Hotelplan Suisse, Wyndham, Sabre Holdings Corporation, Kuoni Travel, and many others that have committed to prevent the use of their businesses for human trafficking,
9. Welcoming the outcomes of the High-Level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on the review of the implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons held on 13 and 14 May 2013 at UN Headquarters, which has contributed to better co-ordination of international efforts in the global fight against trafficking in human beings and protection of the victims,

10. Commending the efforts of the current OSCE Chairmanship-in-Office to implement commercial carrier training in Ukraine and to host the Kyiv high-level conference in June 2013 on “Strengthening the OSCE Response to Trafficking in Human Beings”,
11. Recognizing that effective intervention in suspected human trafficking on airplanes, trains, and buses requires coordination between commercial carriers and law enforcement in order to develop a reporting protocol and rapid response,
12. Recognizing that national trafficking hotlines facilitate the rescue and assistance of trafficking victims and that regional anti-trafficking hotlines would be particularly useful for facilitating the rescue and assistance of trafficking victims travelling between participating States on regional commercial carriers,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

13. Urges OSCE participating States and invites other relevant international, regional and subregional organizations to contribute within their respective mandates to the full and effective implementation of the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, above all through better co-operation and improved co-ordination;
14. Calls upon OSCE participating States to address the problem of demand, which drives trafficking in persons for all forms of exploitation, with a view to eliminating such demand and, to that end, to enhance preventive measures, including of a legislative nature, to deter exploiters of the victims and ensure that they are held accountable;
15. Calls on OSCE participating States to collaborate with commercial carriers, adopting legislation where necessary, in order to ensure that flight attendants, pilots, ground crew, train conductors, bus operators, and any other transportation professionals who may come into contact with a trafficking victim are trained to identify the victim and respond according to a protocol established with law enforcement;
16. Calls on OSCE participating States to collaborate with hotel and travel industry professionals, adopting legislation where necessary, to ensure the use of best practices for the prevention and identification of human trafficking in hotels and other travel accommodations;
17. Calls on OSCE participating States to facilitate appropriate law enforcement co-ordination with transportation, hotel, and travel industry professionals in order to ensure appropriate intervention and referrals to care for suspected human trafficking victims;
18. Requests that the OSCE Strategic Police Matters Unit examine ways in which the OSCE can assist participating States in combating the use of commercial carriers, hotels, and other travel accommodations for the transportation or exploitation of human trafficking victims;

19. Calls on any OSCE participating State which has not already done so to sign the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, which requires “states to adopt legislative or other appropriate measures to prevent means of transport operated by commercial carriers from being used in the commission of offences...”;
20. Encourages the Office of the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, with input from the OSCE Strategic Police Matters Unit as appropriate, to guide participating States on best practices in victim identification as well as protocols for law enforcement intervention and referral to care in human trafficking on commercial carriers and in hotels or other travel accommodation;
21. Urges those participating States that have not done so to establish national trafficking hotlines and to consider regional trafficking hotlines for reporting potential trafficking victims travelling on regional commercial carriers.



## **RESOLUTION ON THE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN SYRIA**

1. Recalling the 1975 Helsinki Final Act, in which the participating States recognized the universal significance of human rights and fundamental freedoms as an essential factor for the peace, justice and well-being necessary to ensure the development of friendly relations and co-operation among themselves as well as among all States,
2. Bearing in mind its resolution of 2012 Fall Meetings in Tirana on the developments of the Turkish-Syrian Border,
3. Appreciating the neighbouring countries for keeping their borders open and providing humanitarian assistance to Syrians fleeing from the violence in their country,
4. Highlighting that in the absence of a sustainable political transition in accordance with the legitimate aspirations of the Syrian people, extremism and radicalism would take deeper root in the country,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

5. Urges the end to brute force against civilians and systematic violations of international law, particularly the use of ballistic missiles and other heavy weaponry;
6. Reminds the OSCE participating States of their responsibility to uphold human rights, fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law, and therefore urges participating States to unequivocally condemn in the strongest terms the crimes against humanity committed in Syria;
7. Reaffirms the international community's commitment to a Syrian-led political transition for a democratic system based on constitutional equality where all citizens of Syria will enjoy the fundamental rights and freedoms regardless of their ethnic, religious or sectarian background;
8. Underscores the urgent need to immediately stop cross-border aerial and artillery attacks targeting neighbouring countries of Syria;
9. Urges the international community, and the UN Security Council in particular, to take decisive and urgent action with a view to fulfilling its primary responsibilities in terms of safeguarding international and regional peace, security and stability;
10. Urges the international community to provide urgent financial support to the host countries of refugees to enable them to respond to the growing humanitarian needs of the Syrians and affected communities in accordance with the principle of burden sharing;

11. Strongly encourages the participating States to increase their humanitarian assistance and to collaborate with relevant international institutions in order not only to alleviate the sufferings of the people of Syria, but also to share the burden of the neighbouring states of Syria;
12. Endorses the continued appeals of the UN Secretary General to the regime for unfettered access to Syria for the United Nations Fact-Finding Mission without further delay and any pre-conditions to probe the alleged use of chemical weapons;
13. Emphasizes that a credible and comprehensive inquiry requires full access to the sites where chemical weapons are reportedly used;
14. Reaffirms its commitment to the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Syria;
15. Reiterates the important role that parliamentarians can play in raising awareness and developing tangible responses, in conformity with the scale and scope of the humanitarian catastrophe taking place in Syria.

## **RESOLUTION ON INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTIONS**

1. Desirous that a child, for the full development of his or her personality, should grow up in a family environment, in an atmosphere of happiness, love, and understanding,
2. Understanding the necessity to take appropriate measures to keep the child with his or her birth family but, where that is not possible, to place the child with a substitute family in the child's country of origin for the purposes of upbringing,
3. Acknowledging that intercountry adoption may offer the advantages of a permanent family to a child if a suitable family cannot be found for the child in his or her country of origin,
4. Affirming the sovereign prerogatives and responsibilities of participating States to permit, prohibit, restrict, or otherwise regulate the practice of intercountry adoptions consistent with international norms and commitments,
5. Concerned that the political volatility of intercountry adoptions can have a deterring effect on the willingness of prospective adoptive parents to commit the substantial emotional and other resources required to pursue an intercountry adoption, thus increasing the likelihood that more children will be deprived of the happiness, love, and understanding of a family,
6. Sensitive to the fact that a child who is unable to grow up with his or her birth family has suffered loss, rejection, abandonment, neglect, or abuse and that, in all matters relating to the placement of a child outside the care of his or her own parents, the best interests of the child, particularly his or her need for affection and right to security and continuing care, should be the paramount consideration and every effort should be made to spare the child further disappointment and harm,
7. Recognizing the bond that forms rapidly between a child and prospective adoptive parents during the adoption process but before a legal parent-child relationship has been effected,
8. Convinced that this bond forms the foundation of a nascent family and that such a family is worthy of the recognition, respect, and protection of participating States,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

9. Calls on participating States to recognize the foundational bond between prospective adoptive parents and the child and to honor and protect these nascent families;

10. Urges participating States to resolve differences, disputes, and controversies related to intercountry adoptions in a positive and humanitarian spirit with special attention being given to avoid any general, indiscriminate disruption of intercountry adoptions already in progress that could jeopardize the best interests of the child, harm the nascent family, or deter prospective adoptive parents from pursuing an intercountry adoption;
11. Requests the OSCE take the necessary steps in a Ministerial Council decision, possibly in the context of existing human dimension commitments concerning family reunification, to clarify the issue of safeguarding, on a collective basis, the nascent family formed where an intercountry adoption is well-advanced.

## RESOLUTION ON FREEDOM OF THE MEDIA

1. Emphasizing that it is essential to promote freedom of thought and expression, and attaching great importance to freedom of the media, freedom to demonstrate, participation in democratic elections and the principles of justice,
2. Recalling that freedom of the media is a prerequisite for democracy and a basic condition for the progress of society and the development of each individual person,
3. Bearing in mind article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states that “Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers”,
4. Bearing in mind article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights, which states that “Everyone has the right to freedom of expression. This right shall include freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas without interference by public authority (...)”,
5. Bearing in mind article 11 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, which provides that the freedom and pluralism of the media must be respected,
6. Bearing in mind the calls by the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media to ensure freedom of expression and freedom of the media,
7. Denouncing the inadmissible situation in which numerous journalists are victims of violence, threats and imprisonment for no other reason than that they are exercising their profession,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

8. Reaffirms the crucial importance of freedom of speech, press and information in every society, because these freedoms are an indispensable tool for guaranteeing the effectiveness and credibility of democracy in the OSCE participating States;
9. Reaffirms its demand for the right freely to establish independent media, for guarantees that media professionals can exercise that right without fearing for their jobs or their lives, and for measures to facilitate their activities;
10. Urges the authorities in all OSCE participating States to make firm commitments to prevent the erosion of those freedoms and the climate of impunity that in some cases has led to journalists being threatened or abducted;

11. Condemns explicitly the wrongful arrest and imprisonment of journalists, editors and publishers in OSCE participating States;
12. Calls upon the OSCE to take the necessary steps with the authorities of participating States in which the above-mentioned practices have been observed in order to release without delay all journalists who have been imprisoned for having exercised their profession.

**RESOLUTION ON**

**THE ROLE OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES  
IN POST-CONFLICT REHABILITATION SCENARIOS**

1. Recognizing the historic role played by the OSCE under Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter in the peaceful settlement of conflicts and in the promotion of security in its area of influence,
2. Considering the OSCE's vast experience in prevention, analysis, early warning, reaction, promotion of dialogue, support of mediation, establishment of a security environment, post-conflict rehabilitation, stabilization, confidence-building and reconstruction, namely, in all stages of a crisis cycle,
3. Recalling successive documents which have shaped the OSCE's analysis in the field of post-conflict rehabilitation, from the Budapest Document of December 1994, up to and including the OSCE's Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-First Century of 2003,
4. Also recalling United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security and the need to promote the active participation of women during all phases of the conflict cycle,
5. Fully aware of the OSCE's already comprehensive range of activities in post-conflict periods, such as the restoration of institutionality, judicial and electoral reforms, human rights empowerment, handling of inter-ethnic conflicts, educational reforms, protection of the rights of national minorities and economic recovery,
6. Considering the framework of Decision No 3/11 by the Ministerial Council, Elements of the Conflict Cycle, adopted in Vilnius, and the tasking of the Secretary General to draft a proposal on how to make better use of the possible contributions of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in developing a more effective response to emerging crisis and conflict situations,
7. Acknowledging the essential and specialized role played in this respect by the Conflict Prevention Centre, both in practical terms and in the reflection on these matters, by itself and together with interested participating States,
8. Also considering the experience of the Non-Military Confidence-Building Measures (CBMs), despite being aware of their limitations,
9. Considering likewise the Resolution adopted at the OSCE PA's Annual Session of 2012 in Monaco on "Enhancing Cross-border Co-operation Policies in Post-Conflict Scenarios",

10. Bearing in mind the adoption by all regional integration international systems of the political paradigms of the principle of subsidiarity and multilevel governance,
11. Acknowledging that local and regional authorities of all States represent at the same time the interests of their electors and the presence of the relevant State in their territories; that they enjoy political legitimacy, as well as being close to the problems of their towns and geographical areas; that they enjoy a well-deserved moral authority over their neighbours and civil society in their constituencies; that they play a growing role as economic and development agents; and that they have a practical and day-to-day knowledge on the feelings and opinions of their administered subjects,
12. Considering that all these special features of local and regional authorities represent an enormous heritage of legitimacy and efficiency with a view to a peaceful resolution of conflict situations and to the implementation of rehabilitation post-conflict policies, without detriment to State competences in foreign affairs,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

13. Recommends that participating States assess the role that can be played by local and/or regional authorities in the realistic and on-the-ground enforcement of the high-level international or bilateral agreements for the stabilisation and normalisation of the lives of peoples in the areas having suffered recent conflicts;
14. Recommends that participating States engage local and/or regional authorities in the design, implementation and follow-up to the confidence-building and post-conflict rehabilitation measures affecting their territories, so that their authority contributes to reinforcing the social legitimacy of such measures in a context in which the population may be reluctant in cases of recent conflicts;
15. Recommends that, in their engagement with local authorities, participating States and relevant OSCE structures encourage women's full and active participation in post-conflict rehabilitation and take steps to ensure that the opinions, needs and contributions of women and girls are taken into account;
16. Recommends to participating States that the involvement of local and/or regional authorities be especially taken into account in conflicts related to borders or those that have a border component, so that the aforementioned authorities, under the supervision of the national ones, can co-operate with those of a neighbouring country in the setting up of economic and human bonds, thus reducing the possibility of new conflicts;
17. Recommends that participating States and relevant centralized and decentralized OSCE structures resort to the expertise obtained thanks to the involvement in post-conflict rehabilitation of the local and/or regional authorities, that they spread this expertise and incorporate it in their analysis tools with a view to its eventual implementation in different geographical areas.



**RESOLUTION ON**

**ENLARGING THE PARTNERSHIP WITH NON-MEMBER  
MEDITERRANEAN STATES TO INCLUDE  
THE PALESTINIAN NATIONAL AUTHORITY**

1. Bearing in mind that at the UN General Assembly of Thursday 29 November 2012, the President of the Palestinian National Authority, Mahmoud Abbas, obtained recognition of the State of Palestine as a non-member observer State,
2. Bearing in mind that the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe granted the Palestinian National Council “Partner for Democracy” status on 4 October 2011,
3. Recalling that UNESCO recognized the Palestinian National Authority on 31 October 2011,
4. Noting the ongoing political upheaval in the Middle East region and acknowledging the importance of reinforcing the OSCE partnership with neighbouring Mediterranean countries in a context of respect for the rule of law and human rights,
5. Emphasizing the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly’s interest in relations with the Mediterranean region, as shown by the Parliamentary Assembly Conference on the Mediterranean (Madrid, 2002) and the subsequent Mediterranean Forums,
6. Recalling the Charter of Paris for a New Europe (1990), which aims to “promote favourable conditions for a harmonious development and diversification of relations with the non-participating Mediterranean States”,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

7. Calls upon the OSCE to grant the status of Mediterranean Partner for Co-operation to the State of Palestine, following the Palestinian Authority’s request of November 2004;
8. Calls on the Standing Committee of the OSCE PA, with a view to subsequent referral to the OSCE Ministerial Council, to define and grant an appropriate status to the Legislative Council of Palestine so that its representatives may participate in the work of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly;
9. Stresses the importance of building two independent, viable and stable States within a framework of mutual recognition by all actors that guarantees the safety of the population of both States;

10. Urges the OSCE participating States and the six Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation to initiate a constructive dialogue on peace in the Middle East within the framework of the OSCE;
11. Stresses the substantial input that the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly can have in achieving a greater outreach for the OSCE in the Middle East and recognizes in this respect the need to upgrade the work of its Mediterranean Forum, including through initiatives which aim at facilitating contacts and dialogue between Israeli and Palestinian parliamentarians, with their mutual consent and in synergy with other parliamentary organizations active in this field.

## **RESOLUTION ON TRANSDNIESTRIAN SETTLEMENT PROCESS**

1. Recalling the previous resolutions of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly addressing the issue of Transdniestrian settlement, adopted during earlier Annual Sessions,
2. Reaffirming that the existence of an unsettled conflict in the Transdniestrian region of the Republic of Moldova continues to pose a serious threat to security and stability in Europe and the OSCE area,
3. Reaffirming the OSCE commitments to finding a peaceful and sustainable solution to the Transdniestrian conflict through the 5+2 negotiations process,
4. Recalling the Statement of the OSCE Ministerial Council on the Negotiations on the Transdniestrian Settlement Process in the 5+2 Format adopted in Dublin on 7 December 2012,
5. Recognizing the progress in the conflict negotiations achieved since the resumption of the settlement talks in the 5+2 format in 2011 with the efforts of the mediators from the Russian Federation, Ukraine and the OSCE, as well as the European Union and the United States as observers,
6. Recognizing that a broad support among the parliamentary forces and society on both banks of the Dniester/Nistru is an important element for a viable and sustainable settlement of the Transdniestrian conflict,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

7. Considers that identification of special legal status for the Transdniestrian region in the composition of the Republic of Moldova while consolidating and ensuring the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova within its internationally recognized borders constitutes the major aim of the Transdniestrian conflict settlement process;
8. Expresses its conviction that confidence building between both banks of the Dniester/Nistru, ensuring sustainable socio-economic growth in the region as well as further development of the civil society institutions and safeguarding of the rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with norms and principles of international law are key components of the conflict settlement;
9. Recognizes the opportunities offered by Ukraine's Chairmanship of the OSCE in 2013 for achieving further progress in the Transdniestrian settlement, taking into account the role of Ukraine as immediate neighbour and mediator in the 5+2 negotiation process;

10. Endorses the commitment expressed by the Ukrainian OSCE Chairmanship to achieve progress in the Transdnestrian settlement, and in this regard commends the visit of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine Mr. Leonid Kozhara to the Republic of Moldova in January 2013;
11. Encourages all political forces on both banks of the Dniester/Nistru to contribute constructively to the Transdnestrian settlement process and to support continuity in the dialogue between the sides at all levels;
12. Expresses concern over the recent incidents in the Security Zone and urges all sides to intensify their efforts with regard to confidence- and security-building measures and to refrain from unilateral steps which may lead to deterioration of the security situation in the region;
13. Welcomes the efforts aimed at facilitating a parliamentary dialogue between members of the Moldovan Parliament and representatives of the Transdnestrian Supreme Soviet;
14. Calls upon all sides to exercise an inclusive approach and to engage with civil society and with media to promote the idea of conflict settlement and to raise awareness of the ongoing process;
15. Calls upon all participants of the 5+2 negotiation process to co-operate closely and to intensify their co-ordinated efforts in advancing the negotiations on all three baskets of the agreed agenda: socio-economic issues, general legal and humanitarian issues and human rights, and comprehensive settlement, including institutional, political and security issues;
16. Recognizes the important stabilizing role played by the existing peacekeeping operation in the region and recalls that in the Moscow statement of 18 March 2009 all sides called for transformation of the existing operation into a peace-guaranteeing operation under OSCE auspices in the context of the Transdnestrian settlement;
17. Reiterates its commitment to supporting the important work done by the OSCE Mission to the Republic of Moldova;
18. Reiterates the readiness of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's Parliamentary Team on Moldova to support peace, stability and the rule of law in the country, including through the support of political dialogue in the Transdnestrian settlement process.

## **RESOLUTION ON CYBER SECURITY**

1. Recalling that in the contemporary world modern information societies depend significantly on cyberspace – an electronic environment including products, services and information,
2. Recognizing the fact that cyber attacks in any form have become a serious security threat, which cannot be ignored or underestimated,
3. Underlining that insecurity in our common cyberspace is an obstacle for further economic development, innovation and social prosperity,
4. Recognizing that cyber attacks can be a society-wide challenge, including governments, private companies, non-governmental organizations and private Internet users, because they may destabilize society, jeopardize the availability of public services and the functioning of vital state infrastructure,
5. Reiterating that any country that relies extensively on cyberspace might be influenced by cyber attacks the same way as by conventional acts of aggression,
6. Stressing that meeting the new demands of the changed security environment is not only a challenge for those countries directly affected by the new situation but a challenge for every single country in the world,
7. Recognizing that the continuing globalization and interoperability of information systems will make cyberspace even more vulnerable and that the new security techniques and strategies may not respond sufficiently to this increased vulnerability,
8. Noting that the Internet has always been fuelled by policies that promote the free flow of information and that protect human rights and foster innovation, creativity, and economic growth,
9. Convinced that the OSCE could play a useful role in providing a platform for policy makers, relevant experts and other stakeholders by broadening the discussion on cyber security,
10. Acknowledging that countering cyber threats requires a significant increase of assets in terms of improving awareness, training, and investments in technology as well as advancing conceptual and doctrinal approaches,
11. Welcoming the discussions in international forum on how to respond effectively to the abuse of cyberspace for espionage, criminal, terrorist and military purposes and the

discussions and decisions initiated by NATO, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, and elsewhere,

12. Recognizing that cyber security has become a matter of substantial concern to, *inter alia*, the Council of Europe, the EU, NATO and the UN General Assembly,
13. Reaffirming the role of the OSCE as a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter and a key instrument for early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation in its area,
14. Reiterating its concern over the persistence of cyber attacks in various places of the OSCE area,
15. Recognizing the previous work done in the OSCE with respect to various aspects of cyber-security, in particular the OSCE Informal Working Group Established by PC Decision 1039, tasked to elaborate a set of draft confidence-building measures (CBMs) to enhance interstate co-operation, transparency, predictability and stability and to reduce the risks of misperception, escalation and conflict that may stem from the use of information and telecommunication technologies (ICT),
16. Underlining the urgent need for the international community to increase co-operation and information exchange in the field of cyber security, because only with joint and co-ordinated efforts is it possible to effectively respond to the threats originating from cyberspace,
17. Stressing that the Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime of 2001 is the only legally binding multilateral instrument specifically addressing the computer-related crime, but it has been ratified or acceded to by 39 states only,
18. Welcoming the fact that several OSCE participating States have already developed and adopted countermeasures against various kinds of cyber threats, and noting however the countermeasures have been mostly internal and cannot be effective in the worldwide-networked environment,
19. Emphasizing the commitment of OSCE participating states to respect and foster the principles of international law,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

20. Recommends that the OSCE could function as a regional mechanism supporting, co-ordinating and reviewing the development and implementation of national activities in this field, building on and furthering previous activities related to various aspects of cyber security;
21. Expresses its regret that the international community has been unable to agree on specific countermeasures against cyber threats so far;

22. Maintains that the results of a cyber attack against vital state infrastructure do not differ in nature from that of a conventional act of aggression;
23. Notes that cyberspace has been an environment to promote the free flow of information, to foster innovation and economic growth and should remain so;
24. Calls upon OSCE participating States to promote and facilitate access to the Internet and international co-operation aimed at the development of media and information and communications facilities in all countries;
25. Urges the parliamentarians of OSCE participating States to intensify their efforts in convincing the parliaments and governments in their countries that threats originating from cyberspace are one of the most serious security challenges of present time, which can jeopardize the way of life of modern societies and civilization as a whole;
26. Urges Governments to take a leading role in defending a free and safe cyberspace, unequivocally condemn cyber attacks and seek common effective solutions to protect cyberspace from misuse and malicious activities;
27. Notes the OSCE's efforts made to increase transparency and stability and to reduce risks stemming from cyberspace;
28. Urges OSCE participating States to use its comprehensive and cross-dimensional approach to security and to continue its efforts on the development of CBMs in cyber security;
29. Stresses the need to tackle cyber threats without undermining fundamental rights and freedoms, and that the same rights that people have offline must also be protected online, in particular freedom of expression;
30. Urges OSCE participating States and all other members of the international community to consider joining the Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime and follow its provisions;
31. Urges OSCE participating States to consider joining also the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism, which offers additional instruments for preventing cyber attacks by terrorist groups and use of the Internet for terrorist purposes;
32. Draws attention to the need to study existing legal acts concerning cyber security and to find supplementary means, including harmonization of the relevant legislation of States, to make international co-operation in the field of cyber security more efficient;
33. Urges all parties involved to search, in good faith, for negotiated solutions in the field of cyber security in order to achieve a comprehensive and lasting settlement which shall be based on the norms and principles of international law;

34. Calls upon all parties to make full use of available dialogue mechanisms and formats in a constructive spirit;
35. Supports all efforts to enhance information exchange on relevant experiences and best practices, also involving relevant actors from the private sector and civil society, and to establish public-private partnerships in this regard;
36. Encourages OSCE participating States to develop, adopt and implement national action plans on cyber security;
37. Urges OSCE participating States to adopt anticipatory measures in order to prevent security incidents, and to increase the security awareness of information and communication technology users;
38. Welcomes the proposal to hold a conference or a round-table for OSCE parliamentarians, taking into account and building on previously held OSCE events related to various aspects of cyber security, and to gain, through the help of experts, detailed information on all relevant aspects of the issue;
39. Asks the representatives of OSCE participating States to forward this resolution to the governments and parliaments of their countries.



## **RESOLUTION ON THE ARCTIC**

1. Taking note of the OSCE PA's 2010 Oslo Declaration Resolution on the Arctic,
2. Taking note of the development in the Arctic Region as a zone of peace and stability, where solutions to challenges are found through co-operative relationships and good will, in a peaceful manner,
3. Acknowledging an ever-changing Arctic and the need for further strengthened co-operation in the fields of environmental and civil security, and being aware that maritime safety requires broad regional and international collaboration,
4. Noting the substantial progress that has been made to strengthen Arctic co-operation, and acknowledging the leadership of the Arctic Council in taking concrete action to respond to new challenges and opportunities,
5. Acknowledging that responsible development of the rich natural resources of the Arctic is vital in building sustainable Arctic societies,
6. Recognizing that climate change in the region might lead to the need for more crisis management in extreme weather situations and adaptation to a new climate,
7. Welcoming that co-operation in the Arctic is characterised by a low level of conflict and a broad mutual understanding, in spite of considerable challenges,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

8. Urges participating States to support the Arctic Council's Kiruna Declaration, and encourages further co-operation within the framework of the Arctic Council;
9. Encourages involved parties to continue activities and co-operation in the Arctic according to international law, including UN-conventions and other international agreements;
10. Urges participating States to support the ongoing work of the International Maritime Organization to develop a mandatory polar code on shipping;
11. Urges participating States to be aware of the fact that the economic potential of the Arctic, as well as new routes of transport, have opened up for new types of strategic and security policy opportunities and challenges, and that these challenges of overlapping claims might be a future security risk.

## **RESOLUTION ON GUANTANAMO**

1. Welcoming the decision of the American administration to close the Guantanamo detention facility,
2. Acknowledging the position of the States that have already received former detainees or have promised to do so,
3. Underlining the difficulties of implementation which the American Administration has to face, which are responsible for the delay of the effective closing of Guantanamo,
4. Recalling that the Guantanamo facility still includes over 160 prisoners,
5. Recalling the commitment and work of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly regarding the situation of the Guantanamo detainees,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

6. Calls for the permanent closing of this detention facility as soon as possible;
7. Supports the United States Administration in its will to close the detention facility;
8. Encourages participating States to receive detainees who have been cleared for release and who are clearly unable to return to their country of origin, where there are substantial grounds for believing that they would be in danger of being subjected to torture;
9. Recommends an increased co-operation between Europe and the United States as regards the concrete implementation of the closing of Guantanamo and the effective guarantee of human rights in the context of the fight against terrorism.

**RESOLUTION ON**  
**THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND ITS EFFECT**  
**ON THE OSCE AREA**

1. Seriously concerned by the crisis caused by the Syrian Civil War and its immediate impact on neighbouring States,
2. Deeply concerned by the humanitarian crisis of the refugees fleeing the war and its possible destabilising effects on the area,
3. Reiterating the conclusions adopted by the Action Group for Syria in Geneva on 30 June 2012,
4. Recalling the UN and European Parliament Resolutions on the conflict in Syria,
5. Concerned at persisting challenges in the Middle East and the North African region in direct or indirect connection with the Arab Spring and considering that the situation in several OSCE Mediterranean participating and non-participating States is still unstable and their democratic processes are still not consolidated,
6. Considering that the continuation of the conflict between Israel and Palestine affects and indeed negatively influences democratic development in the Middle East and in the Mediterranean area in general,
7. Recalling the Resolution on supporting the Peace Process in the Middle East adopted by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly at the Oslo Annual Session (July 2010),
8. Recalling the Resolution adopted by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in July 2012 during the Monaco Annual Session on OSCE and Emerging Democracies in the Arab World,
9. Recalling the Resolution on Turkish-Syrian Border adopted by the Standing Committee of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in its meeting held in Tirana in October 2012,
10. Bearing in mind the debates on the situation in the Mediterranean area and in the OSCE Mediterranean Partner countries held on the occasion of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Winter Meetings in February 2011 and February 2013,
11. Underlining the conclusions of the special report drafted by the International Secretariat of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly on The Humanitarian Crisis in Syria,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

12. Notes the US-Russian initiative to convene a peace conference on Syria based on the principles agreed to in the Geneva talks in June 2012 and stresses the urgent need for a political consensus for a negotiated political solution to prevail that will ensure full respect for the sovereignty of Syria and the will of its people;
13. Urges OSCE participating States to comply with their commitments to humanitarian matters in order to offer the greatest possible assistance to Syrian refugees;
14. Calls on OSCE participating States to provide the greatest possible support to the governments of Turkey and Jordan with a view to a greater coordination in the provision of assistance to Syrian refugees;
15. Recognizes that substantial progress in the Middle East peace process is central to efforts to achieve peace, stability and democratic development in the region and stresses the urgent need for the resumption of negotiations to this end;
16. Urges OSCE participating States to define and grant an adequate status to Palestine allowing the active participation of its representatives as observers in the work of the OSCE;
17. Recommends that the OSCE establish and develop contacts at the highest possible level with the Government of Libya so that it can become a Mediterranean Partner country;
18. Calls on the Standing Committee of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly to reinforce the status of the Mediterranean Forum as a meeting place for dialogue and to continue working more efficiently with the OSCE Mediterranean Partner countries with a view to achieving peace and democratic, economic and social development in the region;
19. Recommends parliaments of the OSCE Mediterranean Partner countries to actively and regularly engage in the work of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, including the Mediterranean Forum.

**RESOLUTION ON**  
**WATER MANAGEMENT AS A PRIORITY**  
**FOR THE OSCE CIO IN 2014**

1. Recalling the OSCE's role in encouraging sustainable environmental policies that promote peace and stability, specifically the 1975 Helsinki Final Act, the 1990 Concluding Document of the CSCE Conference on Economic Co-operation in Europe (Bonn Document), the 1999 Charter for European Security adopted at the Istanbul Summit, the 2003 OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension (Maastricht Strategy), other relevant OSCE documents and decisions regarding environmental issues and the outcome of all previous Economic and Environmental Fora, which have established a basis for the OSCE's work in the area of environment and security,
2. Recalling the OSCE PA's Resolution on Water Management in the OSCE area in the 2009 Vilnius Declaration and the Resolution on Sharing Expertise in Reclaiming Water Resources in Order to Strengthen Global Food Security in the 2012 Monaco Declaration,
3. Applauding the OSCE Centre in Astana's recent efforts to educate Kazakhstan prosecutors on water management principles, institutional charters and legislation,
4. Commending the OSCE Office in Tajikistan's recent efforts to strengthen co-operation on hydrology and environment between Afghanistan and Tajikistan in the Upper Amu-Darya River Basin,
5. Supporting the OSCE Centre in Bishkek's commitment to realize an efficient management of drinking water resources in Isfana,
6. Welcoming the joint initiative of the OSCE, the UN Economic Commission for Europe and the United Nations Environment Programme that facilitated a treaty between Moldova and Ukraine to sustainably manage the Dniestr/Nistru river basin,
7. Stressing the importance of sanitation, hydrology, safety and innovation in the management of our water resources,
8. Concluding that water management is still an excellent tool for conflict prevention in the OSCE area,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

9. Calls upon the incoming Swiss Chairperson-in-Office to make water management in the OSCE one of the top priorities of its Chairmanship in 2014.

**RESOLUTION ON**  
**PROMOTING ENERGY SAVING AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY**  
**IN THE OSCE REGION**

1. Recognizing the need for further enhancement of the OSCE dialogue on energy security and co-operation, including on agreed principles of our co-operation, as was emphasized by Heads of State and Government of the OSCE participating States in the Astana Commemorative Declaration of 2010,
2. Recalling the other provisions and commitments on energy security and co-operation contained in the relevant OSCE Ministerial decisions as well as OSCE Parliamentary Assembly resolutions and declarations,
3. Noting the outcome of “RIO+20”, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro held on 20-22 June 2012, and the 2012 International Year of Sustainable Energy for All,
4. Stressing the vital role of energy efficiency and renewable energy in achieving sustainable energy and growth and fulfilling the Millennium Development Goals,
5. Recognizing that improving energy saving and energy efficiency is one of the quickest, greenest, and most cost-effective solution for reducing energy dependency, which also contributes to job creation, combating climate change and progress towards a resource-efficient economy,
6. Welcoming the efforts of the OSCE participating States aimed at elaboration and implementation of the national policies and measures to increase energy efficiency, taking into account their technological and economic development,
7. Underlining the existence of the huge unutilized potential for strengthening international co-operation between OSCE participating States in the area of energy saving and energy efficiency,
8. Stressing the need for exchange of information, experience and best practices on the most effective measures and policies to promote energy efficiency, taking into account the co-operation established between the participating States in the context of international organizations and agreements,
9. Underlining that co-operation between participating States in the area of dissemination of know-how and technology on energy efficiency can effectively promote energy efficiency in the OSCE region,

10. Recognizing that further research and development of cost-effective energy efficiency technologies should be fostered, *inter alia* through development of public/private partnerships and through expanded international co-operation,
11. Expressing full support for the work of the OSCE Co-ordinator for Economic and Environmental Activities in the area of promoting energy saving and energy efficiency,
12. Taking note of the Ukrainian OSCE Chairmanship's priorities in the second dimension and the theme and discussions held within the 21st Economic and Environmental Forum, and expressing hope that the concluding meeting of the Forum will produce meaningful recommendations for future OSCE activities, in particular in the area of energy efficiency,
13. Welcoming with satisfaction the fruitful discussions held under the Ukrainian Chairmanship during the first and the second preparatory meetings of the 21st Economic and Environmental Forum in Vienna on 4 and 5 February and Kyiv on 16 and 17 April 2013, which proved the necessity and importance of promoting energy saving and efficiency,
14. Expressing hope that the concluding meeting of the 21st Economic and Environmental Forum to be held in Prague on 11-13 September 2013 will help generate ideas and recommendations for new OSCE decisions and further promote activities in the area of energy co-operation, energy savings and efficiency,
15. Welcoming the joint initiative of the Presidents of Ukraine and Turkmenistan to hold an international conference under the auspices of the OSCE devoted to "Energy Security and Sustainability – the OSCE Perspective" to take place in Ashgabat on 17 and 18 October 2013,
16. Recognizing the invaluable contribution made by the relevant international and regional organizations to the promotion of energy efficiency, and stressing the importance of co-ordinating those efforts and avoiding duplication,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

17. Underlines the benefits that energy saving and energy efficiency measures can provide in terms of energy and environmental security;
18. Stresses that energy efficiency is a major element in ensuring the sustainability of the use of energy resources;
19. Stresses the need to improve energy efficiency by promoting innovative and cost-effective investments in key economic sectors, such as construction and industry, including shipping, as well as transport and agriculture;

20. Supports the OSCE participating States' efforts aimed at further development of energy efficiency and renewable energy that are essential elements for strengthening energy and environmental security;
21. Welcomes the efforts and activities related to the promotion of energy saving, energy efficiency and sustainable management of energy resources undertaken within the UN system, and notes with interest the Sustainable Energy for All initiative identifying the need for doubling the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency amongst the key objectives which underpin the goal of achieving sustainable energy for all by 2030;
22. Encourages the OSCE Secretariat and the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities to further develop co-operation and dialogue with relevant international and regional organizations on energy efficiency issues, including through the organization of regular meetings with the aim of complementing their efforts in the field of energy saving and efficiency;
23. Encourages the OSCE Secretariat in co-operation with other OSCE executive structures to strengthen OSCE engagement in the area of energy efficiency with the Partners for Co-operation;
24. Supports the use of the OSCE as a platform for exchange of best practices and experience between participating States and relevant international organizations in the area of energy saving and efficiency;
25. Encourages the participating States and OSCE to engage in activities aimed at raising awareness of consumers and stakeholders through dissemination of clear, credible and accessible information on energy efficiency;
26. Acknowledges the need for developing public-private partnerships for improving energy efficiency in and across key energy-consuming sectors;
27. Encourages the participating States to establish relevant tools and mechanisms to facilitate investments in energy saving and energy efficiency and scientific research in this area.



## **RESOLUTION ON**

### **ENVIRONMENTAL DIMENSION OF ENERGY SECURITY**

1. Recalling the provisions on energy security and protection of the environment contained in the relevant OSCE Parliamentary declarations and resolutions,
2. Recognizing that energy is one of the engines of inclusive growth and key to sustainable development,
3. Acknowledging that energy has a basic role in improving quality of life and fostering economic growth, and the existence of trade-offs and synergies across supply security and environment issues, and noting that any delay of access to sustainable and affordable energy services have the potential to hamper sustainable economic development and quality of life in participating States,
4. Recognizing that ensuring energy security is one of the global challenges which requires global solutions with due respect to international law and States' sovereign energy rights and that there is an urgent need to increase efficiency in dealing with energy security, economic development and environmental sustainability,
5. Underlining that access to affordable, constant and secure energy supply is of paramount importance for our societies,
6. Recognizing the need to enhance co-operation and dialogue among producers, transit countries and consumers,
7. Recalling that emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases from energy-related activities contribute considerably to negative changes in the Earth's climate system,
8. Highlighting that the level of increase in the transportation of hydrocarbons through choke points and narrow waterways poses serious environmental, social and economic risks, and increases concern over human life and ecosystem health,
9. Acknowledging that the physical protection of energy infrastructure including pipelines as well as safety of navigation through maritime choke points and narrow waterways has gained utmost importance in recent years,
10. Recognizing that recent dramatic changes in the energy field, especially the so-called "shale gas revolution" and their possible environmental consequences should be closely monitored and assessed,

11. Concerned at the risks that the nuclear energy projects of participating States in environmentally fragile areas, including highly seismic sites, pose to public health and overall security in the OSCE region and neighbouring areas,
12. Underlining that activities aiming at ensuring energy security may have adverse impacts on the environment and that it is necessary to identify these impacts in the OSCE area,
13. Welcoming participating States' increased efforts to protect the environment through their integrated policies and strategies, and emphasizing the need for increased co-operation among OSCE Members, as well as international and regional co-operation,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

14. Being aware that environmental problems are not restricted to the countries of their origin, calls on participating States to seek means of co-operation in developing tools to assess the options for identifying and minimizing the externalities of energy security policies in the OSCE region;
15. Notes that reducing the environmental footprint of energy security policies will further enhance regional security, stability and prosperity, and calls for awareness raising activities throughout the OSCE region in promoting environmentally sustainable energy;
16. Stresses the necessity for diligent conduct of Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) for energy related activities;
17. Underlines that upstream, midstream and downstream activities for production and transportation of hydrocarbon resources should observe international standards and best practices in a way that ensures environmental and social concerns are fully addressed;
18. Urges participating States and private companies operating in oil and gas markets to show due diligence in the transportation of hydrocarbon resources through maritime chokepoints;
19. Highlights that oil spills caused by increased traffic constitute a major risk for the marine ecosystem as well as security of surrounding cities;
20. Cautions that adverse impacts of energy consumption on the environment might have serious consequences on, *inter alia*, health, water, soil, air, biological diversity, food security and human lives, and calls upon participating States, regional organizations and other parties to increase co-operation in identifying policies that minimize the threat to the environment;
21. Calls on the OSCE participating States to better integrate their national economic, energy security, climate and environmental policies, and recommends the enactment and implementation necessary legislation in order to eliminate the trade-off between energy security and environmental sustainability to the maximum possible extent;

22. Encourages participating States to seek ways to enhance energy security through increased use of renewable energy resources, deploying environmentally friendly technologies and enhancing energy efficiency and good governance within their respective national capabilities;
23. Calls on participating States to improve access to sustainable modern energy services by mobilizing adequate financial resources in order to provide these services in a reliable, affordable, economically viable and socially and environmentally acceptable manner;
24. Commends that the Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC) which was launched in 2003 has been further enhanced under the Chairmanship of the OSCE in the last two years;
25. Takes note with appreciation that the energy-environment nexus has taken its well-deserved place at the top of the OSCE agenda in recent years, and recommends that the OSCE remains engaged in this matter;
26. Encourages the OSCE Secretariat to collaborate with the relevant international and regional organizations and institutions in this field to enhance co-operation and avoid duplication of their work.

**RESOLUTION ON**  
**STRENGTHENING SECURITY IN THE BORDER AREAS**  
**OF THE OSCE REGION**

1. Reaffirming the OSCE as a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter and as a primary organization for the peaceful settlement of disputes within its region, and stressing that the OSCE continues to play an important role in creating a secure and stable space in the OSCE region,
2. Noting that the OSCE is a key instrument for early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation,
3. Taking into account the OSCE's Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-First Century,
4. Recognizing the importance of international law and the Helsinki Final Act of 1975 with regard to the territorial integrity of the OSCE participating States, pursuant to which the delimitation and demarcation of borders depend primarily on the sovereign decisions of States,
5. Aware that ongoing conflicts in border areas undermine sovereignty, impede sustainable development and hinder bilateral and regional co-operation,
6. Concerned that unresolved conflicts in the OSCE region pose a threat to compliance with OSCE principles and have an impact on peace and stability at local, regional and international levels,
7. Recognizing that the demarcation and delimitation of borders can contribute to the development of friendly relations among States at both governmental and local levels,
8. Bearing in mind the effective role of local and regional authorities in the implementation of multilateral and bilateral agreements aimed at stabilizing and improving the lives of people in disputed border areas,
9. Given the experience gained in this area by international organizations, such as the European Union and the Council of Europe, as well as other specialized bodies, such as the Association of European Border Regions, which has an extensive database on best practices in transboundary co-operation at all types of borders in Europe and beyond,
10. Bearing in mind the situation in the border areas of the OSCE participating States,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

11. Urges the OSCE participating States to promote a political dialogue on border issues in order to ensure security, stability and prosperity in the region;
12. Calls on the OSCE participating States to continue to work actively on the delimitation and demarcation of State borders;
13. Calls on the OSCE participating States to refrain from carrying out construction work or engaging in business activities in disputed border areas until the process of delimitation and demarcation of State borders is completed;
14. Calls for the establishment of joint commissions to investigate conflict situations in disputed border areas and for the formation of joint border-guard units;
15. Requests that weapons not be used against persons who attempt to violate regulations governing the crossing of State borders if they do not constitute a danger to the lives of border guards or others;
16. Welcomes the opening of training centres for border officials, and calls for dialogue and negotiations to promote the peaceful settlement of problems that arise between States in border areas;
17. Stresses the need for a rapid exchange of information, through diplomatic channels as well as at the level of authorized State bodies and local authorities, on situations that could lead to a crisis at State borders or in border areas;
18. Recommends that the OSCE participating States conduct activities aimed at raising the awareness of the local inhabitants of border areas and organize platforms for dialogue through which such persons can be informed about rules, laws and agreements between individual States and neighbouring countries in order to prevent conflict situations from developing;
19. Supports all efforts by OSCE participating States to promote bilateral relations both at the level of local authorities and among local inhabitants;
20. Urges all parties concerned to commit themselves to the settlement of conflicts in border areas.

## **RESOLUTION ON GENDER ASPECTS OF LABOUR MIGRATION**

1. Reaffirming its commitment to implement the principles proclaimed in the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (New York, 1967) and, to that end, to adopt measures to eliminate such discrimination in all its forms and manifestations,
2. Stressing that effective gender mainstreaming for achieving equality between men and women is essential for making full use of human capital in the OSCE region,
3. Taking into account that the OSCE commitments in the field of migration focus on the implementation of policy objectives in three main areas, namely: (1) protecting migrants; (2) reaping the benefits and mitigating the adverse effects of migration in the countries of origin and the countries of destination; and (3) strengthening co-operation between the countries of origin and the countries of destination in the management of migration,
4. Supporting a comprehensive approach to migration policy based on international standards for migration,
5. Bearing in mind that the feminization of migration has become a global trend,
6. Recognizing the significant contribution made by female migrant workers to the economic and social development of the countries of departure and the countries of destination,
7. Expressing concern that female migrant workers may face additional difficulties and discrimination at all stages of the migration process due to limited access to certain types and sectors of employment, educational requirements and existing stereotypes,
8. Also expressing concern about the considerable risk that female migrant workers have of finding themselves in a vulnerable situation and about the number of victims of abuse, including through violence and trafficking,
9. Taking into account international principles and norms of international law as well as the documents of specialized international organizations on questions of gender policy and migration,
10. Bearing in mind the declarations of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly on questions of gender policy and migration,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

11. Calls upon participating States to elaborate and implement a gender-sensitive migration policy aimed at:
  - i. the creation of a political and legal environment conducive to equal opportunities for employment and equal access to its blessings and benefits for both male and female migrants;
  - ii. the implementation of a strategy which includes the application of both general provisions on the protection of migrants and provisions designed specifically for the protection of female migrant workers that improve their opportunities in the areas of freedom of choice, access to resources and the enjoyment of their rights;
12. Encourages participating States to use best practices for promoting the principle of non-discrimination and to ensure co-ordination and co-operation between parliaments, Governments and other stakeholders (trade unions, non-governmental organizations, diaspora organizations and corporations) in the support and protection of female migrant workers;
13. Draws attention to the need for participating States to strengthen measures to suppress unregulated migration and criminal networks engaged in the smuggling and trafficking of persons;
14. Refers to the relationship between the legal status of female migrant workers and their degree of protection from abuse and exploitation, and in that connection gives priority to the creation of a preventive measure for legal migration channels for women;
15. Invites participating States which are countries of origin to make use of the possibility of ensuring the safe migration of their female citizens through the creation of legal and institutional mechanisms that protect and enhance their opportunities at the recruitment stage and prior to migration (including through the provision of information, the organization of training and the upgrading of qualifications for future migrants);
16. Supports multilateral and bilateral co-operation between the countries of origin and the countries of destination in the regulation of general migration issues in order to strengthen legal migration and combat trafficking in persons;
17. Calls upon participating States to co-operate effectively with international organizations specialized in the fields of women's rights and migration.

**RESOLUTION ON**

**ENSURING THAT CHILDREN HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE PROTECTED  
FROM ECONOMIC EXPLOITATION**

1. Recognizing the continued and special relevance of the provisions of the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children (New York, 1990) which underscore that:
  - i. the well-being of children requires political action at the highest level,
  - ii. there is a need to give high priority to the rights of children, to their survival and to their protection and development,
2. Recalling that the Convention on the Rights of the Child (New York, 1989) recognizes the right of the child to be protected from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child's education, or to be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development,
3. Expressing concern about the increasingly widespread practice of child labour, including its worst forms, which for the purposes of the International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention No. 182 concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour (Geneva, 1999) comprises:
  - i. all forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as the sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom and forced or compulsory labour, including forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict;
  - ii. the use, procuring or offering of a child for prostitution, for the production of pornography or for pornographic performances;
  - iii. the use, procuring or offering of a child for illicit activities, in particular for the production and trafficking of drugs as defined in the relevant international treaties,
  - iv. work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children,
4. Noting that the worst forms of exploitation of children increasingly have an international dimension,
5. Taking into account that the use of child labour is primarily dictated by economic factors and that its elimination is linked to sustainable economic growth, which results in social progress, including poverty eradication and universal education,



6. Convinced, however, that the employment of children in work that adversely affects their health and morals and prevents them from receiving a full education seriously undermines the economic viability of society and the long-term prospects of its development,
7. Sharing the conviction of the international community that the worst forms of child labour are unacceptable and harmful to the welfare of children and to society as a whole and that their eradication requires immediate and comprehensive action at national and international level,
8. Bearing in mind international principles and norms of international law as well as the documents of specialized international organizations on guaranteeing the rights of children,
9. Bearing in mind the declarations of the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE concerning the rights of children,
10. Taking into account the resolution on combating trafficking and the exploitation of children in pornography adopted at the 15th annual session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in Brussels and OSCE Council of Ministers decision No. 15/06 on combating sexual exploitation of children,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

11. Condemns the economic exploitation of children, which constitutes one of the worst forms of child labour as defined in International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention No. 182 concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour (Geneva, 1999), as well as work performed by children under the minimum age for admission to employment established in national legislation for the types and conditions of work set out in ILO Convention No. 138 concerning Minimum Age for Admission to Employment (Geneva, 1973);
12. Calls upon the participating States to consider the eradication of the economic exploitation of children as an essential aspect of policy and to that end to take comprehensive and co-ordinated action in the following key areas: public awareness-raising, legislative and executive measures, education, and support for children and their families;
13. Draws attention to the need to give due consideration to each nation's traditions and cultural values in the area of the protection and harmonious development of children when elaborating national programmes for the eradication of the economic exploitation of children;
14. Stresses the importance, in efforts to eradicate the economic exploitation of children, of ensuring free and compulsory education for both boys and girls, as well as – in many States – reforming school curricula to allow for local factors and conditions;

15. Calls on the parliaments of participating States to step up activities aimed at ensuring the right of children to be protected from economic exploitation, including through the following measures:
  - i. enacting legislation that makes the abolition of child labour the ultimate goal of State policy, and clearly defining and prohibiting the economic exploitation of children as a matter of priority;
  - ii. making allocations in the national budget for the programmes and work of organizations that play an important role in the implementation of programmes for the eradication of the worst forms of child labour;
  - iii. monitoring the activities of authorized governmental agencies;
  - iv. mobilizing public opinion for the fight against child labour, with a focus on the worst cases of child exploitation;
  - v. co-operating with international and non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders of civil society;
16. Reiterates its call for participating States to take appropriate measures to interact on eradicating the economic exploitation of children through greater international co-operation and/or assistance, including support for social and economic development, poverty alleviation programmes and universal education;
17. Recommends that ensuring the rights of migrant children, who are the most vulnerable category of children, should be considered a priority of international action aimed at combating their economic exploitation;
18. Suggests that, when determining the international prestige of a State and the possibility of its access to the international market as a function of its commitment to combating the economic exploitation of children, strong support should be given to States which set the goal of eliminating the worst forms of child labour;
19. Believes that the global and sustained mobilization of the forces needed for successfully addressing the crucial issue of ensuring the right of children to be protected from economic exploitation that is not a function of the level of development of a State, cultural or national traditions or political opinions is only possible through active international co-operation in this area.

**RESOLUTION ON**

**CO-OPERATION ON THE TRANSITION TO A GREEN ECONOMY IN  
THE CONTEXT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

1. Taking into account the significant developments in recent decades in the economic and environmental situation in the OSCE region, which not only have had a positive effect, but have also resulted in the emergence of new threats and challenges of an economic and environmental nature,
2. Stressing the determination of the participating States to counteract these economic and environmental threats and challenges through comprehensive use of OSCE capacities and comparative advantages,
3. Recalling the commitments of the participating States to support and promote initiatives for sustainable development and to take the necessary steps to implement international conventions and agreements on environmental protection as set out in CSCE/OSCE documents,
4. Noting in particular the provisions of the 2003 OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension concerning co-operation on ensuring sustainable development and environmental protection,
5. Referring to the commitments of the participating States to improve good environmental governance, as set out in the OSCE 2007 Madrid Declaration on Environment and Security,
6. Recalling the provisions relating to the transition to a green economy contained in the Monaco Declaration adopted at the 2012 Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, including the resolution on promotion and use of new and renewable sources of energy,
7. Taking note of ongoing UN activities as well as other regional initiatives, mechanisms and institutions to promote a more widespread implementation of green economy principles and standards,
8. Recalling United Nations General Assembly resolutions 66/288 on the future we want and 67/215 on the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy,
9. Aware that the introduction of green economy principles plays a significant role in the achievement by the participating States of internationally agreed development goals,
10. Noting the importance of increasing the availability of green technologies and the implementation of best available techniques for a comprehensive prevention and control of environmental pollution,

11. Recognizing that the OSCE has a broad regulatory and institutional framework for promoting regional and global co-operation and dialogue on the transition to a green economy in the context of sustainable development,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

12. Stresses the importance of providing comprehensive assistance for sustainable development in the OSCE region through a balanced strengthening of its economic, social and ecological components;
13. Considers the green economy to be an important instrument for achieving sustainable development and environmental security and calls on the participating States to take consistent measures to implement green principles in national economies;
14. Supports the UN role in promoting principles of sustainable development in the international agenda and welcomes the UN Secretary-General's idea of creating a mechanism to facilitate the development, transfer and dissemination of environmentally clean technologies;
15. Notes the importance of enhancing co-operation and co-ordination of interaction among public institutions, civil society and the private sector on implementing green economy principles in national strategies and programmes for sustainable development;
16. Calls on participating States to create favourable conditions for State and private investment in the development of environmentally cleaner technologies and to facilitate the mobilization of financial investments in the creation of mechanisms for the transfer of innovative technologies and their adaptation to specific country needs, as well as the recruitment of qualified specialists and the training of national staff;
17. Calls on participating States to elaborate and implement measures for the liberalization and establishment of a preferential trade regime for environmental goods and services in the context of the creation of favourable conditions for environmental growth and sustainable development;
18. Calls on participating States to take into account the principle of common but differentiated responsibility and the introduction of green principles at different speeds, depending on the level of socio-economic development of States;
19. Urges participating States to refrain from adopting or applying any unilateral discriminatory economic, financial or trade measures that are contrary to international law or limit or prevent the achievement of green economy goals in the context of sustainable development;

20. Calls on participating States to provide, on a bilateral and multilateral basis, international technical assistance and technological support for the development, transfer and dissemination of environmentally clean technologies, including through the establishment of a voluntary fund for the transfer of green technologies;
21. Calls on participating States to encourage the establishment of national and regional technology transfer centres and to facilitate co-ordination between them, with a view to ultimately creating a single international centre for the exchange of energy technologies;
22. Calls on participating States and the OSCE executive structures to intensify co-operation with States, international and regional organizations and financial institutions on providing financial, technical, consultative and other assistance for the development and introduction of green technologies;
23. Suggests that consideration be given at a Parliamentary Assembly event to the promotion of co-operation on issues relating to the transition to a green economy in the OSCE region;
24. Calls on the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities and other OSCE executive structures to help the participating States of the OSCE region introduce green economy principles and raise awareness of their relevance for sustainable development;
25. Recommends that the OSCE hold an expert meeting with a view to sharing experience on the transition to a green economy in the context of sustainable development and best practices in implementing green principles in the national economy.

**RESOLUTION ON**  
**STRENGTHENING CIVIL SOCIETY INSTITUTIONS**  
**IN THE OSCE REGION**

1. Taking note of the OSCE PA resolution adopted in Brussels in 2006 calling on participating States to seek and implement ways of further promoting exchange of views through open and constructive dialogue with civil society,
2. Recognizing the important role that civil society institutions play in the process of providing assistance to the promotion of democracy, human rights and the rule of law,
3. Reaffirming 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” (OSCE Charter for European Security, Istanbul, November 1999 (19)),
4. Recalling the Resolution on Co-operation with Civil society and Non-Governmental Organizations, adopted at the Annual Meeting of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Brussels, 2006, calling upon participating States “to recognize that a strong and independent civil society free from interference of government contributes essentially to the promotion of human rights, democracy and the rule of law”,
5. Stressing the need for the OSCE participating States to implement the OSCE commitments to “enhance the ability of non-governmental organizations to make their full contribution to the further development of civil society and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms” (OSCE charter for European security, Istanbul, November 1999 (27)),
6. Recalling the UN General Assembly Millennium Declaration which recognizes the necessity to “give greater opportunities to the private sector, non-governmental organizations and civil society, in general, to contribute to the realization of the Organization’s goals and programmes” (United Nations Millennium Declaration, 8 September 2000),

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

7. Calls upon participating States to eliminate restrictions on access to information resources by non-governmental organizations and other civil society institutions to facilitate their optimal performance;
8. Calls upon participating States to further engage in dialogue with non-governmental organizations and other active civil society institutions;
9. Recommends that participating States create and develop appropriate mechanisms to mediate and facilitate collaboration between civil society institutions and the state;

10. Calls upon participating States to engage with non-governmental organizations and other civil society institutions in the decision-making process as well as in the process of solving social problems;
11. Recommends that participating States take steps to create a legal environment that allows for greater performance and participation of non-governmental organizations and civil society institutions;
12. Calls upon participating States to promote the exchange of information and practices for increased collaboration between non-governmental organizations and civil society institutions working towards common OSCE commitments;
13. Calls upon participating States to co-operate with non-governmental organizations and other civil society institutions on the resolution and prevention of regional conflicts in the OSCE area on the basis of the principles of international law, the Helsinki Final Act and relevant UN Security Council resolutions;
14. Encourages participating States to create an enabling environment to ensure sustainability of activities and transparency of financial resources of non-governmental organizations, including access to both foreign and domestic sources of funding;
15. Calls upon participating States to grant consultative status to non-governmental organizations in the appropriate OSCE institutions;
16. Calls upon participating States to collaborate more actively with non-governmental organizations in the process of enhancing the role of civil society in the areas of human rights protection, democracy, and the rule of law;
17. Encourages participating States to engage closely with non-governmental organizations in programmes and projects that have social importance.

## RESOLUTION ON

### BELARUS

1. Recalling the resolutions on Belarus adopted by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (OSCE PA), as well as the Joint Declaration of the OSCE PA Ad Hoc Working Group on Belarus and the delegation from the Belarusian National Assembly on future co-operation signed in 2004 (Edinburgh),
2. Noting the efforts of the OSCE Chairmanships in re-establishing the OSCE field presence in Minsk and in establishing a meaningful dialogue between OSCE institutions with Belarus as an OSCE participating State,
3. Deploing the limited co-operation between the Government of Belarus and many of the OSCE's institutions, as well as the limited co-operation with the OSCE PA Working Group on Belarus, which has not been invited to visit Minsk since 2010,
4. Regretting that the nature of human rights violations in Belarus remain structural and endemic, underscored by the centralization of the legislative and executive powers in the office of the President, whose decrees are a key legislative mechanism in the country, undermining the role of Parliament,
5. Welcoming the Report of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus of 18 April 2013,
6. Noting the lack of progress in the investigations into the enforced disappearance of political opponents, including in the cases of Viktor Hanchar, Anatol Krasouski, Yury Zakharenko, and Dmitry Zavadsky dating back to 1999-2000,
7. Regretting that elections in Belarus, including the December 2010 presidential election and the September 2012 parliamentary elections, have been neither free nor fair,
8. Noting the United States Belarus Democracy and Human Rights Act of 2011 and the recent EU Council regulations and decisions concerning targeted measures against officials and companies from Belarus,
9. Condemning the executions of Uladzislau Kavalyou and Dzmitry Kanavalau, sentenced to death for their alleged involvement in the April 2011 metro bombing in Minsk, through a trial that fell short of international standards for the rule of law, the subsequent destruction of key evidence in these cases and the inhumane treatment (including police surveillance) of the families, whereby the bodies of the two men have not been returned to their relatives, as well as a new death sentence issued in April 2013 on the part of Mahiliou Regional Court,



10. Deploring the restrictions placed on freedom of assembly, including a near *de facto* ban on picketing, demonstrations and meetings by civil society and opposition groups,
11. Noting that many civil society and media representatives have fled Belarus since December 2010 to seek asylum abroad, and urging the authorities in Belarus to ensure conditions for their safe and voluntary return,
12. Expressing deep concern over the confiscation of property and the closing of the office of the non-government organization Human Rights Centre Viasna in Minsk, and the continued incarceration of the organization's leader Ales Bialiatski on politically-motivated charges,
13. Deeply regretting the lack of media freedom in Belarus, including increasing instances of harassment of journalists, restrictive laws with regard to broadcasting and internet freedom, as well as selective application of justice with regard to independent journalists,
14. Noting the report of the International Labour Organization (ILO) Committee on Freedom of Association in November 2012, underlining the Belarusian government's lack of co-operation and the lack of progress with regard to improving the situation of trade union rights in the country,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

15. Calls on the Government of Belarus to release and exonerate all political prisoners in Belarus, including those given suspended sentences and those whose freedom of movement has been limited, immediately and unconditionally, and to guarantee the full restoration of their civil and political rights;
16. Reiterates its calls on the Government of Belarus to allow representatives of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly to visit political prisoners incarcerated in Belarus;
17. Condemns the treatment of political prisoners, including political opponents, human rights defenders and activists, incarcerated on politically motivated charges, and in many cases denied regular access to their lawyers and relatives, as well as other degrading treatment amounting to torture;
18. Urges the Government of Belarus to suspend any restrictions on movements imposed on members of the opposition who have been given a suspended sentence after politically motivated trials, including Irina Khalip, Vladimir Neklyayev, Vitaliy Rymashevsky, Sergei Vozniak, Andrei Dmitriev, Alexander Feduta and others;
19. Calls on the authorities to reinstate the licenses of the lawyers disbarred or forced to resign under pressure for their defence of opposition and civil rights activists, and to guarantee the principle of independence of practice in particular seizing illegal limitations on communication with mass media;

20. Calls on the Belarusian authorities to respect freedom of movement of its citizens, including political activists, in Belarus and abroad, and to stop the widespread practices of arbitrary detention;
21. Condemns the adoption of a series of repressive laws in Belarus, restricting fundamental rights to freedom of assembly, expression and association, and giving additional powers and immunity from prosecution to State Security Committee (KGB) officers;
22. Encourages the authorities to reconsider the registration applications of the Belarusian Christian Democracy party, the “Tell the Truth!” and “For Fair Elections!” campaigns, “Malady Front” (Youth Front), and the non-governmental organization Viasna, which have been repeatedly denied legal registration without due cause;
23. Calls on the authorities to suspend the harassment and persecution of civil society, such as representatives of youth organizations and movements, trade unions, independent media and human rights defenders;
24. Calls on the Belarusian authorities to co-operate closely with the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media to develop a media law reflecting OSCE commitments and principles;
25. Reiterates its call on the authorities to implement the recommendations of the International Labour Organization with regard to trade unions, and to ensure that workers are able to freely leave their jobs, including in State industries;
26. Calls on the authorities to strengthen anti-discrimination legislation, including ensuring safeguards to prevent harassment of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons and associations;
27. Encourages the Government to consider substantive legislative reforms to bring the country in line with European standards, including correcting the imbalance of power in favour of the executive, vested in the country’s 1996 Constitution, with a particular focus on reducing the dependence of the judiciary on the executive branches;
28. Calls on the authorities to co-operate closely with OSCE institutions in addressing the Organization’s election-related recommendations ahead of the upcoming local and municipal elections;
29. Calls on the authorities to take the necessary steps to make full use of the European Dialogue on Modernization and on the European Union to strengthen such initiative;
30. Calls on the authorities to annul convictions and pending charges against journalists for activities connected with their profession and to allow an unrestricted public debate on key social and political issues;

31. Calls on the authorities to abolish Article 193.1 of the Criminal Code, which envisages a punishment of up to two years for “acting on behalf of an unregistered organization,” and violates the right to freedom of association, as well as other OSCE commitments;
32. Recommends that the International Ice Hockey Federation ensures that Article 8 of its Statute, guaranteeing neutrality in political, racial, gender and religious matters is thoroughly respected;
33. Urges the Government of Belarus to respect its OSCE commitments with regard to freedom of assembly and freedom of expression, and to liberalize both legislation and practices, allowing citizens the right to public protest both online and offline;
34. Calls for an international investigation into the treatment of political prisoners incarcerated in Belarus, including allegations of torture by current and former prisoners like Ales Mikhailevich, Andrei Sannikov and Anatol Liabedzka;
35. Urges the Government of Belarus to immediately withdraw all issued death sentences, and to work to abolish the death penalty;
36. Urges the Government to ensure conditions where religious organizations, including those of the Protestant faith, as well as the Union of Poles in Belarus can operate in accordance with national legislation.

**RESOLUTION ON**  
**PROMOTING FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF**  
**IN THE OSCE REGION**

1. Appreciating that multiple faiths and beliefs are practiced and manifested in the OSCE region, and hold tremendous value to their followers and adherents,
2. Declaring that democracy, the rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms are strengthened, and that peace and stability in the OSCE region are enhanced, when the right to freedom of religion, thought, conscience or belief is respected, protected and fulfilled by participating States and their legislative and judicial bodies,
3. Reaffirming that freedom of religion, thought, conscience or belief is a fundamental human right enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and other universal human rights instruments,
4. Recalling that the OSCE participating States are committed to “respect human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion” and to “recognize and respect the freedom of the individual to profess and practice, alone or in community with others, religion or belief acting in accordance with the dictates of his [or her] own conscience” as per the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe Final Act, which is further upheld by subsequent concluding documents and declarations,
5. Recalling as well the various Ministerial Council Decisions on Tolerance and Non-Discrimination, including No. 6/02, No. 4/03, No. 10/05, No. 10/07 and No. 13/06, the latter in which the Ministerial Council “commits to raise awareness of the value of cultural and religious diversity as a source of mutual enrichment of societies and to recognize the importance of integration with respect for cultural and religious diversity as a key element to promote mutual respect and understanding,”
6. Reiterating the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly’s affirmations regarding the promotion of religious freedom, tolerance and non-discrimination in the OSCE region as included in the Edinburgh Declaration, Kyiv Declaration, Oslo Declaration, and the Belgrade Declaration,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

7. Calls on the OSCE participating States to promote, respect, protect and fulfill the international obligations and commitments set out above regarding freedom of religion, thought, belief or conscience and freedom from discrimination, and to ensure that any person whose rights are violated has an accessible and effective remedy to vindicate those rights;

8. Stresses that religious sites, artefacts and symbols constitute an integral part of the world's cultural heritage and urges OSCE participating States to ensure their protection, including in the event of armed conflict, as called for in the Hague Convention of 1954 and other relevant international instruments, and to take all necessary measures for their maintenance in post-conflict situations;
9. Calls upon the OSCE participating States to ensure freedom of worship, unimpeded access to religious sites and unobstructed training of the clergy; these being key elements in promoting freedom of religion;
10. Calls on national parliaments to ensure that national legislation is consistent with international obligations set out above relating to freedom of religion, thought, conscience, or belief, that such legislation recognizes and ensures the equality of all individuals before and under the law, and guarantees, without discrimination, the right of each person to equal and effective protection and benefit of the law;
11. Further calls on national parliaments to ensure that national legislation requiring registration or administrative procedures relating to religious or belief communities are quick, non-discriminatory, transparent, fair, inclusive, and do not limit the right to freedom of religion or belief;
12. Commends the work of the personal representatives of the Chairman-in-Office on combating racism, xenophobia and discrimination, on focusing on intolerance and discrimination against Christians and members of other religions, on combating intolerance and discrimination against Muslims, on combating anti-Semitism, the ODIHR for its work on issues relating to tolerance and non-discrimination, including freedom of religion and belief, and its panel of experts on freedom of religion or belief;
13. Remains seized of instances where the right to freedom of religion, conscience, thought or belief is not being respected, protected or fulfilled in the OSCE region;
14. Encourages the participating States to undertake initiatives to establish and support inter-faith dialogue and co-operation involving governments, civil society and religious groups in order to facilitate and strengthen mutual understanding, tolerance and respect.

**RESOLUTION ON**

**STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF EDUCATION IN COMBATING  
RACISM, XENOPHOBIA AND OTHER FORMS OF INTOLERANCE AND  
DISCRIMINATION**

1. Recognizing that respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms is at the core of the OSCE comprehensive concept of security, and reaffirming that such rights and freedoms apply to “all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion” as enshrined in the 1975 Helsinki Final Act,
2. Celebrating the wealth of diversity among and within the OSCE’s 57 participating States,
3. Acknowledging in this context the positive contribution of migrants to the cultural enrichment of our societies,
4. Noting with serious concern the continuing rise of discrimination and violence towards individuals with differing racial, ethnic, religious and linguistic backgrounds, particularly towards migrants, in the OSCE region,
5. Concerned at the rise of nationalism, racism and extremism in political life as a result of the persisting economic recession and high unemployment, and at their influence in societies in general and with regard to migrants in particular,
6. Reaffirming that such intolerance and discrimination represents a continuing threat to the fundamental human rights and democratic values that underpin security and stability in the OSCE region,
7. Condemning these phenomena in their various forms in all participating States of the OSCE,
8. Emphasizing the need to ensure effective implementation of existing OSCE commitments on combating racism, xenophobia, and other forms of intolerance and discrimination, and recalling the Resolution on “Strengthening Efforts to Combat Racism and Xenophobia and Foster Inclusion” unanimously adopted on 6 July 2011 by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly,
9. Welcoming the efforts of the three Personal Representatives of the Chairman-in-Office on Tolerance and Non-Discrimination, as well as the work done by the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) to address these urgent issues,
10. Recalling the various commitments of the international community to counter intolerance and discrimination that stress the role of education, including, in the OSCE, those deriving from the 1975 Helsinki Final Act, the 1990 Copenhagen Document, the 1991

Moscow Document, the 2003 Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the 21st Century and the 2005 Ljubljana Ministerial Council Decision No. 11/5,

11. Recognizing the essential role of education, particularly when targeted at youth, in promoting and enhancing democratic values, tolerance, mutual respect and understanding, inclusion, intercultural harmony, and universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as in countering the rise of extremist political parties, movements and groups,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

12. Calls upon the OSCE participating States to intensify their efforts in the field of education, in order to promote understanding and raise awareness of the causes, consequences and evils of intolerance and discrimination;
13. Encourages the OSCE participating States to develop cultural and educational programmes aimed at countering intolerance and discrimination in order to foster mutual understanding among all cultures and civilizations;
14. Urges participating States to develop, with reference to ODIHR's relevant materials and tools, national guidelines on educational work to promote tolerance and foster inclusion, and emphasizes within this framework the importance of equal access to education (and the value of intercultural education);
15. Stresses the central role that education must play in States' integration policies, and the importance of equal education and employment opportunities in efforts to combat discrimination and safeguard social cohesion and stability, particularly so, in the light of the economic recession and cuts in public spending, *inter alia*, in this field;
16. Calls upon participating States to increase efforts to counter racism, xenophobia, intolerance and discrimination, also through education, *inter alia*, by reviewing, as appropriate, educational curricula and textbooks in order to ensure that they are free from prejudice and negative stereotypes and by introducing or further elaborating sections on tolerance and non-discrimination;
17. Invites the OSCE participating States to consider developing educational activities in schools, including extracurricular ones, to raise awareness against intolerance and discrimination;
18. Recommends that the OSCE participating States encourage educational authorities and the private sector, as appropriate, to develop educational materials, including textbooks and dictionaries, aimed at combating those phenomena;

19. Reiterates its request for increased support for ODIHR's Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Department's Racism and Xenophobia programme, *inter alia*, with a view to increasing the number of available educational materials and training programs for educators;
20. Encourages the OSCE participating States to take measures necessary to ensure that all teachers and trainers are effectively trained and adequately motivated to shape attitudes and behavioural patterns, based on the principles of non-discrimination, mutual respect and tolerance;
21. Suggests the development of guidelines on academic responsibility to ensure the protection of migrant and other students from intolerance and discrimination in the academic environment;
22. Encourages the media, whose effect on the development of attitudes of youth can be significant, to avoid negative stereotyping and to refrain from spreading prejudices;
23. Emphasizes that parliamentarians can serve as role models to youth, reaffirms parliamentarians' responsibility to publicly denounce intolerance and discrimination and to raise awareness of the value of diversity, and calls attention to the important role of politicians and political parties in promoting mutual respect and understanding.