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**DRAFT RESOLUTION**

**FOR THE GENERAL COMMITTEE ON DEMOCRACY,  
HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS**

*“Strengthening Human Security in the OSCE Region”*

**RAPPORTEUR**  
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**BRUSSELS, 3 TO 7 JULY 2006**

## 1° The OSCE's election monitoring activities

1. Reaffirming the provisions set forth in the Document of the Copenhagen Meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension of the CSCE (1990), including the commitments of the participating States with regard to the organization of democratic elections,
2. Noting that those commitments were complemented by the relevant provisions of the Lisbon Ministerial Declaration (1996) and the Istanbul Ministerial Declaration (1999), together with the Declaration and Charter of European Security adopted at the Istanbul Summit (1999),
3. Reaffirming its determination to honour those commitments,
4. Reaffirming the provisions set forth in the resolution adopted by the Parliamentary Assembly at its July 2005 Session in Washington, on improving the implementation of OSCE electoral standards and commitments and the effectiveness of OSCE election observation activities,
5. Noting that the presence of the OSCE is unquestionably an important element in evaluating the democratic nature of elections,
6. Taking note of the competences of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the ODIHR, in helping the participating States to implement commitments and standards relating to elections,
7. Welcoming the pursuit of efficient cooperation between the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the ODIHR in the area of election monitoring,
8. Supporting the Co-operation Agreement signed by the Chairman-in-Office and the President of the Parliamentary Assembly in 1997,
9. Considering that the political expertise and political judgment of Parliamentarians, along with their stature as elected politicians, provides the visibility and credibility for election monitoring missions that only elected officials can provide,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly,

10. Recommends that OSCE participating States take into account all of the existing commitments regarding elections, while making sure that these commitments are applied to elections in all participating States, and avoid double standards in any case,
11. Urges the Parliamentary Assembly to continue to provide political leadership to the OSCE Election Observation Missions, with the technical, logistical and long-term observer support of the ODIHR respecting the Co-operation Agreement and, if possible, reinforcing it,
12. Encourages the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly to continue its practice of deploying short visits during the pre-electoral period, which can at times help to achieve a true image of the evolution of the election campaign,

## 2° Abolition of “crimes of honour” in OSCE participating countries

13. Noting that archaic family traditions, such as forced marriage, so-called “crimes of honour” and “vendetta”, exist and persist in certain OSCE participating States,
14. Noting that these practices are contrary to human dignity and violate fundamental human rights,
15. Deploring the fact that a good many of these practices go unpunished or may be subject to lighter sentences than other criminal acts,
16. Noting that these practices also occur in immigrant communities and are likely to make it more difficult for immigrants to integrate into their host societies,
17. Welcoming the fact that NGOs lend support to the victims of these practices and help to raise public awareness,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

18. Calls upon the OSCE participating States to take legislative and educational measures to eradicate these undignified practices, which violate human rights.

### **3° Parliamentary control of the police and security services in OSCE participating States**

19. Noting that parliamentary control of the police and security services exists in certain OSCE participating States,
20. Emphasizing that this type of control is vital for guaranteeing citizens’ rights and freedoms under the rule of law,
21. Recognizing the need to strike the right balance between protecting national security and citizens’ rights,
22. Noting that the absence of parliamentary control is a result of the heritage of the past and/or a relatively recent transition towards democratic institutions,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

23. Commits the OSCE participating States where parliamentary control is still lacking to develop it, to avoid any abuse of power or any irregularities that may violate citizens’ rights.

### **4° Strengthening the protection of national minorities in the OSCE participating countries**

24. Reaffirming the provisions set forth in the resolution on national minorities adopted by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly at its July 2004 Session in Edinburgh,
25. Reaffirming that a pluralistic and truly democratic society must not only respect the ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious identity of everyone belonging to a national minority but must also enable it to express, preserve and develop that identity,
26. Noting with satisfaction that progress has been made in certain OSCE participating States since 2004,

27. Deploring the fact that, in certain cases, the authorities do not ensure that they have the means to solve recurring problems,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

28. Reaffirms its determination to encourage every advance towards making legislation on language rights and the acquisition of citizenship more flexible.

#### **5° Promoting the freedom of religion and belief in the OSCE participating States**

29. Deploring the fact that several OSCE participating States still have legislation that discriminates against religious communities,

30. Also deploring the fact that this religious intolerance may, in certain cases, be found in education and the press,

31. Considering that special attention must be paid to the status of local and immigrant Muslim minorities and majorities in OSCE participating States,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

32. Calls upon the OSCE participating States to take every necessary measure to fight against this discrimination and to promote the freedom of religion and belief.

#### **6° Code of conduct for participants in OSCE missions**

33. Reaffirming the provisions set forth in the resolution adopted by the Parliamentary Assembly at its July 2005 Session in Washington on the need to strengthen the code of conduct applicable to members of OSCE missions,

34. Emphasizing once more the need to maintain the strictest moral standard in terms of integrity, responsibility and transparency in all OSCE activities,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

35. Takes note of the commitment by some political leaders to ensure that unlawful acts are proscribed, by means of improved training of staff involved in missions in which OSCE countries participate and a strict application of the existing regulations;

36. Commits political leaders to punishing, with utmost severity, any transgression of this code of conduct.