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DRAFT RESOLUTION

**FOR THE GENERAL COMMITTEE ON
POLITICAL AFFAIRS AND SECURITY**

“The OSCE: Addressing New Security Challenges”

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GENERAL COMMITTEE ON POLITICAL AFFAIRS AND SECURITY

DRAFT RESOLUTION

“The Food Crisis and Security in the OSCE Area”

1. Emphasising that one of the pillars of the Helsinki Final Act was, and remains, the notion of the “indivisibility” of security and that this principle means that security is an overarching issue, and that the security of any single State cannot be pursued to the detriment of another;
2. Noting that the concept of the “indivisibility” of security implies that shared values require a shared effort and a shared commitment to security that all OSCE participating States – on equal footing – must abide by;
3. Recognising that “indivisibility” implies that we are all producers and consumers of security at the same time and in the same way, and as such, it is becoming increasingly more necessary to think in terms of not only of security in, but the security of, the OSCE area;
4. Highlighting, consequently, that as the decades pass, the "indivisibility" of security can no longer be conceived in terms of a territory or a State but, transversally, of fully-fledged challenges which globalisation is posing to every participating State in the OSCE without distinction;
5. Bearing in mind that the “indivisibility” of security today means a shared stance to counter large-scale organised crime, terrorism, cyber attacks and the financial crisis;
6. Noting that it is precisely the current global financial crisis that has also become an economic and social crisis, which is helping us to better understand the new indivisible security challenges and the multipolar, inclusive approach that offers the best possible way of combating them;
7. Stressing that one new and major challenge, also for the OSCE area, is that of food self-sufficiency, and the related political issue of food security;
8. Taking note that in 2008 a number of serious incidents broke out in many countries, including the Mediterranean area, Egypt and Tunisia, and that, primarily due to the marked increase in grain prices, some Asian countries blocked rice exports, and some supermarkets limited purchases to four units per person to prevent hoarding;
9. Noting that alongside the dramatic issue of famine is the dangerous neocolonialist rationale that urges governments and banks to buy up millions of hectares of land to produce food abroad, thereby leading to a crisis for local producers and to a serious loss of food self-sufficiency in certain countries;

10. Stressing the fact that the great race to control foreign staple-food production has proven to be one of the latest trends in the global economy, and that some OSCE participating States have been targeted for such investments by Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, South Korea, Japan and Saudi Arabia;
11. Noting the difficulties being caused by the fact that crops used for fuel are more lucrative than those grown for food, that there has been a marked reduction in arable land, that biofuels are becoming increasingly popular; natural disasters are taking their toll; rural populations are in sharp decline; and there has been an exponential rise in demand for food from India and China;
12. Noting that the lack of food and water affects most of all the weakest part of poor societies, not only children but also women, who in the most difficult situations continue to deal with the burden of family care and are often left alone by the heads of the family, because of work reasons or due to wars;
13. Stressing that conflict prevention (and the peaceful solution of frozen conflicts) through dialogue between peoples and Governments is also essential to ensure food security;
14. Welcoming the agreement reached at the first G8 Agricultural Ministers meeting, which took place in Italy, on 18-20 April 2009, with the overall consensus on strategies to fight famine and to support food security;

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly,

15. Emphasises that one new and major challenge to security in Europe and in OSCE participating States is that of food self-sufficiency, and the related political issue of world food security;
16. Emphasises that the issue of food security must therefore become a top priority on the OSCE agenda, transversally embracing attention and commitment to the three areas traditionally falling within the remit of the Organisation (conflict prevention, economic cooperation, human rights), since the Right to Food must be considered paramount to other fundamental human rights, including political rights;
17. Urges Parliaments to adopt fiscal measures and provide funding to improve the living standards in rural areas in order to stem depopulation;
18. Notes that the Parliaments and the Governments of the OSCE participating States, together with the common resources and structures of the OSCE, cannot be merely passive spectators of this great challenge but must also become active leading players to guarantee respect for the fundamental right to adequate and healthy food;
19. Urges the authorities to take a co-ordinated and consistent approach, jointly with other international players, to attain an objective which must be given top priority by the whole of the international community;

20. Supports the work of the Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis which was established on 28 April 2008 by the United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki-Moon, to make a single and unified response to the food crisis on the part of Member States;
21. Endorses the processes set in motion by the Rome World Food Security Conference organised by FAO on 3 - 5 June 2008, attended by 181 States, and with the “Madrid Declaration” on “Food security For All” adopted on 27 January 2009 by 126 countries;
22. Requests Parliaments to commit themselves to curb increases in the price of agricultural commodities, which affects both the poorest citizens in the advanced economies and – more seriously – in backward economies;
23. Urges, in particular, that Parliaments provide resources and adopt legislation to encourage the balanced agricultural use of the land to be able to meet both food and energy demands, also supporting research centres and universities, to face the most difficult emergencies of the planet;
24. Urges that direct action be taken to reduce the political instability caused by the infringement of the fundamental right to food, which leads to the radicalisation of conflict and unacceptable inequalities;
25. Draws attention to the need to consistently pursue the Millennium Development Goals according to the provisions of the 1996 Rome Declaration on Food Security, which was designed to halve the malnourished population by 2015 (goal which is still far from being retained);
26. Urges Parliaments to adopt measures, while respecting fundamental economic freedoms, to hamper massive investments that ultimately expel the rural populations and undermine food sovereignty;
27. Endorses public finance policies consistent with the commitment entered into in the Millennium Development Goals according to which each government undertook to devote 0.7% of GDP to combating poverty by 2015, and urges Parliaments to work in the same direction;
28. Agrees that it is appropriate to encourage the establishment of a world network of food and agriculture experts, to co-operate in the common pursuit of improved food security levels, primarily in the countries where the minimum acceptable limit is still a distant prospect;
29. Recommends that support be given to the huge agricultural production potential of Russia, Ukraine and Kazakhstan, where 13 out of a total of 23 million hectares of previously farmed land could immediately be re-used for agriculture and deems it essential to adopt international policies for the recovery of cropping on steppic areas;
30. Undertakes to participate in the work of the Special Summit which FAO will be organising in Rome in the autumn of 2009, attended by 189 governments.

**GENERAL COMMITTEE ON
POLITICAL AFFAIRS AND SECURITY**

PROPOSED AMENDMENT to the DRAFT RESOLUTION

On

“THE OSCE: ADDRESSING NEW SECURITY CHALLENGES”

[Set out text of Amendment here:]

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