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BELGRADE DECLARATION

OF THE

OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

ADOPTED AT THE

TWENTIETH ANNUAL SESSION

BELGRADE, 6 to 10 JULY 2011

PREAMBLE

We, Parliamentarians of the OSCE participating States, have met in annual session in Belgrade on 6 to 10 July 2011 as the Parliamentary dimension of the OSCE to assess developments and challenges relating to security and co-operation, in particular on Strengthening the OSCE's Effectiveness and Efficiency – A New Start After the Astana Summit, 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.

STRENGTHENING THE OSCE'S EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY – A NEW START AFTER THE ASTANA SUMMIT

CHAPTER I

POLITICAL AFFAIRS AND SECURITY

1. Recalling past OSCE PA resolutions on the reform of the OSCE, strengthening of the co-operation between the OSCE and the OSCE PA and the future orientation of the OSCE, as well as the 2005 OSCE PA Colloquium Report,
2. Welcoming the adoption of the Astana Commemorative Declaration, in particular the decision by Heads of State and Government to recommit themselves to the vision of a free, democratic, common and indivisible Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community stretching from Vancouver to Vladivostok, and to reaffirm the relevance of, and our commitment to, the principles on which the OSCE is based,
3. Guided by a common goal to enhance the role of the OSCE as a forum for political dialogue on an equal footing and consensus-based decision-making processes on key issues of security and co-operation in the OSCE area, while bearing in mind the view that the OSCE should be transformed into a fully-fledged international organization,
4. Regretting that the Astana Summit failed to adopt an Action Plan including guidelines for furthering implementation, which would provide the OSCE with clearer guidelines for its future activities,

5. Welcoming the decision of the Lithuanian Chairmanship to continue consultations on strengthening the legal framework of the OSCE and to discuss the possibility of preparing a constituent document,
6. Expressing deep concern over the lack of consensus on a number of political issues within the OSCE which have led to the closure of the OSCE Mission to Georgia and the OSCE Office in Minsk,
7. Deeply disturbed by the lack of progress in solving the protracted conflicts within the OSCE area,
8. Realizing that changes to the security environment in recent years along with the uneven pace of integration, economic growth and democratic development as well as the issue of food security have led to the emergence of new problems in achieving comprehensive security, which the OSCE should address,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

9. Calls on the OSCE to continue its informal discussions started in the so-called *Corfu Process* on all three dimensions under the direct leadership of the Chairmanship with an appropriate contribution by the Parliamentary Assembly in order to define the future strategy of the OSCE within its comprehensive security concept, also bearing in mind the consequences of the global economic crisis and the most recent crisis in some countries of the Mediterranean;
10. Urges the OSCE Chairmanship to develop a concrete plan of action with real proposals regarding future measures, which should be reviewed at the next meeting of the Ministerial Council in Vilnius; to this end calls on the OSCE Chairmanship to monitor and evaluate the implementation of Decision 19/06 of the Brussels OSCE Ministerial Council and to conduct a review of that and other decisions concerning the matter of raising the OSCE's effectiveness, and to take appropriate action;
11. Encourages the OSCE to increase upon request the sharing of its values and experience beyond the OSCE area, particularly to OSCE Partners for Co-operation and neighbouring areas while at the same time reinforcing the strategic co-operation with the EU, the UN, NATO, the Council of Europe, the Collective Security Treaty Organization and other relevant international and regional organizations;
12. Welcomes the current work to enhance the politico-military security dimension of the OSCE by updating the 1999 Vienna Document, and calls for enhanced implementation of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security as well as for increased efforts to start negotiations on the strengthening and modernizing of conventional arms control in Europe;
13. Welcomes the recent arrest by Serbian security services of Ratko Mladic, who has been transferred to The Hague to face long-standing charges of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former

Yugoslavia, and commends those who have laboured for years to bring Mladic to justice with the goals of providing comfort to his surviving victims, contributing to regional stability and reconciliation, improving the prospects for European integration, and encouraging further efforts to bring to justice those responsible for atrocities committed during the conflicts in the Western Balkans;

14. Deplores the recent increase in tension around Nagorno-Karabakh, and urges that increased political efforts be made within the OSCE to settle the unresolved conflicts in Nagorno-Karabakh, as well as in Moldova and Georgia;
15. Calls for the Permanent Council of the OSCE to provide the Conflict Prevention Centre with improved capacity for the Organization's rapid reaction capability to be able to live up to its mandate in situations like the 2010 crisis in Kyrgyzstan;
16. Regrets the lack of consensus which led to the closure of the OSCE Mission to Georgia and the OSCE Office in Minsk, and encourages the Chairmanship to continue to work for a viable solution to restore their presence in order for the OSCE to remain relevant in the field where it is most needed;
17. Recognizes food self-sufficiency and security as a new and major challenge in several OSCE participating States, and therefore calls on the OSCE to consider including this issue on its agenda with the goal of reducing political instability, radicalization of conflict and unacceptable inequalities;
18. Requests Parliaments of OSCE participating States to commit themselves to curbing increases in the price of agricultural commodities by adopting measures needed to increase the supply of food commodities, inside and outside the OSCE area, including legislation to improve living standards in rural areas and to encourage a more balanced use of land to meet both food and energy demands;
19. Invites the participating States to seriously consider new challenges emanating from transnational threats, such as illegal migration, environmental degradation, food scarcity and other political problems in adjacent areas which would require joint action;
20. Urges the OSCE to undertake the necessary structural reform in order to help overcome stalemates on political issues as well as issues related to personnel and administration. In this respect:
 - (a) Repeats its call for strengthening and politicizing the role of the OSCE Secretary General in order to have a spokesperson who, in co-operation with the Chairman-in-Office, can make policy pronouncements and appropriate statements when OSCE commitments are not observed which would at the same time increase the influence and the public profile of the Organization;
 - (b) Reiterates its recommendation to modify the consensus rule for decision-making, at least for decisions related to personnel, budget and administration issues;

- (c) Proposes that the question of establishing unified rules for appointment to leading positions within the OSCE be considered;
- (d) Underlines again the importance of having the budget adopted in a timely fashion every year, and calls on the OSCE to develop a multi-year financial plan to pursue longer term strategies which would include and foster the co-operation of more Chairmanships;
- (e) Encourages the Secretary General to employ independent professional outside auditors and to make audit reports and recommendations available to the OSCE PA;
- (f) Repeats its call for the OSCE to improve its staffing mechanisms by eliminating fixed-term limits on duration of service and reducing reliance on seconded personnel in field operations;
- (g) Reiterates its call to examine the idea of permitting the opening of Permanent Council Meetings, on an ad hoc basis, to the press and public, beyond what is foreseen by the current Rules of Procedure of the OSCE;
- (h) Calls for a special discussion within the framework of the OSCE PA Winter Meeting in 2012 on the issue of further raising the OSCE's effectiveness, and requests the OSCE Chairmanship and the OSCE Secretary General to take an active part in that discussion;
- (i) Repeats its call for the OSCE Permanent Council to put OSCE PA recommendations – including those from the 2005 Colloquium Report – on its agenda for debate in order to ensure better co-operation with the Assembly.

CHAPTER II

ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

21. Actively supporting the concept, adopted by the OSCE, of common, comprehensive and indivisible security, which encompasses the politico-military, the human, and the economic and environmental dimensions,
22. Emphasizing the interrelationship that has been demonstrated by history between economic hardships and political extremism, xenophobia, instability and even international upheavals,
23. Recognizing that the consequences of the economic crisis have had a disproportionate impact on the most vulnerable members of society, including women, young people, people belonging to national minorities and migrants,
24. Noting that the emergency measures taken by governments in response to extraordinary events (the global financial crisis, natural disasters, and civil and military conflicts in a number of countries) are reducing the effectiveness of parliamentary oversight, and convinced that this calls for additional efforts by national parliaments to assist governments in their emergency measures,
25. Welcoming the role that the OSCE can play in helping to ensure economic development and co-operation, environmental security, and counteracting ecological challenges, including complementary work with the United Nations in minimization of the consequences of climate change,
26. Understanding that circumstances of utter helplessness and lack of prospects in the countries of origin – i.e. problems which were not resolved as one century turned into the next, and which all too often were further exacerbated – are the key stimulus to migration, and that these problems have been compounded by additional ills arising from civil conflicts in the OSCE region’s neighbouring countries,
27. Noting that the arguments and proposals set out in the resolution on “Migration as a Continuing Challenge for the OSCE” (Oslo Declaration of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly of 2010) have lost none of their relevance over the past year, and that regulation of migration issues, including illegal migration issues, is an absolute necessity in order to avoid irregular situations which cause harm both to the migrants and, in a broader sense, to the countries of origin and the countries of destination,
28. Reaffirming that OSCE participating States are obliged to co-operate in the preparation and implementation of migration, including illegal migration, mechanisms in accordance with universal human rights,

29. Welcoming the statement in Deauville (May 2011) by the G8 nations endorsing the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative and calling for greater revenue transparency in the extractive industries as a way to help decrease poverty and ensure energy security,
30. Reaffirming the Astana Declaration of 2008 and the Oslo Declaration of 2010 and their resolutions on cyber crime and cyber security, which recognize that cyber attacks are a great challenge to governments, and that the results of a cyber attack against vital State infrastructure and commercial infrastructure are equivalent in nature to those of a conventional act of aggression,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

31. Recommends that the OSCE offer itself to participating States as a leading international organization not only in the sphere of democratization, free elections and respect for human rights, but also with regard to issues such as preventing tensions over energy security in the OSCE region;
32. Calls on governments to view the economic and environmental area of the OSCE's work as one of the most promising from the standpoint of the long-term interests of participating States, in the context of the consequences of the global financial crisis and the increasing frequency of natural disasters;
33. Proposes to participating States that they step up the processes for the creation within the OSCE region of open, integrated markets that function on the basis of joint or unified rules, which could further enhance economic co-operation and integration in the OSCE region;
34. Calls for investment in environmentally friendly sectors and the development of energy-saving technologies and renewable sources of energy, and also the incorporation of new environmentally sound methods of economic activity in the initiatives for post-crisis economic recovery, in the interests of curbing climate change;
35. Notes in the context of the global energy dialogue the need to strengthen co-operation and balance the interests not only of energy producers and consumers but also of transit countries, thereby ensuring a secure supply;
36. Emphasizes the importance of the protection of vital energy infrastructure from terrorist attacks and of energy infrastructure planning in the OSCE region, taking into account environmental threats and nuclear safety in vulnerable areas, such as seismologically active, earthquake-affected areas, as well as the interests of neighbouring countries and other States;
37. Calls on the international community to participate in the process of completing the construction of a new "sarcophagus" for the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, as was planned earlier, and to continue to provide support for activities aimed at rehabilitating the areas affected by the Chernobyl disaster, and also calls on participating States to

- prepare co-ordinated action in the event of new nuclear incidents at atomic power plants in the OSCE region or in the vicinity of the region;
38. Urgently recommends that the governments of the OSCE participating States begin elaborating proposals for establishing a global system for preventing and eliminating the consequences of natural disasters, which would involve the set of measures outlined in the Brussels Declaration of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly of 2006;
 39. Calls on the Member States of the Council of Europe and, if the Council of Europe is interested and invites them to do so, other OSCE participating States to sign and ratify three conventions: the European Convention on Nationality, the Convention on the Participation of Foreigners in Public Life at the Local Level and the European Convention on the Legal Status of Migrant Workers, and also to sign and ratify the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, adopted by the United Nations in 2000, for the purpose of combating illegal migration;
 40. Calls for the signing of bilateral or regional agreements between the countries of origin and the host countries, providing, among other things, for, on the one hand, access to savings accounts to foster investment and the secure transfer of migrants' remittances to their home country, and, on the other hand, a commitment to co-operate with diasporas and the observance of international standards for employment abroad;
 41. Calls on the international community to increase co-operation and information exchange in the field of cyber security, to agree on specific measures to counter the cyber threat and to create, where possible, universal rules of conduct in cyberspace;
 42. Emphasizes the need to assess the effectiveness of the existing norms with a view to finding common responses, on the basis of OSCE standards and values, to the rapid development of new information technologies and the increase in the threat of cyber crime;
 43. Welcomes the consultative, financial and other assistance by international organizations and institutions with the relevant experience and resources to support the efforts of participating States to reduce poverty and ensure sustainable development in the OSCE region.

CHAPTER III

DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS

44. Recalling that since 1975, with the Helsinki Final Act, the OSCE has held that respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms is one of the principles that should govern relations among States,
45. Fully aware of the fact that human rights and fundamental freedoms are still routinely violated in some parts of the OSCE area,
46. Noting that in the course of the 1990s the OSCE put into place an array of instruments to monitor the implementation of the commitments undertaken by the participating States with regard to human rights and democracy (the human dimension),
47. Recalling, among the aforementioned instruments, the Moscow Mechanism, established during the Moscow Meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension in 1991, and the Berlin Mechanism adopted in June 1991 on the occasion of the Berlin Meeting of the CSCE Council of Foreign Ministers,
48. Pointing out that the OSCE's ability to act, with respect also to the protection of human rights, democracy and the rule of law, was further developed with the adoption of the Prague Document on Further Development of CSCE Institutions and Structures (30 and 31 January 1992), which introduced the procedure of the so-called "consensus minus one", on the basis of which the Council or the Committee of Senior Officials can, where necessary, take appropriate action even without the consent of the State concerned in cases of clear, gross and uncorrected violations of OSCE commitments,
49. Recalling that all the procedures and mechanisms developed by the OSCE in the course of the 1990s regarding the human dimension should be considered in dealing with the new threats facing the Organization,
50. Noting the recent popular uprisings in the Arab world through which the populations of the countries concerned have spoken out in affirmation of their own right to express freely their opinions and to act as participants in the decision-making processes of their respective governments,
51. Taking note also that, given the profound changes in the political situation within the OSCE area since the 1990s, there is a need to re-launch its international role in conflict prevention and resolution so as to deal with these new challenges, regarding which – as for example in the case of Libya – NATO is playing a central role,
52. Recalling that at the Ministerial Council held in Copenhagen in 1997 the OSCE formulated for the first time the proposal to develop closer relations among the organizations operating in the field of security, such as NATO, and that with the adoption

in November 1999 at Istanbul of the Charter for European Security the absolute need to develop co-operation among international organizations within the framework of their respective areas of competence and under the terms of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations was affirmed,

53. Taking the view that the annual Human Dimension Implementation Meeting does not provide an adequate mechanism for effectively verifying the implementation by participating States of their commitments in the area of human rights,
54. Stressing the importance of parliamentary control and effective information on the activities of governments within the OSCE so as to be able to contribute to improving transparency and respect for the commitments assumed by the Organization,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

55. Calls on all the OSCE participating States to implement in full the commitments they have assumed in the fields of human rights, fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law;
56. Emphasizes that the OSCE and its Parliamentary Assembly should continue to work to promote democratic values in line with the commitments assumed by the OSCE participating States;
57. Reaffirms the importance of free and fair elections to safeguard and consolidate the rule of law and the respect of human rights and of fundamental freedoms in all the OSCE participating States;
58. Calls on all the OSCE participating States to apply the existing procedures, including, only where necessary, the “consensus minus one” procedure, in accordance with the provisions contained in the Prague Document on Further Development of CSCE Institutions and Structures (30 and 31 January 1992), in cases of clear, gross and uncorrected violations of OSCE commitments;
59. Convinced that the recent democratic revolutions in North Africa and the Middle East are of great relevance to the countries of the OSCE area because they could inspire the people of these countries to seek a greater degree of democracy, the rule of law and human rights, and that the Organization and all its participating States should therefore intensify their efforts to ensure that there are legitimate and democratic forms of government not only in the regions of North Africa and the Middle East, but also in their own countries;
60. Calls on the OSCE Ministerial Council to give consideration to the establishment of rapid-reaction missions capable of contributing to the co-ordination of responses to international crises, such as mass migration movements;

61. Urges the OSCE Ministerial Council to adopt long-term, at least three-year, mandates for OSCE field missions;
62. Calls on the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights to analyse election laws and practices in the OSCE participating States with a view to identifying best practice and outlining criteria for objective election observation and assessment;
63. Further urges the OSCE Ministerial Council to guarantee that the OSCE field missions are assigned effective mandates that include activities in all spheres, including the areas of human rights and the human dimension;
64. Calls on the OSCE Secretary General to allocate greater resources to the OSCE missions on the ground, which constitute one of the Organization's most important assets;
65. Encourages the participating States, with the assistance of the OSCE parliamentarians, to study solutions for updating, and guaranteeing the implementation of, the Moscow Mechanism, as recently requested by 14 participating States with respect to the situation in Belarus, so as to ensure that serious violations of human rights are effectively examined;
66. Declares the readiness of the OSCE parliamentarians to contribute to political initiatives, such as fact-finding missions to look into humanitarian issues;
67. Calls for greater bilateral and regional contacts with parliaments in Central Asia, in particular with the parliament of Kyrgyzstan, through the OSCE field presence;
68. Requests the OSCE Permanent Council to organize fortnightly meetings to examine issues having to do with human rights, with these meetings to be conducted in a way that is open to the public and the media and with the participation of civil society representatives, and to undertake in this way the continuous monitoring of the implementation of OSCE human dimension commitments;
69. Calls for the OSCE Permanent Council to pay special attention to the violation of OSCE commitments in the human dimension, regularly to consider human rights issues and to defend the open and free participation of non-governmental organizations, as set out in OSCE commitments, in OSCE events in the human dimension, in order to contribute to the ongoing review of implementation of commitments.