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**MONACO
DECLARATION
AND
RESOLUTIONS
ADOPTED BY THE
OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
AT THE TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL SESSION
MONACO, 5 to 9 JULY 2012**

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PREAMBLE

We, Parliamentarians of the OSCE participating States, have met in annual session in Monaco on 5 to 9 July 2012 as the Parliamentary dimension of the OSCE to assess developments and challenges relating to security and co-operation, in particular on The OSCE: Region of Change, 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.

THE OSCE: REGION OF CHANGE

CHAPTER I

POLITICAL AFFAIRS AND SECURITY

1. Recalling past OSCE PA resolutions on security-related issues, reform of the OSCE, and increasing the co-operation between the OSCE's executive structures and the Parliamentary Assembly, as well as the Astana Commemorative Declaration and the relevant 2011 Vilnius Ministerial Council Decisions,
2. Reaffirming that security begins with the inherent dignity of the individual and recognizing that the OSCE comprehensive approach to security remains a key concept for successfully addressing the security challenges of the twenty-first century,
3. Stressing the indispensable contribution of the OSCE to the establishment of unique arms control and confidence-building regimes in the area from Vancouver to Vladivostok,
4. Welcoming the decision to reissue the Vienna Document and regretting that consensus could not be reached on more substantial political agreements, and urging continued efforts to further update and modernize the Vienna Document under the "Vienna Document Plus" procedure,
5. Encouraging continued efforts to further improve the implementation of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, efforts in the field of arms control agreements and confidence- and security-building measures, efforts to support regional implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1540 in accordance with the Forum for Security Co-operation's mandate, and efforts in other areas,

6. Regretting that several participating States have moved further away from implementing their OSCE commitments, and reiterating that dealing with and strengthening activities in the sphere of national security should not be done at the expense of human rights and democracy,
7. Expressing deep regret that unresolved conflicts still exist in the OSCE area, leading to the emergence of new tensions and triggering further human suffering, as well as hampering socio-economic development and prospects for prosperity,
8. Being aware of the negative impact that the financial crisis is exerting on the security environment and the limitations it has put on national and international efforts aimed at addressing risks and challenges to our common security as well as on strengthening the OSCE capacity in that area,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

9. Urges OSCE participating States to fully implement the provisions of the Vienna Document 2011 in the whole area of its application as well as to continue to update this Document with a view to further increasing military transparency and predictability, including through measures such as lowering the thresholds at which States are obliged to inform each other of their military exercises, increasing the opportunities for verification activity, modernizing the exchange of military information, strengthening risk reduction mechanisms and enlarging the scope of confidence- and security-building measures;
10. Calls for a new start to the negotiations on the Treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) and strongly encourages all States parties to this Treaty to honour their obligations under this regime, in particular the principle of host nation consent, which determines the conditions for military deployments on the territories of other States parties in the zone of application;
11. In this regard, stresses the importance of the principle of territorial integrity, and calls on participating States to refrain from organizing exercises or events on foreign ground without the previous consent of the host nation;
12. Calls on all parties involved in unresolved conflicts to intensify their efforts to generate peaceful and viable solutions;
13. Calls on all OSCE participating States to contribute to the success of the United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), which is being held in New York until 27 July 2012;
14. Underlines that uncontrolled and unregulated arms trade is a grave threat to peace, security and stability at the local, national, regional and international levels as well as to democracy, the rule of law and sustainable social and economic development, and recalls furthermore that unregulated arms trade contributes to armed conflicts, population displacement, organized crime and terrorism;

15. Reaffirms that systematic violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms which currently take place in some OSCE participating States, in combination with an absence of strong democratic institutions and deviations from the rule of law, represent a serious threat to security and stability;
16. Emphasizes the importance of monitoring the implementation by participating States of their human dimension commitments during all phases of the conflict cycle, and calls on the OSCE Ministerial Council to strengthen an implementation review function within the OSCE;
17. Calls for a comprehensive and timely implementation of the Vilnius Ministerial Council Decision on “Elements of the Conflict Cycle, Related to Enhancing the OSCE’s Capabilities in Early Warning, Early Action, Dialogue Facilitation and Mediation Support, and Post-Conflict Rehabilitation”;
18. Encourages national parliaments in conflict areas to take an active role in reconciliation efforts and in informing and convincing the electorate of the need to work towards compromise to reach peace;
19. Recalls United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, and urges participating States to continue to promote the active participation of women during all phases of the conflict cycle;
20. Urges an immediate implementation of the 2010 OSCE PA Oslo Declaration with regard to facilitating the voluntary return in safety and dignity of all refugees and internally displaced persons from the 2008 war in Georgia;
21. Urges all participating States to use instruments of the economic and environmental dimension as confidence-building measures in order to establish and strengthen co-operation between parties in conflict areas, in particular cross-border co-operation programmes and experiences, and to intensify their efforts towards early peaceful settlement of protracted conflicts;
22. Emphasizes the importance of political pluralism in national politics, particularly within parliaments, and urges participating States to ensure the democratic right of political parties to stand for election in a free and unhindered way to promote multi-party systems;
23. Calls on the President of the OSCE PA to appoint a Special Representative for Central Asia, strengthening the post’s mandate to include political party development and reinforcing the oversight role of parliaments in the region;
24. Calls on the OSCE to deepen contact and co-operation with Afghanistan and to help strengthen ties between Afghanistan and the Central Asian States in order to address the security challenges and the risk of spill-over, especially in light of the planned withdrawal of the International Security Assistance Forces (ISAF) from Afghanistan;

25. Calls on the OSCE to undertake the necessary internal reforms to enable an effective response to the new security related environment whilst reflecting current financial restrictions:
- i. Reiterates its call for the OSCE to develop multi-year programmatic planning to pursue longer-term strategies for its activities;
 - ii. Repeats its recommendation for the modification of the consensus rule for decision-making with regard to decisions related to personnel, budget and administration issues;
 - iii. Repeats its call for the OSCE to adjust the existing periods of service with the aim of improving continuity and retention of institutional memory;
 - iv. Again stresses the important role of the OSCE Institutions and field operations and the need to ensure that the necessary resources are available for their mandated activities;
 - v. 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;
 - vi. Renews its call for the re-opening of an OSCE presence in Belarus as well as in Georgia based on a status-neutral agreement;
 - vii. Encourages the OSCE to improve co-ordination between the Secretariat, Institutions and field operations, in order to avoid duplication and maximize efficient utilization of resources;
 - viii. Welcomes the establishment, within the OSCE Secretariat, of a Department addressing Transnational Threats and reiterates its support for the OSCE activities in this field;
 - ix. Calls for the OSCE to organize an exchange of views and best practice on confidence- and security-building measures, including in the area of cyber security and counter-terrorism, with a view to exploring the possibility of building new OSCE commitments;
 - x. Calls on the OSCE to adopt the strategic framework for police-related activities based on promotion of democratic policing principles that was developed by OSCE participating States under the Lithuanian OSCE Chairmanship during 2011;
26. Requests the OSCE Ministerial Council at its December meeting, or the final meeting of each Chairperson-in-Office, to approve for submission to the OSCE PA and National

Parliaments a report of the work of the outgoing Chairperson-in-Office in order to enhance the ability of the OSCE PA to be better advised of the activities of the OSCE, and to send the same to National Parliaments and National delegations of the OSCE PA in time for consideration by the OSCE PA at its next Winter Meeting.

CHAPTER II

ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

27. Recognizing that governments are carrying out painful policies to curb soaring public deficits and counter the effects of the European sovereign debt crisis,
28. Disturbed by the impact of credit rating agencies on the formulation of economic and financial policies, and welcoming the reforms discussed in the European Parliament to reduce reliance on agency ratings, and eliminate conflicts of interest that could influence them,
29. Noting that governmental responses to the economic crisis have often bypassed political debate and reduced the overall effectiveness of parliamentary oversight in OSCE participating States,
30. Concerned that important economic policy decisions are being made within some OSCE participating States by technocrats without meaningful input from the people most directly affected or their elected representatives in parliament,
31. Concerned by the negative effects of the austerity policies implemented across the OSCE region, in particular cuts targeting healthcare and education budgets, and observing growing evidence of a stagnant growth scenario,
32. Acknowledging that the Institute of International Finance (IIF) has underlined that austerity is “excessive when carried out across the board,” and encouraged governments to move beyond strict fiscal discipline to “avoid the risk of an austerity overload” on the world economy,
33. Stressing the central role of innovation and entrepreneurship, as generators of growth and employment, in efforts to achieve economic recovery,
34. Realizing that there is a weakness in the Shareholder Companies model, which becomes apparent when a shareholder company buys shares in another company and so on, allowing money to circulate and enabling insiders to create non-existent capital that artificially inflates equity with no real money,
35. Understanding the likely role of the phenomenon mentioned in the previous paragraph in the 2008 collapse of the Icelandic economy and pointing out that it is widely used around the world,
36. Noting with concern the most recent EU data which indicates that unemployment in the Eurozone has reached an all-time high, and emphasizing that excessive levels of unemployment restrain the long-run growth potential of the economy,

37. Recognizing that those bearing the cost of economic failure often tend to be the most vulnerable members of society, including women, the young and the elderly, people belonging to national minorities, and migrants,
38. Recalling the benefits of promoting women's economic autonomy for the prosperity of their families and countries, which is achieved by way of facilitating access to education, training, child care, 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,
39. Alarmed by mounting social unrest across the OSCE region and recalling once more the interrelationship between economic hardship and political extremism, nationalism, and xenophobia,
40. Pointing to the urgent need for governments to live up to their commitments regarding climate change and step up efforts towards the finalization of a post-Kyoto legally binding treaty to address global warming effectively by 2015,
41. Mindful that several international organizations, most notably the United Nations and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, have underlined that the economic crisis presents an opportunity to encourage greater green investments as a way to sustain the recovery,
42. Noting that training policies have a major role to play within the global framework of realizing green growth and achieving economic recovery, and aware that the economic crisis has triggered changes in the global demand for skills, whereby knowledge-based industries require increasing levels of education,
43. Stressing that governmental support is essential to drive innovation, foster scientific co-operation, and generate new economic solutions to support growth in the OSCE region,
44. Welcoming the discussions on "Fostering Economic Co-operation and Stability in the OSCE Region" held during the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's Economic Conference in Batumi,
45. Supporting the role of the OSCE Co-ordinator for Economic and Environmental Activities in promoting deeper economic co-operation between participating States, thereby contributing to the achievement of peace, prosperity and stability in the OSCE area,
46. Welcoming the decision to hold an Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting on an annual basis, with the aim of improving the implementation of OSCE commitments and the effectiveness of its work in the economic and environmental dimensions,

47. Noting that gender equality is not only a crucial human rights issue, but also a question of smart economics,
48. Stressing that when women take a greater part in society there are clear improvements for the public good and less corruption,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

49. Calls on parliamentarians of OSCE participating States to play a greater role in overseeing and debating the economic policies implemented by governments across the OSCE region;
50. Stresses that the necessary return to balanced budgets must be credible and bearable, excessive austerity being economically counter-productive, destructive for the most vulnerable members of society and destabilizing for democracy;
51. Is convinced that peoples will accept a recovery effort only if the burden is fairly shared, in particular by requiring a contribution from the financial sector, which continues to evade its responsibilities;
52. Supports a reform of the credit rating system to encourage greater transparency and reduce possibilities for financial speculation;
53. Encourages parliamentarians of OSCE participating States to discuss ways to decrease the frequency of short-term market trading through the implementation of a Tobin tax;
54. Calls on the OSCE participating States to urgently review their corporate legislation to identify whether it allows the circulation of money to create non-existent capital and if so, to introduce the necessary legislative amendments;
55. Calls upon the OSCE participating States to further increase support to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) through adequate policies that will facilitate their access to financing, reduce administrative hurdles and support SME's access to new markets;
56. Encourages governments of OSCE participating States to carefully analyse the long-term effects of austerity-driven budget cuts, in particular with regard to healthcare and education budgets;
57. Emphasizes that the opportunity cost of stagnant growth and high unemployment has a negative impact on the solvency of social funds, reduces the possibility of carrying out strategic investments, and undermines the future prosperity of the OSCE region;
58. Encourages the Governments and parliamentarians of the OSCE participating States to apply a gender-based analysis of the long-term effects of austerity-driven budgets and economic stimulus initiatives;

59. Recommends that the OSCE offers itself as a leading international organization to foster economic co-operation and encourage synergies among participating States, and encourages once more governments to consider the economic and environmental area of the OSCE's work as one of the most promising from the standpoint of their long-term interests;
60. Calls upon the Ukrainian Chairmanship of the OSCE in 2013 and the Office of the OSCE Economic and Environmental Co-ordinator to highlight alternative solutions to tackle the economic crisis in the OSCE area at the Twenty-first Annual OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum and its preparatory conferences in 2013;
61. Supports the work of the United Nations and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development to raise awareness among policymakers about the economic opportunity of green growth;
62. Calls for increased international capital investment in the green economy, for developing and encouraging the wider dissemination of energy-saving technologies and renewable sources of energy, as well as the adoption of environmentally acceptable methods of working, with a view to promoting a post-crisis economic recovery, and also calls for the promotion of the establishment of global machinery under the aegis of the United Nations to make technologies for new and renewable sources of energy more accessible to developing countries and to countries with transition economies;
63. Underlines that education and training policies are essential to combat unemployment, positively adapt the workforce of participating States, and retain a competitive edge in tomorrow's economy;
64. Calls upon the parliaments of OSCE participating States to debate measures favouring greater labour mobility;
65. Calls on the participating States of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly to increase women's influence in their societies in order to strengthen their role as political and economic actors.

CHAPTER III

DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS

66. Considering that OSCE participating States in the Helsinki Final Act of 1975 have acknowledged that respect for human rights and the fundamental freedoms of the Human Dimension are an essential factor for the peace, justice and well-being necessary to ensure the development of friendly relations among themselves,
67. Reiterating the need for a balanced approach to all three dimensions: politico-military, economic and environmental, and human,
68. Noting that in the Madrid Concluding Document of 1983 participating States have expressed that the principles of the Human Dimension should be respected and put into practice by every participating State, irrespective of their political, economic or social systems, as well as of their size, geographical location or level of economic development,
69. Recalling that the OSCE region has seen change on an historic scale since 1975, but that all OSCE principles and commitments, without exception, have been categorically and irrevocably reaffirmed in the Astana Commemorative Declaration of 2010,
70. Recalling that at the UN Beijing Conference in 1995, women's rights were recognized as *de facto* and *de jure* human rights,
71. Stressing that the Heads of State and Government in Astana expressly stated that the commitments undertaken in the field of the Human Dimension are matters of direct and legitimate concern to all participating States and do not belong exclusively to the internal affairs of the State concerned,
72. Pointing out that in 2012 human rights are still routinely violated in many OSCE participating States and that many of them do not observe their commitments in the Human Dimension,
73. Acknowledging that, as mentioned in the 2010 Astana Commemorative Declaration, more must be done to ensure full respect for and implementation of the core principles and commitments undertaken by the OSCE participating States in the politico-military, economic-environmental and human dimensions, notably in the sphere of human rights and fundamental freedoms,
74. Stressing that OSCE human rights standards are minimum standards,

75. Taking the view that, notwithstanding many positive developments in many areas, in recent years in some respects and in some participating States the commitment to OSCE principles in the Human Dimension has regressed and that overall this Dimension is not strong enough,
76. Recalling the reference in the 1975 Helsinki Final Act to the 1948 United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, specifying that everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression, which includes the freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media, regardless of frontiers, and further recalling article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights regarding the protection of freedom of expression and information,
77. Recalling the Mandate of the OSCE Representation on Freedom of the Media stating that independent and pluralistic media are essential to a free and open society and accountable systems of government,
78. Considering, therefore, that it is necessary to revise and strengthen OSCE tools to provide a proper, genuine form for monitoring the participating States' compliance with human rights commitments and that existing tools, such as the Moscow Mechanism, should be more frequently and more effectively applied,
79. Observing that a country which holds the Chairmanship of the OSCE can expect closer scrutiny of the way it fulfils its commitments to the OSCE's guiding principles and that such a country therefore has a particular responsibility to provide a good example with regard to respecting these commitments,
80. Calling on the OSCE to introduce an official review mechanism to assess participating States for a potential Chairmanship role, including evaluation of the candidate country's implementation of the OSCE human dimension commitments, to be carried out before any decision on the matter of future Chairmanship is made,
81. Noting that with the 1990 Copenhagen Document the OSCE participating States recognized the independence of the judiciary as an essential element of the Human Dimension with regard to the full expression of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all human beings and that the Ministerial Council in 2005 declared that the right to a fair trial, the right to an effective remedy, and the right not to be subjected to arbitrary arrest or detention constitute the basis of the rule of law,
82. Recalling that, because of the values of traditional societies, women have unequal access to legal procedures in order to pursue justice and the protection of their rights, particularly concerning domestic violence, property ownership, and dissolution of marriage,

83. Recalling the Final Report of the Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on Prison Reform of 2002, which includes comprehensive recommendations to bring conditions in detention facilities in line with United Nations legal documents like the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners and the UN Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and its Optional Protocol,
84. Mindful of the United Nations General Assembly resolutions on the Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders of 16 March 2011 and on strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice responses to violence against women of 31 March 2011,
85. Considering that the guarantee of the above-mentioned human and political rights and freedoms is not sufficient to allow the full expression of human dignity, particularly in conflict and post-conflict situations, that the human experience of discrimination, violence and conflict cannot be remedied by political, security and economic measures alone, and that it is also necessary to leverage moral resources to create new opportunities for all human beings so as to transform antagonisms, restore dignity, rebuild trust and confidence and repair the social fabric,
86. Taking note of the work organized in Vienna by the Irish Chairmanship-in-Office with a view to optimizing the human dimension in the OSCE,
87. Reaffirming that greater efforts must be made to promote tolerance and non-discrimination and to combat extremism on racial, ethnic and religious grounds,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

88. Calls on all the OSCE participating States to assume full responsibility for a complete and effective implementation of their commitments in the fields of human rights, fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law;
89. Reiterates its call on the OSCE participating States for a more frequent and effective application of existing procedures in cases of clear, gross and uncorrected violations of OSCE commitments, including, when necessary, the Moscow Mechanism and 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);
90. Calls on those participating States that hold the Chairmanship of the OSCE, now and in the future, to set the standard for exemplary observance of their commitments in the Human Dimension and to plan for a follow-up and deepening of their commitment to OSCE standards and mechanisms for the period after their term in office;
91. Reaffirms the absolute necessity of a functioning, independent and transparent judiciary in fulfilling Human Dimension commitments, as the guarantee of access to justice and the

- right to a fair trial and the best way to safeguard against inappropriate interference with due process of law;
92. Encourages participating States to continue to strengthen the gender balance of all components of the justice system, including police and judges;
 93. Recalls the Assembly's 2010 Declaration on politically-motivated notices in the INTERPOL system, and expresses concern regarding the abuse of the INTERPOL Red Notice system by participating States whose judicial systems do not meet international standards;
 94. Emphasizes that there should not be any political prisoners in the OSCE area;
 95. Urges participating States to ensure that the conditions in their detention centres are in conformity with United Nations standards and to allow visits of international prison monitoring missions;
 96. Strongly urges the OSCE participating States and OSCE institutions to intensify their efforts to combat violent extremist ideologies based on racial, ethnic and religious grounds and their manifestations in the OSCE area;
 97. Calls on those participating States that have not already done so to ratify the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;
 98. Calls on the OSCE, including the OSCE PA, to establish permanent operational links with the United Nations Human Rights Council and its special procedures, notably the Special Rapporteurs on Human Rights Defenders, on Freedom of Expression, on Freedom of Assembly and Association and on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers;
 99. Commends the work of the OSCE field missions;
 100. Urges the OSCE Ministerial Council to adopt full, effective and long-term, at least three-year, mandates for OSCE field missions that include monitoring and reporting activities in all spheres, including the areas of human rights and the Human Dimension;
 101. Calls on the Permanent Council to re-open the OSCE field missions in Belarus and Georgia, whose mandates remain relevant today;
 102. Calls for closer contacts with parliaments in Central Asia, in particular the multi-party parliament of Kyrgyzstan, including through greater and more consistent engagement with the OSCE field presence in both Bishkek and Osh;
 103. Calls on the OSCE Chairmanship to ensure that investigations and policy preparation for swift OSCE action in situations of persistent, large-scale human rights abuse or of

imminent threat of such violations are not held up by a veto by any one participating State;

104. Repeats its request to the OSCE Permanent Council to organize special meetings with regard to the violation of OSCE commitments in the Human Dimension, to conduct these meetings in a way that is open to the public, the media and civil society representatives, and to undertake in this way the continuous monitoring of the condition of human rights and democracy in the OSCE region;
105. Strongly encourages the participating States to support the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media in efforts to strengthen and implement relevant OSCE principles and commitments;
106. Calls on the OSCE to establish, under the aegis of the Chairmanship or other OSCE institutions, including the OSCE PA, a civil society advisory board, comprised of representatives of leading NGOs working on OSCE issues.

RESOLUTION ON UKRAINE

1. Bearing in mind the resolutions adopted by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly at its Annual Sessions in 2007 (Kyiv) and 2008 (Astana) regarding political freedoms and the holding of democratic elections,
2. Concerned by the generally deteriorating political situation in Ukraine with regard to upholding its commitments in the field of human rights, the rule of law and democracy, and in particular the ongoing detention and incidents of mistreatment of former Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, as also expressed in statements during the most recent OSCE Winter Meeting,
3. Stressing that in the 1990 Copenhagen Document the OSCE participating States recognized the independence of the judiciary as an essential element of the Human Dimension with regard to the full expression of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all human beings and that the Ministerial Council in 2005 declared that the right to a fair trial, the right to an effective remedy, and the right not to be subjected to arbitrary arrest or detention constitute the basis of the rule of law,
4. Supporting the work of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine,
5. Noting that the majority of European heads of State refused to participate in the 18th Summit of Central European countries, which was scheduled for 11-12 May 2012 in Yalta (Ukraine),
6. Closely following the criminal proceedings and convictions in connection to allegations of abuse of office, misappropriation of funds and other charges against a number of former government officials, including former Interior Minister Yuriy Lutsenko, former Acting Defence Minister Valery Ivashchenko, former Environment Minister Heorhiy Filipchuk, and former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, as well as other senior members from the previous government,
7. Taking note of the numerous shortcomings (such as, *inter alia*, a lack of independence of the judiciary, excessive recourse to, and length of, detention on remand, and inadequate legal reasoning by the prosecution and courts in official documents and decisions) in these criminal proceedings which may have undermined the equality of arms between the prosecution and defence as well as the possibility for the defendants to obtain a fair trial within the meaning of Article 6 of the European Convention of Human Rights, which negatively impact Ukraine's future European integration,
8. Welcoming the invitation from Ukrainian authorities to the OSCE and other international observers to monitor the electoral process in Ukraine's upcoming parliamentary elections,

9. Reaffirming the importance for Ukraine of respecting the OSCE commitments, including the principles of transparency, equal opportunities, freedom of expression and fulfilment of the requirements of fair and free elections,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

10. Calls on Ukraine to guarantee a functioning, independent, and transparent judiciary by fulfilling its OSCE Human Dimension commitments, particularly with regard to the effective right to fair trial and the respect of the principle of equality of arms in criminal proceedings, as well as to adequate treatment of convicted persons;
11. Reaffirms that there should not be any political prisoners in the OSCE area and calls on Ukraine to free all political prisoners;
12. Calls on the Ukrainian authorities to reinforce the position of the ombudsperson, and to ensure that the post is occupied by an individual with relevant experience in human rights;
13. Emphasizes that Ukraine, which is going to hold the Chairmanship of the OSCE, has a particular responsibility to provide a good example with regard to respecting these commitments;
14. Urges Ukraine to resolve these issues of rule of law, human rights and democracy, in line with its OSCE Human Dimension commitments, before taking over the OSCE Chairmanship in 2013;
15. Calls on Ukraine to amend its Criminal Law and its Constitution if necessary in order to avoid the existence of politically motivated trials, and specifically to revise articles 364 and 365 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine in line with the Council of Europe's standards, as well as to reform the Prosecutor's Office, devolving its excessive powers to other relevant institutions;
16. Urges the Ukrainian authorities to ensure the health and guarantee the medical treatment of a number of former government officials currently in prison, including Lutsenko, Ivashchenko and Tymoshenko, and to allow, without preconditions, medical examinations and, if necessary, treatment by independent doctors outside the prison and outside Ukraine;
17. Expects Ukraine to live up to its OSCE commitments for democratic elections by ensuring that all political forces and political leaders, including those who are imprisoned, are able to take part in the upcoming parliamentary elections scheduled for 28 October 2012 in a free and fair environment;
18. Recommends that the Parliament of Ukraine avoid making changes in the legislation on parliamentary elections shortly before election day;

19. Expects that the upcoming parliamentary elections will again meet OSCE standards;
20. Calls on OSCE participating States, as well as other relevant international institutions, to participate fully in the election observation mission in Ukraine on 28 October 2012.

RESOLUTION ON

RULE OF LAW IN RUSSIA: CASE OF SERGEI MAGNITSKY

1. Supporting the Russian people in advancing democracy, human rights, and the rule of law,
2. Noting that the Russian Federation has ratified the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the United Nations Convention against Corruption,
3. Recalling that the Russian Federation is bound by the legal obligations set forth in the European Convention on Human Rights,
4. Considering the case of Sergei Magnitsky, a Russian lawyer, who was falsely arrested on politically-motivated charges, tortured and killed in a Russian prison on 16 November 2009,
5. Noting the context of the second trial, verdict, and sentence against former Yukos executives Mikhail Khodorkovsky and Platon Lebedev, which demonstrate a negative trend in the right to a fair trial and the independence of the judiciary in the Russian Federation,
6. Further noting the context of many unresolved human rights cases, such as the murder of prominent journalist Anna Politkovskaya, human rights defender Natalya Estemirova and lawyer Stanislav Markelov and many other unresolved cases of extrajudicial killings and other gross human rights violations in the Russian Federation,
7. Recalling the numerous statements and initiatives of former Russian Federation President Medvedev on the need to battle corruption and impunity, as well as the need to support the rule of law in his country,
8. Affirming that the harassment and torture of Sergei Magnitsky was and remains politically motivated,
9. Noting that Sergei Magnitsky was repeatedly denied medical attention despite 20 written requests, and further noting that when he was finally taken to a medical unit, rather than being treated he was beaten with rubber batons by eight prison guards,

10. Acknowledging the 2011 conclusions of an investigation conducted by former Russian President Medvedev's Human Rights Council, which declared that Sergei Magnitsky's arrest and detention were illegal and that he was denied access to justice by the courts and prosecutors, and noting that the Council also concluded that Mr. Magnitsky was investigated by the same law enforcement officers whom he had accused of stealing and tax fraud, and that Mr. Magnitsky's prison conditions amounted to torture and led directly to his death,
11. Regretting that the Russian Ministry of Interior and General Prosecutor's Office have rejected the findings of the Human Rights Council as inadmissible, exonerated the officers involved, re-opened the case against Mr. Magnitsky nearly two years after his death, and assigned the same officers who had persecuted Mr. Magnitsky to call his mother and widow for interrogation,
12. Reaffirming that it is the responsibility of the State that keeps a person in detention to protect this person's life or health,
13. Deploing that state officials operated with impunity with regard to this case,
14. Acknowledging that human rights and rule of law are at the foundation of international order,
15. Reiterating that the protection of human rights is not solely the internal issue of a sovereign state,
16. Acknowledging that good governance and anti-corruption measures are essential for sustainable economic growth, as well as for the protection of human rights,
17. Confirming that systematic corruption erodes trust and confidence in democratic institutions and rule of law,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

18. Supports the legislative initiatives on the Magnitsky case in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, and in the national parliaments of the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, the Netherlands, Poland, Italy, Sweden, Germany, France, Estonia, Lithuania, Czech Republic, Spain, Portugal and Georgia, as well as the resolutions of the European Parliament;
19. Commends the recent initiative of the UK Foreign Office to ban the entry into the country of foreign nationals who have committed human rights abuses, and to freeze the assets of these individuals;
20. Welcomes the decision of the US State Department, the UK Foreign Office and the Dutch Parliament in 2011 to impose visa bans on some 60 Russian officials believed to be involved in the death of Sergei Magnitsky as a result of the Russian authorities' inaction;

21. Calls on participating States to develop and apply targeted anti-corruption measures blocking the property of transnational criminal organizations involved in gross human rights violations relating to the case of Sergei Magnitsky;
22. Deplores the fact that Mr. Magnitsky is now the subject of Russia's first ever posthumous prosecution, and the ongoing persecution of his mother and family members;
23. Declares that the systematic abuse of Sergei Magnitsky, including his repressive arrest and torture in custody by the same officials that Mr. Magnitsky had implicated in the embezzlement of funds from the Russian Treasury and the misappropriation of three companies from Mr. Magnitsky's client, demonstrated the link between corruption and the erosion of human rights protection;
24. Calls on national parliaments to take action to impose visa sanctions and asset freezes on persons responsible for the false arrest, torture, denial of medical care and death of Sergei Magnitsky, and for the conspiracy to defraud the Russian Federation of taxes on corporate profits through fraudulent transactions and lawsuits against legitimate businesses, and to take action against those officials who participated in the cover-up of all the above-mentioned crimes and of other gross violations of human rights in the Russian Federation;
25. Urges participating States to further develop legislation to protect whistleblowers across the OSCE area;
26. Calls on participating States to place targeted sanctions on individuals responsible for gross human rights violations against people seeking to expose illegal activity by Russian officials;
27. Supports the European Parliament's resolutions calling on the European Union Member States to consider imposing an EU entry ban for Russian officials involved in this case, and encourages EU law enforcement agencies to co-operate in freezing bank accounts and other assets of these Russian officials in all EU Member States;
28. Encourages the OSCE participating States to keep such visa ban and asset-freeze lists open to the public, informing those affected in due time, and allowing them due process as far as possible, in line with the best practices developing in the EU and the Council of Europe;
29. Encourages the Russian authorities to co-operate with international institutions in investigating Mr. Magnitsky's death in custody and to issue a public report.

RESOLUTION ON

EQUAL PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN OSCE DECISION-MAKING

1. Recognizing that equal opportunities for women and men and the protection of their human rights are essential to peace, sustainable democracy, economic development and therefore to security and stability in the OSCE region,
2. Recalling the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for Gender Issues, the Beijing Platform for Action and the UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), which calls for full and equal participation of women in decision making with regard to conflict prevention as well as in post-conflict reconstruction, and stressing the importance of women's full and equal participation and involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security,
3. Noting that there are fewer women in the national OSCE PA delegations, as well as fewer women in higher office within the OSCE PA, than there are men,
4. Noting that elections in themselves still do not guarantee high-level leadership positions for women,
5. Noting that women's involvement in the process of making important government decisions can be an important milestone on the path to achieving gender balance in senior positions,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

6. Recognizes the equal rights of men and women to be heard and taken into account in the internal proceedings of the OSCE;
7. Regrets that gender issues are still not visible on the political agenda of the OSCE;
8. Urges the OSCE Secretary General, Heads of Institutions and Heads of Missions as day-to-day managers within the Organization to increase efforts to promote a more gender-equal working environment within the OSCE in order to set an example for all levels of society in participating States;
9. Urges the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly to develop a project to prepare leaders among female MPs;
10. Strongly urges national Parliaments to ensure gender-balance in the composition of the Delegations to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, and demands representation of both genders in all delegations;

11. Calls on participating States to co-operate and exchange experiences on the development of legislation on special measures to promote gender balance;
12. Urges the OSCE Secretary General, Heads of Institutions and Heads of Missions to ensure that all proceedings take place in an environment, including lodgings, which is free from prostitution and pornography;
13. Further urges the OSCE Secretary General to aspire to representation of both genders in all on-stage proceedings within the Organization;
14. Urges the OSCE Secretary General to enhance transparency in the meeting procedure by ensuring a public speakers' list;
15. Further urges the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly to aspire to representation of both genders in all on-stage proceedings within the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

RESOLUTION ON

GENDER AND MINORITIES IN THE OSCE REGION

1. Reaffirming that equal opportunities for women and men, and the full and equal enjoyment of their human rights by women, as well as respect for the rights of persons belonging to national minorities as universally recognized human rights, are essential to peace, justice, sustainable democracy, economic development and prosperity and, therefore, to security and stability in the OSCE region,
2. Acknowledging the cross-cutting issue of gender and minority status, and the condition of women belonging to national, religious, linguistic and ethnic minorities, notably immigrant, indigenous and Roma and Sinti women, in the OSCE region as among the most vulnerable to political, economic and social alienation,
3. Recalling that in the *Final Act* of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, the OSCE participating States committed themselves to respect “human rights and fundamental freedoms ... for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,” as also confirmed by the OSCE PA in numerous declarations,
4. Commending the work of the High Commissioner on National Minorities, the Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Gender Issues, and the Gender Unit at the OSCE Secretariat in promoting awareness and best practice concerning the most vulnerable groups in the OSCE region,
5. Noting the progress achieved on the part of many participating States regarding the implementation and enforcement of rights of persons belonging to national minorities, ethnic, religious and linguistic groups, indigenous peoples, immigrants, and the Roma and Sinti populations in the OSCE region, as well as on improving gender equality,
6. Recognizing the bridging role that women can play in promoting mutual understanding and tolerance in societies characterized by national, ethnic, religious and linguistic diversity,
7. Mindful that in the OSCE region women who belong to minorities are less likely to participate fully in the economic, social, cultural and political lives of their countries, are less likely to have access to education and employment, housing, health care services, judicial protection or electoral office at a level equal with men belonging to their group, and with non-minority women and men, and are more vulnerable than men to subsequent poverty, exploitation, trafficking, slavery, domestic and societal violence, and the lack of legal protection as migrant workers,
8. Aware that more fully harnessing a country’s diversity will strengthen its economic productivity and competitiveness,

9. Concerned that women belonging to minority groups face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and that the cross-cutting theme of the specific plight of women belonging to minorities is inadequately addressed at the OSCE,
10. Recalling the 1948 United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in particular article 26, which states that “Everyone has the right to education”, and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, in particular article 10, which states that “States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in order to ensure to them equal rights with men in the field of education”,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

11. Calls upon the participating States to continue to increase their efforts to safeguard and promote equal opportunities for women belonging to national minorities, particularly regarding access to education, shelter, health services, and employment, and offer sensitivity training where women and minorities are concerned;
12. Stresses the need for national parliaments to ensure that national legislation protects, respects and fulfils the equal rights and freedoms of minorities and women;
13. Calls on participating States to enhance their capacity for reliable collection, analysis and dissemination of sex-disaggregated data and research on ethnic, linguistic and religious groups, national minorities, indigenous peoples, and the Roma and Sinti populations according to standardized methodology, and to consider issuing grants or other means of supporting non-governmental organizations to collect, analyse and disseminate sex-disaggregated data and research, for the purpose of protecting, promoting and fulfilling women’s rights;
14. Encourages participating States to exchange best practice concerning gender, ethnic, linguistic and religious groups, national minorities, indigenous peoples, and the Roma and Sinti populations in order to develop more effective policies regarding their political, economic and social inclusion and identify priority areas for further capacity building;
15. Urges participating States to increase women’s participation in negotiations to resolve conflicts and in post-conflict reconciliation efforts and governance and to provide assistance that addresses the specific needs of women, in particular minority women, as per United Nations Security Council resolution 1325, especially in those conflicts arising from intolerance and where sexual violence, which has a gender and ethnic dimension, has been systematic;
16. Calls on the High Commissioner on National Minorities, the Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Gender Issues, and the Gender Unit at the OSCE Secretariat to strengthen their collaboration in promoting awareness of and solutions to the challenges faced by women belonging to minority groups;

17. Encourages participating States to recognize the importance of education, especially for women, since education is the most important tool to enable them to make a living independently, and notes that education is a key factor for women belonging to the Roma or Sinti populations or any other minority group.

RESOLUTION ON

STRENGTHENING SECURITY IN THE OSCE REGION

1. Reaffirming that the OSCE, as a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, as a primary organization for the peaceful settlement of disputes within its region and as a key instrument for early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation, continues to play an important role in building a secure and stable OSCE community from Vancouver to Vladivostok,
2. Actively supporting the OSCE's concept of common, comprehensive and indivisible security, which addresses the human, economic, political and military dimensions of security, and underlining the broad concept and the multidimensional approach to common, comprehensive, co-operative, equal and indivisible security space free of dividing lines,
3. Noting the change in the security environment and the emergence of new threats, and realizing that changes to the security environment in recent years along with the uneven pace of integration, economic growth and democratic development have led to the emergence of new challenges in achieving comprehensive and equal security, which the OSCE should address,
4. Recognizing that the security of each participating State is inseparably linked to that of all others and constitutes the basis for stability for the OSCE area as whole,
5. Noting further the ongoing multilateral political dialogue in the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian area on current and future security issues in the OSCE region,
6. Welcoming the adoption of the Astana Commemorative Declaration, in particular the recommitment of the participating States to the vision of a free, democratic, common and indivisible Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community,
7. Noting the importance of inter-parliamentary co-operation including interaction among the parliamentary structures of key international organizations in the sphere of security with a view to lending greater consistency to the efforts to renew the European security architecture,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

8. Stresses that within the OSCE area no state, group of states or organization can have any pre-eminent responsibility for maintaining peace and stability or can consider any part of the OSCE area as its sphere of influence;

9. Reaffirms the inherent right of each and every participating State to be free to choose or change its security arrangements, including treaties of alliance, as they evolve;
10. Acknowledges that each participating State also has the right to be free to choose not to enter or to remain out of any military or political alliance or security arrangements, and calls on other participating States to respect such a choice and the relevant rights and avoid actions in any form or manifestation which may undermine the political, economic, security, social or cultural stability of such states;
11. Acknowledges the legitimate interest of those participating States which choose not to belong to any military or political alliance in receiving security assurances or effective international arrangements to this end, and welcomes unilateral or collective commitments in this regard, which exist and may be elaborated in future;
12. Affirms the necessity to fully adhere to the Charter of the United Nations, the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris and all other agreed documents;
13. Recognizes the primary responsibility of the UN Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security, and underlines the importance of implementation in good faith of United Nations Security Council resolution 984 (1995);
14. Stresses that participating States should not strengthen their security at the expense of the security of other participating States, and calls on participating States to take action to safeguard the full implementation of the arms control and confidence-building regimes negotiated within the OSCE framework;
15. Calls upon the OSCE to consider within its security dialogue the issue of strengthening and ensuring security of participating States which do not belong to any military or political alliance;
16. Undertakes to intensify its efforts to promote the climate of confidence, trust and co-operation among the OSCE participating States with a view to upholding OSCE commitments, strengthening comprehensive and indivisible security and contributing toward conflict settlement;
17. Supports efforts of the participating States to enhance the dialogue on security issues in the OSCE area, which needs to include the issue of strengthening the security of participating States that do not belong to any military or political alliance, and recommends involving the Parliamentary Assembly in this process;
18. Encourages the OSCE to increase upon request the sharing of its values and experience in the security sphere beyond the OSCE area, particularly to OSCE Partners for Co-operation and neighbouring areas, while at the same time reinforcing co-operation with the EU, the UN, NATO, the Council of Europe, the Collective Security Treaty Organization and other relevant international and regional organizations.

RESOLUTION ON

THE DEVELOPMENT OF OSCE CO-OPERATION WITH AFGHANISTAN BY 2014 AND BEYOND

1. Welcoming the implementation, for almost ten years now, of the OSCE's co-operation with Afghanistan, Asian Partner for Co-operation since 2003,
2. Convinced that the long-term security and stability of Afghanistan has a direct impact on the security of the OSCE area,
3. Recalling Ministerial Council Decision No. 4/07 of Madrid on OSCE Engagement with Afghanistan of 2007, which enabled the OSCE to respond to Afghanistan's request for assistance in the fields of border security, police training and the fight against drug trafficking,
4. Recalling the "Astana Commemorative Declaration: Towards a Security Community", adopted by the OSCE Summit in December 2010, recognizing in particular that the security of the OSCE area is inextricably linked to that of adjacent areas, notably in Asia, calling for an increase of the level of interaction with the Partners for Co-operation and underscoring the need to contribute effectively to collective international efforts to promote a stable, independent, prosperous and democratic Afghanistan,
5. Welcoming Ministerial Council Decision No. 4/11, Vilnius 2011, on strengthening OSCE engagement with Afghanistan, which widens OSCE engagement with Afghanistan from the politico-military dimension to the economic and environmental dimension and the human dimension,
6. Recognizing the primary role of the United Nations Security Council in maintaining global security and stability and in international efforts to promote peace and stability in Afghanistan, as well as the invaluable contribution of the relevant international and regional organizations and players, and stressing the importance of co-ordinating those efforts and avoiding duplication,
7. Welcoming the appeal made to the OSCE by the UN Secretary General's Special Representative for Afghanistan and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), Mr. Ján Kubiš, on 14 May 2012 in Vienna for increased OSCE co-operation with Afghanistan in various areas,
8. Underlining the importance of an efficient transition towards a transfer to the Afghan authorities of full responsibility for security over the whole of the Afghan territory in 2014,

9. Highlighting the Afghanistan Government's particular responsibility for the long-term security and stability of the country, to be achieved in the context of a process that is Afghan-led, Afghan-owned and Afghan-driven,
10. Affirming that the OSCE, as a regional organization implementing a comprehensive approach to security, notably with confidence-building measures, has the necessary experience and expertise for its Partners for Co-operation, in particular Afghanistan, and can make a tangible contribution before and after 2014,
11. Underlining the added value of the OSCE field missions, especially in Central Asia, in helping to reinforce the security of the borders between Afghanistan and its adjoining OSCE participating States,
12. Welcoming the *Istanbul Process on Regional Security and Co-operation for a Secure and Stable Afghanistan* that was launched on 2 November 2011, recognizing Afghanistan's role as a land bridge "in the heart of Asia" linking South Asia, Central Asia and Eurasia, to which the OSCE remains committed, and welcoming the results of its first ministerial meeting, which took place in Kabul on 14 June 2012, in particular with regard to the approved confidence-building measures,
13. Welcoming the co-operation activities with Afghanistan implemented by Thailand and Mongolia, Partners for Co-operation, respectively, to help Afghanistan to combat drug trafficking and to reinforce the Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
14. Welcoming also the invitation from the Afghan Independent Electoral Commission sent in May 2012 via the Afghan authorities to the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) to present in Kabul its assessment report on the Afghan electoral process of 2010 and its recommendations in that regard for the upcoming presidential and parliamentary elections,

The Parliamentary Assembly:

15. Calls upon the OSCE participating States and other OSCE Partners for Co-operation to strengthen their political dialogue and consultations with Afghanistan in the context of a "two-way" dialogue for a safe, stable, prosperous and democratic Afghanistan, so that it may never again be a haven for terrorism;
16. Calls upon the OSCE participating States and other Partners for Co-operation to increase, by 2014 and beyond, their contributions to the new co-operation projects in all three dimensions and to OSCE activities for the reinforcement of the security of the Afghan borders with its OSCE Central Asian neighbours, for the training of the Afghan police for civil policing tasks in communities on the ground, for the fight against transnational threats, in particular the fight against drug trafficking and other forms of trafficking, and for the promotion of the OSCE's values, standards and commitments in the three dimensions, notably with the OSCE's Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe,

Tajikistan, the OSCE's Academy in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, and in the training centres of the participating States and Partners for Co-operation;

17. Encourages the OSCE to maintain a balance between political and security priorities in Afghanistan;
18. Calls upon the OSCE to establish a multilateral mechanism for co-operation with regional bodies such as CICA (Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia), CSTO (Collective Security Treaty Organization), SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organisation) and CARICC (Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre) in order to support Afghanistan more effectively, and to avoid duplication of effort by the international community;
19. Calls upon the participating States and Partners for Co-operation to contribute to the implementation of the confidence-building measures developed in the context of the Istanbul Process;
20. Encourages Afghanistan and the ODIHR to continue their co-operation and to have a fruitful dialogue on strengthening the democratic electoral process in Afghanistan;
21. Calls upon the Afghan Government to ensure inclusive and credible presidential and parliamentary elections, to strengthen independent electoral institutions and to guarantee respect for human rights, including women's rights;
22. Calls upon the participating OSCE States to encourage broader participation of Afghan officials and representatives of Afghan civil society in OSCE activities, conferences and events, with a view to a voluntary implementation of the OSCE's standards, principles and commitments in all three dimensions.

RESOLUTION ON

MOLDOVA

1. Recalling the previous resolutions on the Republic of Moldova of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, adopted earlier during the Annual Sessions,
2. Noting the recent presidential election as an important step in overcoming the political impasse in the country,
3. Recognizing that the existence of an unsettled conflict in the Transdnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova constitutes a threat to security and stability in Europe and the OSCE area,
4. Reaffirming the OSCE commitments to finding a solution to the Transdnistrian conflict through the 5+2 negotiation process,
5. Commending the notable step in the conflict negotiations in April 2012, led by the OSCE Irish Chairmanship, in close co-operation with the Moldovan and Transdnistrian authorities, on the principles and procedures of the talks and the future agenda of the 5+2 Talks,
6. Welcoming the establishment of joint parliamentary committees in the Moldovan Parliament, envisaged to include representatives of the Transdnistrian Supreme Soviet, and expressing the hope that all political forces in the Parliament of Moldova will be included in these committees,
7. Welcoming the fact that some Moldovan television broadcasters are now able to reach an audience in the Transdnistrian region, a move that will help foster people-to-people contacts from both banks of the Nistru,
8. Regretting the closure of the Chisinau-based NIT channel, limiting political pluralism in the Moldovan media,
9. Reiterating the Assembly's commitment to supporting the important work done by the OSCE Mission to Moldova,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

10. Welcomes the resumption of the settlement talks in the 5+2 format, 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 in the settlement negotiations;

11. Considers that identification of the 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;
12. Expresses its conviction that democratization throughout the Republic of Moldova would contribute to the achievement of this aim;
13. Calls on the Moldovan authorities to facilitate access for Transdniestrian broadcasters to Moldovan cable networks;
14. Encourages all political forces in the Republic of Moldova to engage in a constructive political dialogue;
15. Calls on all political forces in Moldova to make genuine and concerted efforts to include the opposition in the work of the Moldovan Parliament;
16. Calls on Moldova to consider improving its implementation of national legislation and OSCE commitments with regard to freedom of expression;
17. Urges the Moldovan Government and the administration of the Transdniestrian region to continue their efforts with regard to confidence- and security-building measures;
18. Emphasizes that intensification of the dialogue between various institutions and public organizations from both sides of the Nistru River, as well as the fostering of people-to-people contacts, would help to increase mutual trust and confidence;
19. Proposes to facilitate a parliamentary dialogue between members of the Moldovan Parliament and representatives of the Transdniestrian Supreme Soviet under the auspices of the OSCE PA Parliamentary Team on Moldova, with the support of the OSCE Mission to Moldova;
20. Welcomes the creation and work of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Republic of Moldova and the Republic of Poland, and encourages other OSCE participating States to establish the broadest possible framework for interparliamentary co-operation with the Republic of Moldova that can contribute to building political will and confidence, as well as facilitating parliamentary dialogue;
21. Appeals to the Russian Federation to renew and finalize the process of withdrawal of its troops and munitions from the territory of the Republic of Moldova in accordance with relevant principles of international law and commitments undertaken in the OSCE framework;

22. Invites all participants in the Transdniestrian conflict settlement to undertake consultations with a view to transforming the current peacekeeping mechanism into a multinational civilian mission under an international (OSCE) mandate;
23. 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 Transdniestrian settlement process.

RESOLUTION ON

THE OSCE AND EMERGING DEMOCRACIES IN THE ARAB WORLD

1. Having regard to resolution 2009 of the United Nations Security Council of 16 September 2011, aimed at supporting the transitional authorities in Libya,
2. Having regard to United Nations Security Council resolution 2043 of 21 April 2012, adopted following a compromise with Russia and providing for the deployment of 300 unarmed observers in Syria,
3. Having regard to the commendable efforts of Turkey, Jordan and Lebanon, which, as neighbouring countries to Syria, have provided facilities and assistance to Syrian citizens seeking refuge in their territories due to the mounting violence in Syria,
4. Having regard to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocols, protecting people who are not taking part in hostilities (civilians, medical personnel, chaplains and aid workers) and those who are no longer participating in hostilities (the wounded, the sick, shipwrecked persons and prisoners of war),
5. Having regard to resolution 1831 (2011) of the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly of 4 October 2011, on "Co-operation between the Council of Europe and the emerging democracies in the Arab world",
6. Having regard to resolution 1818 (2011) and resolution 1830 (2011) of the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly, granting the Parliament of Morocco and the Palestinian National Council "Partner for Democracy" status,
7. Having regard to OSCE policy to promote dialogue and co-operation with the countries and regions on the periphery of Europe, in particular by creating an OSCE Parliamentary Assembly "Partner for Co-operation" status,
8. Having regard to the involvement and engagement of OSCE countries in supporting the countries engaged in peaceful democratic transition, and having regard to the experience gained by the OSCE in democratic transition, especially in Eastern European countries and the Balkans,
9. Noting that democratization is a long, multileveled process that should develop from within the Middle East and North African region and should reflect, above all, the will of the Arab countries' peoples, while taking into account the specific nature of each of these countries,

10. Having regard to the commendable initiative by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development aimed at promoting and facilitating investment in countries in the Arab world that are taking steps towards democracy and facilitating access for such countries to European markets, in particular agricultural markets, trade, business start-ups and the creation of infrastructure and jobs,
11. Having regard to the tragedy affecting thousands of people in Syria and their wish for a peaceful transition to democracy,
12. Having regard also to the tragedy of the refugees who died in the Mediterranean, which must not be repeated,
13. Having regard to democratic transition in Tunisia, Egypt and Libya,
14. Having regard to the democratic aspirations expressed by the peoples of Bahrain and Yemen,
15. Having regard to the reform of the Moroccan Constitution of 1 July 2011,
16. Having regard, lastly, to the fact that in the absence of appropriate assistance enabling these countries to implement peaceful democratic transition, forces that are hostile to the democratic process may take control and claim thousands of further victims,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

17. Calls upon the Governments and Parliaments of OSCE participating States to implement all appropriate measures to ensure the success of democratic transition in the Arab countries engaged in this process, so as to enable the people's voices to be heard by offering appropriate assistance to democratically elected entities that request it, in particular by giving them the benefit of their experience in this regard;
18. Invites OSCE participating States to engage in or strengthen dialogue with democratically elected forces in Arab countries so that they can develop democracy at national, regional and local levels;
19. Invites OSCE participating States and the authorities of the Arab countries engaged in a process of democratization to effectively implement democracy, the rule of law, respect for public freedoms and human rights, and in particular gender equality, freedom of belief and the freedom to practise any religion or none;
20. Invites OSCE participating States and the authorities of the Arab countries engaged in a process of democratization to promote dialogue with each other and to deepen and broaden their co-operation;
21. Invites OSCE participating States to strengthen their contacts with the League of Arab States with a view to implementing co-ordinated co-operation and providing international

mutual assistance for countries in the Arab world engaged in a process of democratization that wish to participate;

22. Invites OSCE participating States and also international economic and financial organizations to encourage and facilitate access to their internal markets for products and services and to their financial markets for the Arab countries engaged in a process of democratization;
23. Invites OSCE participating States to develop trade with the Arab countries engaged in a process of democratization and foster business start-ups in these countries;
24. Invites OSCE participating States and international organizations to foster academic exchanges between participating States and the Arab countries engaged in a process of democratization to enable students from these countries to benefit from an international experience and the quality of teaching offered in participating States and to enable students from participating States to have a better understanding of these countries' cultures;
25. Invites OSCE participating States and the Arab States engaged in a process of democratization to co-operate in order to more forcefully combat corruption, inhuman or degrading treatment and violence, including against minorities and women, and to abolish the death penalty where applicable;
26. Invites OSCE participating States to take into account the positions expressed by civil society and to support its action to foster democracy, in particular by facilitating access to information, promoting freedom of expression and strengthening freedom of the press.

RESOLUTION ON IRAN'S NUCLEAR PROGRAMME

1. Convinced that nuclear weapons remain a threat to the security of the OSCE participating States, and that all countries should take steps to promote a safer world by pursuing their eventual elimination,
2. Recognizing that for more than 50 years, the international community has struggled to make the acquisition and development of such weapons more difficult and less desirable,
3. Convinced that the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) provides the norm and the foundation for an international regime to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons, and has led several states to abandon their nuclear weapons programmes or eliminate their nuclear weapons arsenal,
4. Aware that changes in the international security environment require the strengthening of the NPT regime and its adaptation to the threats of the 21st century, aiming at its universalization,
5. Worried about the unresolved issues regarding the Iranian nuclear programme, including those which need to be clarified to exclude the existence of possible military dimensions, and the potential of nuclear proliferation in a volatile region,
6. Concerned that the presence of nuclear weapons in the Middle East may aggravate already deep divisions between some of the region's states and that any escalation of existing tensions may lead to drastic measures with devastating consequences for the region and the world,
7. Commending Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (PNND) for their efforts to reduce the threat posed by nuclear weapons worldwide, in particular their initiative for a Middle East free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

8. Encourages participating States to maintain pressure on Iran in order to make the country fully comply with its obligations under relevant conventions and resolutions of the UN Security Council, and to meet the requirements set by the International Atomic Energy Agency;
9. Calls on participating States to work for a diplomatic solution to the threat represented by the Iranian nuclear programme;

10. Urges Iran to engage constructively in a process aimed at restoring international confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of its nuclear programme, while respecting the legitimate right to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy consistent with the NPT;
11. Underlines that countries refusing to abide by their international nuclear non-proliferation obligations must be held accountable;
12. Calls on participating States possessing nuclear weapons to undertake further measures to reduce their arsenals as part of the global effort to enhance nuclear security;
13. Calls on participating States to support the initiative of a Middle East free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction.

RESOLUTION ON THE SITUATION IN GEORGIA

1. Bearing in mind the Kyiv Declaration of the OSCE PA from 2007 underlining the importance of a resolution on conflict settlements in the OSCE area,
2. Referring to the commitment of the former OSCE mission to Georgia aimed at facilitating a political settlement of the tensions and conflicts on the northern frontiers and territories of Georgia,
3. Underlining the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Georgia in the framework recognized by the international community and stated in the UN Security Council resolutions,
4. Concerned about the humanitarian situation of the displaced persons both in Georgia and in the occupied territories of Abkhazia, Georgia, and South Ossetia, Georgia, as well as the denial of the right of return to their places of living,
5. Welcoming the further democratization of political life in Georgia, including the local elections on 30 May 2010, which were closer to international standards, constitutional reform, and the process of electoral reform, including opposition parties, aimed at creating the conditions for a free and fair upcoming Parliamentary Election in October 2012 and Presidential Election in 2013,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

6. Calls upon all parties involved to abide by the principles of international law, implement fully the EU-brokered ceasefire agreement and strengthen the Geneva Process, as the most comprehensive international mechanism to settle the protracted conflict and its subsequent effects;
7. Urges the Government and the Parliament of the Russian Federation, as well as the *de facto* authorities of Abkhazia, Georgia, and South Ossetia, Georgia, to allow the European Union Monitoring Mission unimpeded access to the occupied territories of Abkhazia, Georgia and South Ossetia, Georgia as was previously agreed in the ceasefire agreement, and to co-operate fully with the EUMM;
8. Calls for the safe and dignified return of all internally displaced persons to their places of living, ensuring access to international humanitarian aid when needed, with the goal of gradual rapprochement of the societies of Georgia and Abkhazia, Georgia, and South Ossetia, Georgia;
9. Calls upon the OSCE participating States to re-establish the OSCE Mission to Georgia as a mechanism for confidence-building;

10. Calls on the Georgian authorities to ensure that the upcoming Parliamentary Election in October 2012 and Presidential Election in 2013 will be organized in line with OSCE commitments and recommendations, especially with regard to equal conditions for all participants in the election process and the free and independent functioning of the media.

RESOLUTION ON

ENHANCING CROSS-BORDER CO-OPERATION POLICIES IN POST-CONFLICT 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 its 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. Fully aware of its 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,
5. In the framework of the Decision by the Ministerial Council No 3/11, 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,
6. 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,
7. Also considering the experience of the Non-Military Confidence-Building Measures (CBMs), despite being aware of their limitations,
8. Stressing the conflict prevention role of a border policy in which human, social and economic bonds represent a network of common interests that will make it difficult to break the peaceful status quo,
9. Considering the crucial role of a comprehensive border policy in the final stage of conflicts, not only from the point of view of security or delimitation, but also from that of socio-economic development, restoration of confidence, rebuilding of economic activity,

protection and, where necessary, integration of cultural or national minorities affected by the border itself,

10. Taking into account the instrumental role of local and regional authorities in realistic on-the-ground enforcement of high level international or bilateral agreements for the stabilization and normalization of the life of the peoples of post-conflict border areas,
11. Considering the vast experience of many participating States and their administrative bodies in cross-border co-operation policies, not only within the EU political and legal framework, where 50 years' experience has shown the legitimate role of border policies in the regional integration process itself, but also in other bilateral or regional integration fields, of a different scale and model but still within the OSCE's scope,
12. Considering likewise the experience obtained in this regard by other international bodies, such as the Council of Europe, and other specialized associations, such as the Association of European Border Regions, which has the most comprehensive database on good practices concerning cross-border co-operation in all types of borders, inside and outside Europe,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

13. Underlines the need for wider consideration and a broader concept of the border situation in post-conflict situations within the framework of the network of the OSCE's bodies;
14. Calls for a definition of borders, in general terms and more particularly in the case of those which have been conflict scenarios, that goes beyond merely security aspects and takes into account human development and social and economic aspects;
15. Thus demands that the role of international institutions does not end when the direct and present threats of violence disappear, but when a border interconnection level has been reached which makes it politically burdensome to resort to conflict and to the logic of confrontation;
16. Also calls for a general definition of cross-border co-operation policies as a means to prevent conflicts and to legitimize economic and political integration processes, whether multilateral or bilateral, which constitute the best guarantee in the face of temptations to settle disputes through non peaceful means;
17. Calls for OSCE's post-conflict structures to take into account all the experience obtained in the field of cross-border co-operation by participating States and by their administrations, as well as that of other international organizations and specialized associations;
18. Urges local and regional authorities to play a special role in confidence-building in post-conflict borders, in close co-operation with national authorities, since their proximity to the directly affected peoples affords them greater political legitimacy and visibility.

RESOLUTION ON

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1. Welcoming the fact that the decisions regarding the presidencies in 2014 and 2015 offer the prospect of a multi-year perspective, which allows the planning of OSCE activities over several years,
2. Recalling that the OSCE will celebrate the 40th anniversary of the signing of the Helsinki Act in 2015 and that this should be seen as an occasion to renew trust between participating States,
3. Bearing in mind that important reforms are pending and that public funds to finance organizations and their activities are limited,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

4. Urges the OSCE participating States to use 2015 as an occasion to renew the vision and the role of the OSCE in the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security architecture to record progress with the implementation of the Astana Commemorative Declaration, and to set up new milestones for the OSCE in the years to come in order to work towards a shared goal of a security community;
5. Is of the opinion that the Commemorative Declaration and the draft action plan drawn up in Astana form important bases for this strategic timetable and could be complemented by further initiatives currently under consideration;
6. Calls on the OSCE participating States to take constructive decisions as quickly as possible to improve the human dimension of events, to agree on multi-year programmes and budget cycles and to consider further improvement measures in other dimensions;
7. Calls on the OSCE participating States to tackle further important reforms such as the question of a constituent document for the OSCE which would fully respect the Helsinki Final Act, the Paris Charter and other key commitments of the OSCE, to redefine the role of the presidency and the Secretary-General so that the organization can continue to be led effectively in future, and to set modalities to strengthen the dialogue with partner countries and with other international organizations;
8. Calls on the participating States to develop a strategic vision of the OSCE by 2015 in order to address effectively the security policy challenges of the years ahead and to confer on the OSCE new important tasks in the areas of arms control, transnational threats, prevention and resolution of conflicts, human rights and human security, and to identify further possible themes;
9. Expects the Parliamentary Assembly to be suitably involved in these discussions.

RESOLUTION ON

COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM AND RADICALIZATION THAT LEAD TO TERRORISM

1. Recalling its Berlin Declaration of 2002 on Confronting Terrorism as a Global Challenge in the 21st century, chapter I of its Edinburgh Declaration of 2004 and chapter III of its Washington Declaration of 2005 and its accompanying resolutions on Terrorism by Suicide Bombers and on Terrorism and Human Rights,
2. Recalling its 2011 Resolution on Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalization that Lead to Terrorism,
3. Noting the Ministerial Statement on Supporting the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy of 2007, the Ministerial Council Decision No. 10/08 on Further Promoting the OSCE's Action in Countering Terrorism, and the Ministerial Council Decision No. 2/09 on Further OSCE Efforts to Address Transnational Threats and Challenges to Security and Stability, specifically where it commends the OSCE's contribution to countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism,
4. Also noting the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force's First Report of the Working Group on Radicalization and Extremism that Lead to Terrorism of 2008,
5. Welcoming the OSCE Chairmanship priorities for 2012, which highlight the need to further elaborate the OSCE's role in countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism,
6. Commending the valuable work that has been undertaken in this field by the OSCE's executive structures, in particular the Transnational Threats Department/Action against Terrorism Unit and the Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR),
7. Stressing that terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, race, civilization or ethnic group,
8. Underlining that violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism is of serious concern to OSCE participating States and that a necessary first step in any effective and comprehensive counter-terrorism strategy is to prevent and counter the processes of radicalization that lead individuals and groups to support and to resort to terrorist violence in pursuit of whatever might be their motivations and aims,
9. Convinced that a multi-dimensional understanding of the dynamics behind violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism is essential to designing and implementing effective strategies to combat terrorism,

10. Reaffirming the comprehensive approach of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy towards countering terrorism by addressing not only its manifestations, but also the conditions conducive to its spread, including but not limited to prolonged unresolved conflicts, dehumanization of victims of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, lack of rule of law and violations of human rights, ethnic, national and religious discrimination, political exclusion, socio-economic marginalization and lack of good governance, while recognizing that none of these conditions can excuse or justify acts of terrorism,
11. Stressing that this involves, *inter alia*, strengthening the resilience of individuals, communities and societies in order to prevent sympathy and support for those who incite and resort to terrorist violence,
12. Emphasizing the important role of national parliaments in, *inter alia*, addressing factors conducive to terrorism and exercising democratic control over the security sector, as well as adopting appropriate national legislation to prevent and combat terrorism, in line with relevant international obligations, including international human rights law, refugee law and international humanitarian law,
13. Emphasizing also that effectively understanding and addressing the factors conducive to terrorism requires a multi-stakeholder and multi-dimensional approach, which upholds human rights and the rule of law, draws on inter-agency co-ordination and public-private partnerships, and combines actions at both the national and local levels,
14. Welcoming the organization, as a joint pioneering initiative of the OSCE Secretariat and the OSCE ODIHR, of two regional expert roundtables respectively focused on preventing women terrorist radicalization, and on the role and empowerment of women in countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism,
15. Taking note of the joint project of the OSCE Secretariat's Transnational Threats Department and the OSCE ODIHR to develop a guidebook on community policing and preventing terrorism, which aims at providing guidance on how to use police-public partnerships as part of an effective, human rights compliant and gender-sensitive, multi-disciplinary approach to preventing terrorism and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

16. Calls upon national parliaments of OSCE participating States to advocate democratic and human rights values and promote pluralistic debate, as well as concrete actions to address factors conducive to terrorism;
17. Strongly encourages interparliamentary exchange and action among OSCE Parliamentary Assembly members with regard to countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism;

18. Calls on the OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation to actively share good practices and lessons learned in countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, including understanding and analysing factors conducive to terrorism, design and implementation of national and local level policies and measures, and development of public-private partnership initiatives;
19. Invites the OSCE participating States to engage with relevant OSCE executive structures and to provide funding for the organization of roundtables and training courses on regional, sub-regional and national level approaches to countering radicalization and violent extremism that lead to terrorism, to the benefit of counter-terrorism practitioners and other government officials, as well as civil society stakeholders;
20. Endorses the initiative to develop a consolidated framework for OSCE counter-terrorism activities for adoption by the OSCE participating States.

RESOLUTION ON THE IMPACT OF SMALL STATES IN THE OSCE

1. Recalling that the Helsinki Final Act of 1975 recognizes equal rights and duties for the participating States,
2. Emphasizing that small states are unique entities shaped by a long history and that they have a special place in Europe,
3. Recognizing that the OSCE standards, in particular in terms of international law, democracy, the rule of law and human rights, must be observed by small participating States, as well as by all other participating States, regardless of their size and impact,
4. Recognizing that maintaining and guaranteeing the security and identity of small states is essential to maintaining their sovereignty and stability,
5. Realizing that small states have to put much more effort into maintaining their identity in a global environment, and that their different economic and social systems must be respected in their diversity,
6. Recognizing small States' potential and readiness to make a substantial contribution to international issues and play a role in international organizations, to the best of their capacities and means,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

7. Welcomes the invitation of Monaco to host the Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in their country and the special efforts performed by a small state to organize an event of this calibre;
8. Encourages all participating States to support small States in their efforts to enforce OSCE standards and to maintain their identity, to guarantee their security and their sovereignty, to treat them on an equal basis as all the other participating States, and to take into account the constraints they face in their economic, social and environmental policies;
9. Supports small States' efforts to address common challenges and problems, which are often related to their limited human resources, and acknowledges the importance of small States sharing information and experiences in order to better promote common interests, raise awareness and seek collaboration for issues of particular concern to them.

RESOLUTION ON

SUPPORT FOR THE UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COUNTER-TERRORISM STRATEGY

1. Stressing its strong and unequivocal condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes, as it constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security,
2. Rejecting firmly the identification of terrorism with any race, ethnicity, civilization, nationality or religion,
3. Affirming that the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its four pillars provide the overall framework for the efforts of the members of the international community to effectively counter terrorism, in accordance with their obligations under international law, including the Charter of the United Nations and relevant international conventions and protocols, in particular human rights law, refugee law and international humanitarian law,
4. Ensuring the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's support for implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in an integrated manner and in all its aspects,
5. Highlighting the OSCE's multidimensional approach to counter-terrorism, which corresponds to that of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy,
6. Noting the Ministerial Statement on Supporting the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy of 2007, which recognized the leading role of the United Nations in the international efforts against terrorism and recalled the comprehensive approach of the Strategy towards countering terrorism by addressing not only its manifestations, but also the conditions conducive to its spread,
7. Also noting the Joint Communiqué adopted at the annual high-level meeting of 2007 between the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe and the United Nations and Partner Organizations, which welcomed the adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy,
8. Commending the valuable work that has been undertaken by the OSCE's executive structures in promoting the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, in particular the Transnational Threats Department, the Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), and the Office of Economic and Environmental Activities, as well as the work of the Forum for Security Co-operation in the fields of non-proliferation and preventing trafficking in small arms, light weapons and ammunitions,

9. Stressing the need to further strengthen international, regional and sub-regional co-operation to effectively prevent and combat terrorism,
10. Emphasizing that a necessary first step in any effective and comprehensive counter-terrorism strategy is to prevent and counter the processes of radicalization that lead individuals and groups to support and resort to terrorist violence in pursuit of whatever might be their motivations and aims,
11. Reaffirming that the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, as well as upholding the rule of law, should be central to all international, regional and national counter-terrorism strategies and measures, and that effectively countering terrorism and promoting human rights are not conflicting, but complementary and mutually reinforcing goals,
12. Emphasizing the important role of national parliaments in supporting the implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy by, *inter alia*, addressing factors conducive to terrorism and adopting appropriate national legislation to prevent and combat terrorism, in line with relevant international obligations,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

13. Calls upon national parliaments of OSCE participating States to support the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy;
14. Urges national parliaments of OSCE participating States to strengthen the international legal framework by supporting the ratification of the international conventions and protocols against terrorism and the implementation of their provisions;
15. Urges national parliaments of OSCE participating States to ensure that the fight against terrorism is conducted within a framework based on the respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law;
16. Encourages interparliamentary exchange and action among OSCE Parliamentary Assembly members in implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy;
17. Calls on the OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation to actively share best practices and lessons learned in implementing the four pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy;
18. Calls upon OSCE participating States to implement the Strategy through consistent and long-term efforts that draw on inter-agency co-ordination and public-private partnerships;
19. Urges OSCE participating States to make every effort to support the conclusion of a United Nations Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism;

20. Invites OSCE participating States to review their existing and emerging counter-terrorism programmes and initiatives, to step up their efforts to implement the Strategy at the international, regional and national levels and to support the work of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task-Force in this regard;
21. Calls upon the OSCE participating States to engage with relevant OSCE executive structures and to provide funding for the organization of roundtables and training courses on regional, sub-regional and national level approaches to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy to the benefit of counter-terrorism practitioners and other government officials, as well as civil society stakeholders;
22. Calls upon the OSCE participating States to adopt an OSCE Consolidated Framework For The Fight Against Terrorism.

RESOLUTION ON PROMOTION AND USE OF NEW AND RENEWABLE SOURCES OF ENERGY

1. Recalling the provisions on energy security and co-operation contained in the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly declarations and resolutions,
2. Reiterating the call on OSCE participating States in the 2008 Astana Declaration to commit themselves to a global energy transformation towards, *inter alia*, renewable energy, energy efficiency, energy saving and access to energy,
3. Welcoming the growing global awareness of the importance of new and renewable sources of energy,
4. Recalling the United Nations General Assembly Resolutions 64/206 and 66/206 entitled “Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy”,
5. Recognizing that the development of new and renewable sources of energy plays a significant role in the attainment by the OSCE participating States of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,
6. Noting that, in addition to higher energy efficiency, a greater use of new and renewable sources of energy and advanced clean energy technologies enhances the opportunities for tackling challenges caused by climate change,
7. Welcoming initiatives that aim to improve access to reliable, affordable, economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound energy technologies and services,
8. Underlining the imperative to intensify research on energy technologies and in support of energy for sustainable development,
9. Stressing that the wider use and exploration of available and additional new and renewable sources of energy require technology transfer and diffusion on a global scale,
10. Noting ongoing activities related to the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy within the United Nations system, and acknowledging the role of the UN-Energy group in promoting system-wide co-ordination in the area of energy,
11. Appreciating the work of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) on promoting the diffusion and sustainable use of various forms of renewable energy,
12. Recognizing the contribution made by other relevant regional initiatives, mechanisms and institutions to the efforts of the OSCE participating States to expand the use of new and renewable sources of energy,

13. Acknowledging that the private sector and civil society could play an important role in the promotion of renewable energy, energy efficiency, energy saving and access to energy,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

14. Stresses the crucial role of energy security in the new security environment and the imperative need for fairness and transparency, in accordance with international law and the European Energy Charter;
15. Underlines that the OSCE has a comprehensive normative and organizational framework for promoting regional and global co-operation and dialogue on energy security by raising awareness of challenges in this field and complementing relevant efforts of other global and regional stakeholders;
16. Urges the OSCE participating States to make efforts to develop further an enabling environment at various levels for the promotion and use of new and renewable sources of energy;
17. Calls upon the OSCE participating States to facilitate economically viable strategies conducive to reducing costs for new and renewable sources of energy and increasing their competitiveness, including through the implementation, as appropriate, of public policies for research, development and deployment;
18. 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 and capacity-building and the diffusion of environmentally sound energy technologies;
19. Encourages the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities and other OSCE executive structures to continue to facilitate in the OSCE region a shift towards a global energy transformation, 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;
20. Encourages the OSCE participating States to develop and implement measures and initiatives, in co-operation with the private sector and civil society, to inform and educate people about renewable energy, energy efficiency, energy saving and access to energy;
21. Takes note with appreciation of global, regional and national initiatives in the area of energy that promote the use of new and renewable sources of energy, energy efficiency, and access to energy;
22. Supports the idea of establishing under the aegis of the United Nations a global mechanism for transfer of technologies for new and renewable sources of energy, *inter alia*, by means of a global voluntary fund, a single global database, and an empowered UN-Energy group;

23. Encourages the OSCE participating States to co-operate closely in transferring technical know-how for new and renewable energy technologies;
24. Recommends that the OSCE holds an expert meeting with a view to sharing experience in the field of modern energy technologies and best practice related to renewable energy, energy efficiency, energy saving and access to energy;
25. Calls on the OSCE participating States to promote the concept of renewable energy being used at the point of creation due to the nature of energy loss during the process of transmission and to recognize that regionalized areas on the perimeters of Europe, which have the greatest capacity to produce wave, wind, tidal and solar energies, should be cultivated for the peoples of these areas, where unemployment is traditionally highest, which can also be seen as a competitive advantage for the manufacturing sector.

RESOLUTION ON

SHARING EXPERTISE IN RECLAIMING WATER RESOURCES IN ORDER TO STRENGTHEN GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY

1. Considering that the status of food security is essential to the achievement of Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 1, which calls upon development actors to halve the proportion of people who suffer from hunger as well as halve the proportion of people living on less than USD 1 per day,
2. Considering that despite the expected achievement of MDG 1, hundreds of millions of people will continue to suffer from chronic hunger and the situation of the impoverished and hungry in many nations will not reflect the success of the global enterprise,
3. Considering that the global nature of climate change and its status as an impediment to the development of green economies demand that agricultural, energy and water sectors be addressed strategically with a regional perspective,
4. Noting the serious impact of water scarcity on agriculture, particularly in developing countries, where agriculture is a predominant economic sector, and these countries' growing dependency on food imports for their food security,
5. Recognizing the strain that the impacts of desertification and water scarcity impose on the world's natural resources, which will be tasked with the challenge of feeding a global population that is expected to rise to 9 billion people by 2050,
6. Recognizing that in order to combat water scarcity, countries with expertise in maximizing limited natural resources must come to the aid of governments and communities that lack the know-how to take advantage of their own national water supplies and may effectively do so by establishing partnerships based on capacity-building,
7. Recalling that the Belgrade Declaration calls for the OSCE to include food security on its agenda and commits the OSCE to the development of energy-saving technologies and renewable sources of energy,
8. Stressing that global food security will remain a paramount issue to the global effort towards sustainable development, and that food prices must remain equitable in order to maintain the momentum of ensuring food security for all,
9. Stressing that the role of transnational politico-military threats in the degradation of food security may constrain the extent of international co-operation and that regional co-operation should not compromise the respect for national sovereignty,

10. Expressing concern that impeded access to water resources and misuse of water resources among countries sharing the same water resources constitute potential conflict threats,
11. Taking into account the negative, destructive effects of mining on the environment and on supplies of water resources (glaciers),

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

12. Calls on the OSCE participating States to ensure the safety of supplies of water resources (glaciers) and to prevent contamination of the environment by toxic industrial waste;
13. Stresses the importance of developing open lines of communication between development actors in order to encourage parliaments, governments and civil society stakeholders to utilize and share their comparative advantages;
14. Asks the Office of the Co-ordinator of the OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities to continue its efforts towards improving food security by recognizing the problems of desertification, water scarcity, rural and desert livelihoods, shortage of basic food supplies and the necessity for desalination, as well as the need to search for alternative energy as a means to eradicate poverty in all its work related to accomplishing the Millennium Development Goals;
15. Invites participating States of the OSCE to share their comparative advantages in the fields of water treatment and water reclamation by engaging partners through practical projects, educational seminars, and the transfer of technology complemented by training to ensure competency in the management of such technology in locations to be determined based on strategic placement or convenience;
16. Stresses the need for enhanced efforts to establish an international legal framework for resolving disputes over water resources and ensuring an equitable use of shared water supplies.

RESOLUTION ON

ASSISTANCE FOR CHILDREN IN THE AFTERMATH OF CRISIS SITUATIONS

1. Recalling previous output of the OSCE PA as well as international agreements and conventions, *inter alia*, the relevant protocols of the Hague and the Geneva Conventions, the Charter for Fundamental Rights of the European Union, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflicts and the ILO Convention 182 on the worst forms of child labour,
2. Noting that children are disproportionately affected by natural disasters and crises, which pose a direct and serious danger to their lives and to the existence of their community or even the whole population,
3. Bearing in mind that children are the most vulnerable members of society, especially when the crisis situation results in deprivation of family and home,
4. Worried that during and after a crisis situation children are particularly exposed to traumatic exploitation and violations of their physical and psychological integrity,
5. Underlining that educational activities in emergency and crisis situations can provide children with a sense of the normality and security needed for them to grow and flourish,
6. Stressing that the transition from humanitarian assistance towards reconstruction and sustainable development is guaranteed by education together with health care and the provision of nourishment and water,
7. Commending the valuable work that has been undertaken by all organizations acting in this field,
8. Concerned that the insufficiently targeted and co-ordinated assistance may deteriorate rather than improve the situation of children,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

9. Underlines that every humanitarian action must take into account children's specific needs and provide them with a protective environment allowing them to survive and to pursue their physical, emotional and mental development;
10. Encourages the OSCE participating States to create targeted programmes respecting local culture and lifestyles and being part of a continuous action;

11. Urges the OSCE participating States to establish afterwards assistance projects necessary to protect children's future and enable them to contribute to the reconstruction process;
12. Calls upon the OSCE participating States to support, in countries affected by crises, legislative, judicial and institutional reforms, especially those focused on the protection of children against all risks;
13. Calls upon national parliaments of OSCE participating States to support all actions ensuring both child protection and the needs of mothers, since their situation generally has a direct impact on the wellbeing of the children;
14. Recommends that all supervisory bodies carry out frequent and detailed monitoring of all relevant humanitarian actions to ensure that good co-ordination among international humanitarian agencies and national and local authorities is maintained in order to provide coherent, unduplicated and effective humanitarian responses, along with increasing operational flexibility for all parties involved in international organizations in rapidly adapting operations to new situations.

RESOLUTION ON FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT IN THE OSCE REGION

1. Recalling the relevant provisions of the Helsinki Final Act (1975), the Final Document of the Madrid Meeting (1983), the Final Document of the Vienna Meeting (1989), the Document of the Copenhagen Meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension of the CSCE (1990), the Charter of Paris for a New Europe (1990), the Budapest Document “Towards a Genuine Partnership in a New Era” (1994), the Border Security and Management Concept (2005) and other relevant OSCE documents,
2. Reaffirming the provisions of the Charter of Paris for a New Europe (1990), in accordance with which every individual has the right to freedom of movement without any discrimination,
3. Reiterating that greater freedom of movement and contacts between our citizens are of crucial importance for the preservation and development of free societies and a thriving culture and play an essential role in the context of protecting and promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms,
4. Welcoming the positive advances which have taken place over the past decades in the OSCE region in connection with the simplification of visa procedures and the liberalization of visa regimes, and welcoming the continuing efforts towards a reciprocal simplification of visa formalities and an abolition of entry visas on the basis of corresponding agreements,
5. Welcoming the initiatives of a number of CSTO Member States, in particular Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Russia, aimed at simplifying visa procedures, as well as their determination to liberalize visa regimes with the OSCE participating States,
6. Recognizing the need to continue to promote and facilitate human contacts among the participating States in the OSCE region,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

7. 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;
8. Calls upon the participating States to promote trips on an individual or group basis for personal or professional reasons and for tourism, in particular by further simplifying visa procedures and reducing visa fees;

9. Urges the Governments of the participating States 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 space;
10. Recommends that the ODIHR should conduct a review of the implementation of commitments entered into by the participating States with regard to freedom of movement of persons across borders, in order to provide technical assistance and advisory services to the participating States on those issues at their request, as and when needed and upon receipt of the respective applications;
11. Recommends that an OSCE event should be held with the participation of parliamentarians, representatives of Governments, experts on consular and migration issues and members of the relevant non-governmental organizations representing the OSCE participating States to consider the situation in the area of freedom of movement and visa regimes, as well as to exchange views on ways of improving human contacts in the OSCE region;
12. Calls upon the Governments of the participating States to continue to give due attention, including through the appropriate OSCE structures, to the question of ensuring freedom of movement and eliminating visa barriers in the OSCE region.

RESOLUTION ON PROTECTING VULNERABLE POPULATIONS FROM HUMAN TRAFFICKING

1. Recalling the principles of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's St. Petersburg Declaration (1999), Brussels Declaration (2006) and Kyiv Declaration (2007), the Oslo Declaration (2010) and the Belgrade Declaration (2011), 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 trafficking,
2. Commending the OSCE participating States that have adopted legislation and policies to prevent and identify trafficking within vulnerable populations, such as domestic servants and irregular migrants,
3. Welcoming initial steps in the OSCE region to address the particular needs of the Romani population,
4. Disturbed by recent research by the European Roma Rights Centre showing that the Romani population, particularly women and children, is grossly over-represented among both sex and labour trafficking victims in the OSCE region,
5. Concerned that the global economic turmoil and desperation has increased the susceptibility of already vulnerable groups to human trafficking,
6. Stressing that good governance is essential in efforts to protect vulnerable people, particularly migrants, from human trafficking which, according to the International Labour Organization, at any given time enslaves more than 20 million people, the majority of whom are women and girls,
7. Being aware of persistent problems in efforts to deal with human trafficking, which pertain, *inter alia*, to the reliability of collected data for actual and potential victims, reluctance to act and lack of resources for the identification and protection of victims and the prosecution of traffickers,
8. Alarmed that the same social and economic factors causing vulnerability to trafficking also prevent victims from accessing rehabilitative care and from securing prosecution of their traffickers,
9. Concerned that the lack of rehabilitative care and legal protection leaves already vulnerable trafficking victims exposed to being trafficked again,
10. Disturbed by reports that victim identification in the OSCE region has significantly declined,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

11. Stresses the need for enhanced co-operation, at the stage of prevention, between law enforcement authorities and non-governmental organizations towards effective awareness-raising policies among potential victims of human trafficking in countries of origin, as well as among potential buyers of commercial sex, so that all are vigilant against exploitation;
12. Urges participating States to ensure that rehabilitative assistance and legal protection are available to probable trafficking victims;
13. Calls on participating States to train law enforcement, including border enforcement, to identify and offer rehabilitative care and protection to trafficking victims, particularly those belonging to vulnerable populations;
14. Urges participating States to develop warning pamphlets in appropriate languages, including a trafficking hotline, for posting and disbursement by the government and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to vulnerable populations;
15. Calls on participating States to establish in major cities special, Roma-oriented task forces composed of Romani NGOs, Romani mediators and Romani community representatives, along with member state law enforcement, anti-trafficking authorities, and social services representatives.

RESOLUTION ON BELARUS

1. Recalling the resolutions adopted by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (OSCE PA) at its Annual Sessions in 1999 (St. Petersburg), 2000 (Bucharest), 2002 (Berlin) and 2003 (Rotterdam), the report and resolution of 2007 (Kyiv) and the resolution of 2011 (Belgrade), as well as the Joint Declaration of the OSCE 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 2011 and 2012 OSCE Chairmanships in re-establishing the OSCE field presence in Minsk and to establish a meaningful dialogue between OSCE institutions with Belarus as an OSCE participating State,
3. Regretting that elections in Belarus, including the December 2010 presidential elections, have been neither free nor fair and that the authorities have not co-operated with ODIHR on implementing the 2010-2011 recommendations,
4. Welcoming the report of the United Nations High Commissioner on Human Rights on Belarus and the adoption of the resolution on Belarus at the June 2012 session of the UN Human Rights Council, as well as the establishment of the post of UN Human Rights Council Special Rapporteur on Belarus,
5. Noting the United States Belarus Democracy and Human Rights Act of 2011 and the EU Council regulations and decisions of 2012 concerning restrictive measures against Belarus,
6. Noting that there are still many prisoners being held in Belarus today who have been arrested on political grounds and have not been given a fair trial,
7. Noting the 2011 report of the OSCE/ODIHR with regard to the post-election trials, and supporting its conclusions with regard to lack of due process and lack of independence of the judiciary in Belarus,
8. Regretting that no press or interim reports were issued by the OSCE/ODIHR during the trial monitoring, and that the Chair of the OSCE PA Working Group on Belarus was denied access to Minsk to observe these public trials,
9. Deploring the limited co-operation between the Government of Belarus and the OSCE's institutions in the field of the Human Dimension, 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,

10. Regretting that authorities in Belarus chose not to co-operate with the independent expert appointed through the OSCE's Moscow Mechanism, and welcoming Professor Emmanuel Decaux's report calling on Belarus to respect its international commitments,
11. Welcoming the release of former presidential candidate Andrei Sannikau and his associate Zmitser Bandarenka following 16 months of incarceration accompanied by extreme physical and psychological pressure and inhuman and degrading treatment,
12. 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 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,
13. Condemning 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,
14. Deploring the lack of political pluralism in Belarus, which has again refused to register the party of the Belarusian Christian Democrats without due legal cause,
15. 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,
16. Deeply regretting the lack of media freedom in Belarus, including restrictive laws with regard to broadcasting and internet freedom, as well as selective application of justice with regard to independent journalists,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

17. Calls on the Government of Belarus to release and exonerate all political prisoners in Belarus, including those given suspended sentences, immediately and unconditionally, including Ihar Alinevich, Mikalai Statkevich, Pavel Seviarynets, Ales Bialiatski, Siarhei Kavalenka, Zmitser Dashkevich, Mikalai Autukhovich, Eduard Lobau, Mikalai Dziadok, Aliaksandr Frantskevich, Pavel Syramalotau, Artsyom Prakapenka, Yauhen Vaskovich and Vasil Parfiankou, and to guarantee the full restoration of their civil and political rights;
18. Urges participating States, in particular the Russian Federation and Kazakhstan, to raise the issue of political prisoners in Belarus in line with that country's OSCE commitments;

19. Calls on the Government of Belarus to allow representatives of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly to visit political prisoners incarcerated in Belarus;
20. Urges the Government of Belarus to suspend the domiciliary arrest imposed on political prisoners released from prison, including Irina Khalip, Vladimir Neklyayev, and others;
21. Calls on the authorities to reinstate the legal licences of those lawyers who were disbarred for their professional activities in defending opposition and civil society representatives;
22. Calls on the Belarusian authorities to respect freedom of movement of its citizens, including political activists, in Belarus and abroad;
23. Encourages the authorities to reconsider the applications of the Belarusian Christian Democracy party and the non-governmental human rights organizations Viasna, “Tell the Truth!” and “Malady Front” (Youth Front), which have been repeatedly denied legal registration without due cause;
24. Calls on the authorities to suspend the harassment and persecution of civil society, such as representatives of the Youth Front, trade unions, independent media and human rights defenders, such as Aleh Volchak;
25. Calls on the authorities to implement the recommendations of the International Labour Organization with regard to trade unions;
26. Expects that Belarus will respect its OSCE commitments, including the 1990 Copenhagen Document, in particular with regard to the upcoming parliamentary elections, and that an invitation to observers will be issued in due time to allow international observers to follow the entire election process in an unobstructed manner;
27. Calls on the authorities to take the necessary steps to make full use of the European Dialogue on Modernization;
28. Calls on the authorities to annul convictions and pending charges against journalists for activities connected with their profession, as in the case of Andrzej Poczobut, and to allow an unrestricted public debate on key social and political issues;
29. Recommends that the International Ice Hockey Federation suspend its plan to hold the 2014 Ice Hockey World Championship in Minsk until the Government of Belarus releases all political prisoners;
30. Calls for an international investigation into the treatment of political prisoners incarcerated in Belarus, including allegations of torture by former prisoners like Ales Mikhalevic;
31. Urges the Government of Belarus to abolish the death penalty and immediately withdraw all issued death sentences.

RESOLUTION ON

ADDRESSING RACISM AND XENOPHOBIA AFFECTING PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT IN THE OSCE REGION

1. Whereas the OSCE region is home to more than forty-two million persons of African ancestry, including more than seven million persons residing in Europe,
2. Whereas the terms “Afro-European”, “African European”, or “Black European” are often used to refer to people of African ancestry or descent born in, citizens of, or living in Europe,
3. Whereas the presence of African descendants in the OSCE region can be traced to voluntary and forced migration associated with the geographical proximity of Europe to Africa and the Middle East, including the transatlantic slave trade, the colonization of Africa and the Caribbean, African and African-American military deployments, the movement of refugees and asylum seekers, and educational and other professional exchanges,
4. Whereas, unlike more contemporary figures, largely unknown persons of African origin have contributed to the history and culture of the OSCE region, including Spanish poet Juan Latino, Italian Duke Alessandro Medici, French novelist Alexandre Dumas, German scholar Anthony William Amo, French composer Le Chevalier de St. George, British abolitionist Oludah Equiano, and Russian General and Governor Abram Hannibal, great-grandfather of Russian poet Aleksandr Pushkin,
5. Whereas on 6 July 2011, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly unanimously adopted the Resolution “Strengthening Efforts to Combat Racism and Xenophobia and Foster Inclusion” recognizing the United Nation’s designation of 2011 as the International Year for People of African Descent,
6. Whereas on 10 November 2011, the OSCE/ODIHR Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Department held the OSCE’s first “Roundtable on the contemporary forms of racism and xenophobia affecting People of African Descent in the OSCE region” in conjunction with the 10-11 November 2011 Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting “Prevention of Racism, Xenophobia, and Hate Crimes Through Educational and Awareness-raising Initiatives”,
7. Whereas despite significant achievements, findings from the Roundtable and SHDIM revealed that African descendants are more likely than the general population to face barriers to equality of opportunity and experience discrimination, including hate crimes and racial profiling, and be underrepresented in leadership roles in the public and private sector as a result of the colour of their skin and ancestry,

8. Whereas OSCE Participating States have adopted a comprehensive normative framework to prevent and respond to manifestations of racism and xenophobia (MC Dec 03/04., MC Dec 9/09),

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

9. Supports implementation by the OSCE and participating States of the recommendations from the OSCE/ODIHR Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Department “Roundtable on the contemporary forms of racism and xenophobia affecting of People of African Descent in the OSCE region”;
10. Encourages the recognition and celebration of the collective history and achievements made by people of African descent in the OSCE region;
11. Reaffirms the importance of inclusion and the full and equal participation of people of African descent in the OSCE region in all aspects of political, economic, social, and cultural life;
12. Reaffirms the commitment of participating States to address racism, xenophobia, discrimination, hate crimes and intolerance in the OSCE region;
13. Calls upon participating States to engage in efforts to promote racial equality and combat racial discrimination, including through anti-discrimination legislation, the collection of data, and strengthening the capacity of legal institutions to address racial discrimination;
14. Supports the introduction of measures within participating States to counter stereotypical images by increasing efforts to include accurate portrayals of African descendants in educational curricula including textbooks, history and heritage institutions, in the media, and remembering victims of colonialism and slavery;
15. Supports efforts to promote racial and ethnic minority participation at all levels of national, regional and local government, including recruiting, training and hiring for professional positions to assist in the development and implementation of policies that will further anti-discrimination and equal opportunity;
16. Notes recommendations pertaining to combating inequality and discrimination towards African descendants and other minorities from the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial discrimination, the UN Experts Working Group on People of African descent (WGPAD), the EU Fundamental Rights Agency, the UN Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Racism and Independent Expert on minority issues, the OSCE Tolerance Personal Representative responsible for Combating Racism and Xenophobia, ODIHR, and the Transatlantic Dialogue on Minority Political Leadership, and other institutions;

17. Notes the continued need for the OSCE as a Chapter VIII regional organization of the United Nations to support the original goals and ideals of the designation of 2011 as the International Year for People of African Descent by the United Nations with the goal of strengthening national actions to ensure that people of African descent enjoy economic, cultural, social, civil, and political rights, as well as promote a greater knowledge of and respect for their diverse heritage and culture;
18. Reaffirms 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, and that manifestations of discrimination and intolerance threaten the security of individuals and societal cohesion, and have the potential to lead to conflict and violence on a wider scale in the OSCE region.

RESOLUTION ON EXTRAORDINARY RENDITION INVESTIGATIONS

1. Recalling that for years certain OSCE countries co-operated with the United States Central Intelligence Agency's "extraordinary rendition" programme, in which terrorism suspects were abducted without due process and held in secret "black site" prisons in Eastern Europe or transferred to third-party countries known to practice torture,
2. Noting with regret that several years after this programme was brought to the public's attention, there is yet to be a full and open accounting of what the programme entailed nor any prosecutions of public officials for possible violations of the law, either on the international or national levels,
3. Welcoming the closure of CIA black site prisons in Europe but regretting that executive orders issued by the current US administration still provide the CIA the authority to carry out renditions,
4. Remembering that in the 2006 Brussels Declaration, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly called upon "all participating States to investigate promptly and thoroughly allegations that their territory has been used to assist CIA-chartered flights secretly transporting detainees to countries where they may face 'disappearance', torture or other ill-treatment",
5. Welcoming the official investigation by state prosecutors in Warsaw into an alleged role by Polish authorities in the operation of a CIA "black site" prison in a remote region of Poland,
6. Regretting that the United States has not fully co-operated with the Polish investigation,
7. Condemning the prosecution that US authorities have initiated against former CIA agent John Kiriakou, who is accused of providing journalists details regarding the capture of Abu Zubaydah, an al-Qaeda suspect who is said to have been tortured in a secret CIA prison in Poland and is one of two individuals granted "victim status" by prosecutors in Warsaw,
8. Noting that appeals for information regarding the United Kingdom's involvement in the programme by the UK All-Party Parliamentary Group on Extraordinary Rendition have been rebuffed by US authorities, which have cited an exemption in the US Freedom of Information Act in the case of requests from "foreign government entities",
9. Regretting that a US District Court in Washington upheld the CIA's claims of exemptions to the Freedom of Information Act,
10. Pointing out that the UK All-Party Parliamentary Group on Extraordinary Rendition is an institution of Parliament and is wholly independent of the Government, and therefore should not be considered a "foreign government entity",

11. Recalling the 2007 report by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, which “earnestly deplore[d] the fact that the concepts of state secrecy or national security are invoked by many governments” which “obstruct judicial and/or parliamentary proceedings aimed at ascertaining the responsibilities of the executive in relation to grave allegations of human rights violations”,
12. Reiterating the views of the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights and counterterrorism Ben Emmerson, who stated in reaction to the US District Court ruling that it “flies in the face of the principles of best practice for the oversight of intelligence services” and “runs the risk of promoting impunity for state officials of the UK who may have been party to grave human rights violations”,
13. Taking into consideration the profound concern expressed by the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention about the secret CIA programme,
14. Noting that without proper co-operation from US officials, a full accounting of European governments’ complicity in the programme may not be possible,
15. Recalling the European Parliament’s 2007 resolution adopted at Strasbourg, which stated that “extraordinary rendition and secret detention involve numerous violations of human rights in particular violations of the right to liberty and security, the freedom from torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, the right to an effective remedy, and, in extreme cases, the right to life”,
16. Recalling further that in 2007 the European Parliament reminded its Member States that “the prohibition of torture is a peremptory norm of international law (*jus cogens*) from which no derogation is possible”,
17. Emphasizing that under Art. 12 of the United Nations Convention against Torture and Art. 13 of the European Convention of Human Rights, all OSCE participating States have an obligation to investigate serious human rights abuses, including torture,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

18. Reiterates that all OSCE participating States have binding obligations under international law to not only refrain from torture, or inhuman, cruel, humiliating, and degrading treatment; but to also investigate allegations of torture;
19. Restates its previous call for all participating States to investigate thoroughly allegations that their territory has been used to assist CIA-chartered flights secretly transporting detainees to countries where they may face torture or other ill-treatment;
20. Supports the criminal investigation carried out by the Polish authorities into potential crimes committed in relation to the rendition programme;

21. Welcomes the attempts by British parliamentarians to ascertain the level of the United Kingdom's involvement in the programme;
22. Insists that the United States Government co-operates with European investigations into the CIA's extraordinary rendition programme;
23. Calls upon the United States to release any pertinent information to appropriate investigators.

RESOLUTION ON

IMPROVING ELECTION OBSERVATION IN OSCE PARTICIPATING STATES

1. Reaffirming its full adherence to the Helsinki Final Act and to the provision contained therein that the OSCE participating States will respect each other's sovereign equality and individuality and also each other's right freely to choose and develop its political, social, economic and cultural systems as well as its right to determine its laws and regulations, including electoral legislation,
2. Recognizing the diverse historical, social and cultural conditions which have influenced the development of the electoral systems and legislation of the OSCE participating States,
3. Noting that democratic elections may be held in the context of differing electoral systems and legislation,
4. Welcoming the important role played by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in observing elections in all the participating States of the Organization, and advocating the continuation of this activity on the basis of the principles of objectivity, impartiality and transparency,
5. Noting the importance of effective co-operation between the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the ODIHR in the area of election observation on the basis of the 1997 Co-operation Agreement,
6. Recalling the provisions of the Document of the Copenhagen Meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension of the CSCE (1990) in respect of conducting democratic elections and the relevant obligations of the OSCE participating States, including the obligation to invite observers from any other OSCE participating State to monitor elections within the limits allowed by the law,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

7. Calls upon the ODIHR to conduct a comparative analysis of the electoral legislation and practice of all the OSCE participating States, particularly with respect to their compliance with the provisions of the Copenhagen Document, with a view to identifying common problems and defining ways of solving them through the elaboration of best practices in the electoral sphere;
8. Calls upon the participating States to draw on the results of such analysis to develop common standards, principles and rules for the observation of national elections by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the ODIHR with the involvement of experts from central election bodies.

RESOLUTION ON TRANSNATIONAL FUGITIVE OFFENDERS

1. Recalling that the concept of rule of law forms a cornerstone of the OSCE's human rights and democratization activities and does not only describe formal legal frameworks, but also aims at justice based on the full acceptance of human dignity,
2. Recognizing that globalization and increased contact across borders bring benefits to our societies in the form of increased understanding of other peoples and cultures, increased trade opportunities and more integrated economies,
3. Noting also that globalization and increased people-to-people contact, although fundamentally positive, may lead to an increased number of criminal acts being committed by citizens and organizations from one country against citizens and organizations of another country,
4. Recognizing that international law and bilateral agreements have come a long way in tackling many of the judicial problems and challenges that may occur as a result of this increased contact, in the form of international conventions, international tribunals, extradition agreements, agreements on transfer of sentenced persons and other agreements,
5. Noting nevertheless that the proper investigation of some crimes committed by citizens of one country against citizens of another country is made difficult and in some cases impossible due to the absence of relevant agreements between the two countries, such as a bilateral extradition agreement,
6. Worried that the lack of appropriate international legal tools may cause situations where the likely perpetrator of serious criminal acts, a so-called transnational fugitive offender, seeks refuge in his/her home country, which may be unwilling to investigate the case or prosecute the individual in question, or unwilling to extradite the individual to the country where the criminal act was committed,
7. Concerned that the failure to properly investigate serious criminal acts runs contrary to the fundamental principle of rule of law, to which all OSCE participating States adhere, and which is upheld as a prerequisite for democracy and good governance all around the world, and concerned also that the continued failure to properly investigate such acts may result in de facto impunity for the perpetrators,
8. Bearing in mind that lack of proper investigation of serious crimes and impunity effectively undermine the rule of law and erode citizens' trust in fundamental institutions of society,

9. Determined to explore new avenues to fill a lacuna in international law and pave the way for proper investigations of serious criminal acts committed by transnational fugitive offenders, with the ultimate objective of creating justice for the victims and those left behind,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

10. Encourages participating States, in instances where two or more States are involved in a case concerning a crime committed by a transnational fugitive offender and where the absence of an extradition agreement may complicate the handling of the case, to voluntarily enter into an agreement on the questions of extradition and of the country where the investigations, prosecution or trial should take place, with due respect paid to the legal systems of the involved countries;
11. Calls upon participating States, in the longer term, to study the possibility of establishing an independent and impartial International Legal Authority for deciding extradition, investigation and prosecution concerning transnational fugitive offenders, in co-operation with the International Criminal Court (ICC).