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## **DRAFT RESOLUTION**

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

#### ***Strengthening Regional Security by Fostering Democratic and Inclusive Societies: The Role of the OSCE PA***

**RAPPORTEUR**  
**Mr. Johan Buser**  
**Sweden**

**VANCOUVER, 30 JUNE – 4 JULY 2023**

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

**Rapporteur: Mr. Johan Buser (Sweden)**

1. Reaffirming all previous human rights commitments undertaken by participating States within the OSCE process, including respect for the freedoms of opinion and expression, freedom of peaceful assembly, freedom of association, and freedom of conscience and religion,
2. Concerned that respect for the full and equal enjoyment of fundamental freedoms and human rights remains an aspiration rather than a reality for many people across the OSCE region,
3. Deeply disturbed by the continued human suffering caused by the Russian Federation's war against Ukraine,
4. Recognizing the need for democratic and political processes that are responsive to the needs and expectations of our populations, and in keeping with principles of the rule law,
5. Concerned that many minority populations and vulnerable groups lack protections that would contribute to their well-being and to long-term stability within the OSCE region,
6. Recognizing the expanding impact of digital technologies on our enjoyment of human rights,
7. Appreciating the active and positive contribution that civil society can make to the OSCE process, as demonstrated in the Civic Solidarity Platform's 2022 Łódź Declaration,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

**Easing the Suffering of those Impacted by War**

8. Deplores the massive human casualty toll and physical and psychological suffering resulting from Russia's unprovoked war against Ukraine, as well as the devastating impact that Russia's attacks against civilian infrastructure such as energy, water and heating have on the lives of Ukrainians;
9. Recognizes the disproportionate impact of the war on women and children, especially unaccompanied and separated children, as well as persons with disabilities, the elderly, and marginalized groups such as the Roma, and therefore, calls for increased attention to the protection needs of these especially vulnerable categories of displaced persons and the provision of support services to them - both within Ukraine and in refugee-hosting countries;
10. Alarmed by testimonies of increasing sexual and gender-based violence linked to conflict, used as weapons of war against Ukrainian women on the front line as well as among displaced populations;

11. Calls for increased attention to the mental health impacts of the war and the effect they will have on recovery in the post-war period on the process of rebuilding a strong and free Ukraine;
12. Condemns the mistreatment and torture of prisoners of war by Russian forces and their mercenaries as war crimes and further evidence of Russian authorities' disregard for widely respected international humanitarian principles;
13. Applauds those within Russia and Belarus who have taken a public stance against Russia's war against Ukraine, and considers imprisoned anti-war protesters and independent journalists reporting on the war to be prisoners of conscience;
14. Demands that Russia and Belarus immediately release and rehabilitate all political prisoners;
15. Considers senior leaders in the Russian Government to be guilty of the crime of aggression, as well as other war crimes, and calls for all OSCE participating States to work towards holding them accountable through domestic or international court proceedings;
16. Resolutely condemns the abduction of Ukrainian children and their forcible removal to Russian territory, and calls for all OSCE participating States to place the best interest of the child at the centre of their policies, including children's right to preserve their identity, and to work for their safe return to their families, as well as the accountability of those Russian officials responsible for this odious crime;
17. Notes the contributions of the OSCE Moscow Mechanism reports of 13 April 2022 and 14 July 2022 that documented evidence of war crimes committed by Russia against Ukraine since 24 February 2022, as well as the OSCE Moscow Mechanism report of 3 May 2023 on the illegal deportation of Ukrainian children to Russia;
18. Recognizes that the imprisonment of individual war criminals, while necessary and important, is insufficient accountability for the many victims of war, and calls for the OSCE to convene a conference dedicated to installing an accountability system that puts victims of conflicts at the centre of its focus;
19. Calls on all countries to put the physical and mental well-being of individuals at the centre of their refugee policy process, ensuring that they can continue their lives in a dignified and safe manner, and work towards return to their homes, if they wish to do so;
20. Recommends a thorough review of migration related policies, to ensure that co-operation with authorities in countries of origin and transit and the outsourcing of asylum procedures to third countries does not result in further harm to those seeking protection;
21. Urges increased exchanges of best practice among participating States, including through the OSCE, of efforts related to support for refugees, in the interests of enhanced solidarity and improved burden-sharing among participating States;
22. Urges increased efforts to address the challenges faced by victims of war in other parts of the OSCE, including in particular Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia, and notes the

long-lasting impacts that conflict and occupation has had on large parts of these populations;

### **Addressing Weakening Faith in Political and Democratic Processes**

23. Stresses the importance of ensuring that political systems are responsive to the needs and will of our populations and are in line with our fundamental principles and the rule of law;
24. Condemns violence against women politicians as a significant barrier to increasing women's political participation, and calls on all OSCE participating States to prioritize this as a challenge to representative democracy, and to involve men and boys in the discourse about gender equality, stereotypes, and the toxic masculinity which fuels violence;
25. Calls on national parliaments, as well as domestic political parties, to conduct gender audits of their structures, work and processes, on the basis of OSCE PA-OSCE/ODIHR guidelines and in close consultation with the OSCE/ODIHR;
26. Considers a robust and independent civil society with minimal state intervention as necessary for a healthy democratic process;
27. Regrets the steps taken in a number of OSCE participating States that restrict the space for civil society to function, particularly through the imposition of burdensome administrative processes and efforts to vilify organizations through labels such as 'foreign agents' or 'undesirable organizations';
28. Calls on all national parliaments to re-examine their procedures, in close consultation with the OSCE/ODIHR, with a view to ensuring broad possibilities for civil society experts' input on draft legislation in all relevant stages;
29. Calls on all national parliaments to take necessary steps to ensure greater transparency of parliamentary work, including through making better use of new information technologies and improving access and working conditions for journalists in parliaments;
30. Notes the dangers posed by populist movements that tend to downplay the importance of long-held principles in favour of short-term electoral victories, and further notes their general inability to deliver real results;
31. Further stresses the importance of ensuring that electoral processes are adapted to modern lives and are as accessible and convenient as possible to all voters;
32. Calls for national parliaments, with the support of the OSCE/ODIHR and in broad consultation with experts from civil society and academia, to undertake reviews of existing national electoral processes to ensure they are both in line with OSCE commitments and also convenient for populations and modern lifestyles;
33. Notes the need for careful consideration within the modern context of electoral processes such as timing and locations of voting, timing and regulation of electoral campaigns and

appropriateness of campaign silence periods, and regulation of social media during campaigns;

34. Stresses the importance of prompt follow-up to post-election recommendations proposed by the OSCE/ODIHR, and supports enhanced co-operation between the OSCE PA, national parliaments, and the OSCE/ODIHR in this regard;

### **Standing Up for Minorities' Rights and Vulnerable Groups**

35. Reiterates previous OSCE commitments to protect and promote the ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious identity of national minorities;
36. Calls for OSCE participating States to expand such protections beyond those legally recognized as traditional national minorities, to include other minorities whether based on ethnicity, linguistic traditions, religion or sexual orientation;
37. Deplores the increasing persecution including through legalistic means in some participating States of minority populations, most notably of LGBTI people, and calls for greater protections for them under both domestic and international law;
38. Further calls for sustained support for refugees and forcibly displaced persons, who are all too often placed in vulnerable situations when on the move and particularly vulnerable to being trafficked or to falling victim to serious crimes and human rights violations, and urges all OSCE participating States to put the well-being of such individuals at the centre of refugee-related policies;
39. Considers trafficking in human beings to be a modern form of slavery requiring legal and political attention of the highest order to eliminate this practice which preys on innocent victims;
40. Calls upon participating States to enact processes in national institutions working on human trafficking ensuring that they learn from the experiences of survivors of human trafficking and exploitation to more effectively support victims and survivors;
41. Further calls on national parliaments, in consultation with the OSCE/ODIHR, to revise their policies in order to actively promote the political participation of persons with disabilities, who remain underrepresented in governing structures and decision-making positions across the OSCE region;

### **Impact of Technology and Digitalization on People's Rights**

42. Welcomes the empowerment of individuals' freedom of expression that has occurred as a result of digitalization and the internet;
43. Notes that information technologies and computer coding are having an ever-increasing impact on our daily lives and are influencing our populations' thinking, including on issues such as political polarization, tolerance toward others, and perception of violence, often with little or no democratic oversight by parliaments;

44. Calls on national parliaments to examine ways to promote the inclusion of respect for fundamental freedoms and human rights within technology coding processes, with close involvement of civil society experts and oversight by appropriate parliamentary bodies;
45. Calls for national parliaments to offer all parliamentarians training related to IT coding and artificial intelligence to ensure that Members of Parliament are adequately equipped to provide democratic oversight of modern communication systems;
46. Recognizes that with the increased role that social media is having as a reference source for our populations, increased attention, and potentially regulation, is needed to ensure that accurate and reliable information is promoted and that social media platforms can contribute to a well-informed population;
47. Concerned with efforts to justify censorship on the basis of misinformation and disinformation, and reiterates previous calls upon all OSCE participating States to act in accordance with the General Principles outlined in the March 2017 Joint Declaration on Freedom of Expression and “Fake News”, Disinformation and Propaganda of the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Opinion and Expression, the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, the Organization of American States Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information;
48. Regrets the pervasiveness of disinformation in the digital era, and recommends reviews of educational curricula with the aim of ensuring they can equip coming generations with the tools needed to identify and defend themselves from disinformation.

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

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT to the DRAFT RESOLUTION**

**on**

**STRENGTHENING REGIONAL SECURITY BY FOSTERING DEMOCRATIC  
AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES: THE ROLE OF THE OSCE PA**

*[Set out text of Amendment here:]*

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