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BELGRADE DECLARATION

OF THE

OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

ADOPTED AT THE

TWENTIETH ANNUAL SESSION

BELGRADE, 6 to 10 JULY 2011

PREAMBLE

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

We wish every success to the next OSCE Ministerial Council and bring to its attention the following declaration and recommendations.

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

CHAPTER I

POLITICAL AFFAIRS AND SECURITY

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

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

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

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

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

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

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

CHAPTER II

ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

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

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

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

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

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

CHAPTER III

DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS

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

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

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

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

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

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

RESOLUTION ON

**THE SELECTION PROCESS FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF
THE OSCE SECRETARY GENERAL**

1. Having regard to the recent selection process for the nomination of the Secretary General of the OSCE, which has revealed serious deficiencies,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

2. Declares the need to improve transparency as well as democratic principles in the selection process for the appointment of the OSCE Secretary General, and therefore;
3. Urges the Permanent Council to consider the reform of the present procedure.

RESOLUTION ON

BELARUS

1. Keeping in mind 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 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 with great disappointment that all efforts to hold a fruitful dialogue and to make progress in the fulfilment of the OSCE commitments which were reaffirmed at the Astana Summit in December 2010 and signed by President Lukashenko have failed,
3. Deploing that the presidential elections in December 2010 were again not free and fair,
4. Appalled by the brutal suppression of the protest demonstrations on 19 December 2010, in the course of which more than 600 people were detained, including several presidential candidates and their campaign managers,
5. Expressing its disappointment and lack of understanding of the fact that these people were charged with mass disturbances and were sentenced to up to six years' imprisonment in a strict security penal colony,
6. Appalled by the unjustified prison sentences which have already been imposed on some demonstrators,
7. Welcoming the fact that the OSCE/ODIHR has been granted permission to observe the trials,
8. Regretting that Belarus did not allow the independent expert appointed by the OSCE after the Moscow Mechanism was invoked to enter Belarus and take up and carry out his work,
9. Expressing deep regret that a fact-finding mission by the OSCE PA Working Group on Belarus has been rejected by Belarus,
10. Expressing deep regret that the Chair of the Working Group was refused a visa to observe the trials,

11. Expressing regret that Belarus has closed the OSCE Office in Minsk, and calling for this decision to be reconsidered in order to continue the promised co-operation with the OSCE,
12. Deeply dismayed that even small civil protests, for example against rises in petrol prices, are resulting in arrests,
13. Expressing deep concern about information on cases of torture and maltreatment of the imprisoned people,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

14. Calls for clarification of the facts surrounding statements by detainees who have fled abroad that the detainees in KGB prisons have been subjected to degrading treatment and torture, and demands an independent, international investigation of these accusations;
15. Calls on Belarus to carefully review and implement the extensive recommendations in the OSCE Moscow Mechanism Report;
16. Calls for the release of all persons detained in connection with the demonstration, who must be considered political prisoners;
17. Expects, where this does not happen, prisoners to receive unimpeded access to legal counsel, to be permitted visits from their families and friends, and to receive medical care;
18. Calls, in this context, in particular for Belarus to co-operate closely with the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media to resolve problems concerning the threatened closure of independent media outlets and to develop a media law reflecting the spirit of the OSCE principles;
19. Expects there to be no repeat of acts of repression against human rights activists, and instead expects all institutions of the Belarusian administration to comply strictly with the principles, to which Belarus is also a signatory, of the OSCE and of the human rights conventions;
20. Expects peaceful demonstrations and assemblies not to be banned in future;
21. Calls on the authorities to end the persecution, intimidation and repression of members of opposition political parties via the loss of jobs and university places;
22. Deplores the repression of non-governmental organizations and calls for a simplified registration process for these civil society groups;

23. Calls on the Belarusian authorities to conduct systematic reforms with the aim of democratizing the legislation of Belarus;
24. Expects future parliamentary elections in Belarus to be held according to democratic standards;
25. Offers an outstretched hand for a renewed dialogue with Belarus in order to support Belarus in taking its place in a democratic and free Europe under the rule of law.

RESOLUTION ON

WOMEN'S REPRESENTATION AT THE OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

1. Noting that article 1.4 of the OSCE PA Rules of Procedure states that: “Each national Delegation should have both genders represented”,
2. Noting with concern that in the OSCE PA National Delegations’ Members Directory circulated in Vienna on 21 February 21 2011, the following appears:
 - (a) Out of the 54 national delegations (there is no available data for Uzbekistan or Turkmenistan) in 17 delegations (31.48%) men are the only incumbents,
 - (b) 60.27% of the women are deputy members,
 - (c) There are only 10 women who are Head of a delegation (18.5%),
 - (d) Out of the 307 MPs only 73 (23.7%) are women,
 - (e) 26 women MPs (almost 50%) come from 10 delegations,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

3. Calls on the national parliaments to improve the representation of women in the OSCE PA national delegations in order to go forward in women’s empowerment.

RESOLUTION ON

COMBATING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME

1. Mindful of the commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime at the Fall Meetings in Palermo in October 2010,
2. Noting that there are still some countries, even within the OSCE area, which have not yet ratified the Convention, nor the related protocols relating to trafficking in persons, smuggling of migrants and the illicit manufacturing and trafficking in firearms,
3. Considering that at its annual Fall Meetings in Palermo, the OSCE Assembly supported a crucial proposition made by Kofi Annan, the Secretary-General of the United Nations at the time the Palermo Convention was concluded, whereby the purpose to be pursued internationally is to harmonize domestic legislation in each country so as to guarantee greater effectiveness in combating organized crime,
4. Considering also that the "Palermo spirit" of ensuring the ever-increasing harmonization of legislation regarding combating organized crime, and strenuously defending democracy and human rights, at all times in compliance with the principles of the rule of law, must inspire the Parliaments' legislative work,
5. Noting the need for concrete co-operation between the OSCE and the Vienna-based United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, which is committed internationally to weakening organized crime, and in particular the production and sale of drugs,
6. Mindful that administrative transparency guarantees that government departments and agencies function properly in preventing any attempt at corruption and discrimination,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

7. Urges the Parliaments of the participating States to strengthen their legislation to combat organized crime, consistently with the spirit and letter of the 2000 Palermo Convention, taking due account of the need to harmonise domestic legislation in order to more effectively defend the rule of law.

RESOLUTION ON

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

1. Noting with appreciation the adoption of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons by the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session, and underlining the importance of its full implementation,
2. Recalling General Assembly resolutions 61/180 of 20 December 2006, 63/194 of 18 December 2008 and 64/178 of 18 December 2009, all entitled “Improving the Coordination of Efforts Against Trafficking in Persons”, and other General Assembly resolutions on trafficking in persons and other contemporary forms of slavery, in particular resolutions 63/156 of 18 December 2008, entitled “Trafficking in Women and Girls”, and 64/137 of 18 December 2009, entitled “Intensification of Efforts to Eliminate all Forms of Violence Against Women”,
3. Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 2008/33 of 25 July 2008, entitled “Strengthening Coordination of the United Nations and other Efforts in Fighting Trafficking in Persons”, and the previous resolutions of the Council on trafficking in persons, including resolution 2006/27 of 27 July 2006, entitled “Strengthening International Co-operation in Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Persons and Protecting Victims of such Trafficking”,
4. Reaffirming the important role of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the Convention, and acknowledging that these are the principal legally binding global instruments to combat trafficking in persons,
5. Expressing its strong condemnation of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, which constitutes an offence and a serious threat to human dignity and physical integrity of persons,
6. Recognizing the need to promote, by harmonizing the efforts of OSCE participating States and relevant international organizations and institutions to implement the Global Plan of Action, the universal ratification and full implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the

Convention, as well as of other relevant international instruments that address trafficking in persons, and to reinforce the implementation of existing instruments against trafficking in persons,

7. Welcoming the launch of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, which will operate as a subsidiary fund of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund managed by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in accordance with paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 64/293, and acknowledging previous and ongoing contributions to other funding sources that support efforts to combat trafficking in persons,
8. Acknowledging the need to strengthen the Inter-Agency Co-ordination Group against Trafficking in Persons under the co-ordination of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in order to ensure overall co-ordination and coherence in the efforts of the United Nations system to respond to trafficking in persons, including through the implementation of the Global Plan of Action,

The Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE:

9. Urges OSCE participating States and invites other relevant international, regional and subregional organizations, within their respective mandates, to contribute to the full and effective implementation of the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, principally by means of strengthening co-operation and improving co-ordination among themselves in achieving that goal;
10. Invites participating States and other interested parties to make voluntary contributions to the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children;
11. Urges OSCE participating States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to, as a matter of priority, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the Convention;
12. Calls upon OSCE participating States to address the demand that fuels trafficking in persons for all forms of exploitation with a view to eliminating such demand and, to that end, to enhance preventive measures, including legislative measures, to deter exploiters of trafficked persons and to ensure that they are held accountable.

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 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 the 2007 report of the OSCE PA's Special Representative on Anti-Terrorism, Mr. Kammenos, on the role of the OSCE in the fight against terrorism,
3. Noting 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. Commending the valuable work that has been undertaken in this field by the OSCE's executive structures, in particular the Action against Terrorism Unit and the Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights,
5. Realizing that in recent years the Assembly has addressed the fight against terrorism mainly in the context of the war in Afghanistan, for example in the Astana Declaration of 2008 and the Oslo Declaration of 2010,
6. Realizing furthermore 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 resort to terrorist violence in pursuit of whatever might be their motivations and aims,
7. Stressing that this involves, inter alia, understanding and addressing the factors conducive to terrorism as well as strengthening the resilience of individuals, communities and societies in order to reduce sympathy and support for those who incite and resort to terrorist violence,
8. Aware that a number of OSCE participating States have gained considerable experience with policies and measures to this effect and that they consequently have valuable

insights about the possible dos and don'ts in countering terrorism and radicalization that lead to terrorism,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

9. Calls on the OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation to actively share best practices and lessons learned in countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, including understanding and analyses of factors conducive to terrorism,
10. Urges the OSCE participating States to engage with relevant OSCE executive structures and to provide funding for the organization of roundtables and training courses on national and local 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;
11. Endorses the initiative to develop a consolidated mandate for OSCE counter-terrorism activities for adoption by the OSCE participating States.

RESOLUTION ON MEDITERRANEAN POLITICAL TRANSITION

1. Inspired by the movements for freedom and change sweeping across the Middle East and North Africa as citizens of the countries in the region demand respect for their basic human rights, economic opportunity, and open and responsive government,
2. Recognizing the historic and ongoing contributions of the OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation to the work of the OSCE and its Parliamentary Assembly,
3. Recognizing the efforts of the people of Tunisia and Egypt to create new representative governments, ensure the rule of law and build democratic institutions, and the work of the governments of Jordan, Morocco and Algeria to accelerate and deepen democratic reforms,
4. Welcoming the G8's Deauville Partnership, which provides a political process to support democratic transition and foster governance reforms and an economic framework for sustainable and inclusive growth for Egypt and Tunisia and other countries in the region,
5. Recognizing attempts by the people of Libya, Syria and other countries of the region to peacefully assemble in order to exercise their freedom of speech and seek respect for their basic human rights, only to be met by unconscionable violence and brutal repression by their governments,
6. Deeply concerned about the impact of the violence and instability in Libya, Syria and other countries of the region on the Mediterranean Partners,
7. Recalling the proceedings and findings of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Mediterranean Forums in Rome (2003), Rhodes (2004), Sveti-Stefan (2005), Malta (2006), Portoroz (2007), Toronto (2008), Athens (2009), and Palermo (2010),
8. Recognizing the importance of the full implementation of resolutions 1970 and 1973 of the United Nations Security Council, and
9. Underlining that the protection of civilians and refugees is a priority, according to the principles of humanitarian assistance,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

10. Condemns government-sponsored violence against the people of Libya and Syria;
11. Condemns the violence exercised by Gadafi's regime against the legitimate and peaceful demands of the Libyan people;
12. Calls for an immediate halt to the violence exercised by the Syrian authorities against its people, and for access for humanitarian aid;
13. Supports the implementation of restrictive measures against Syria in order to determine responsibility for injuries and deaths, and asks for the liberation of all imprisoned as the only way to initiate and reinforce a peaceful transition:
14. Calls on the United Nations, the OSCE, the EU and other international organizations to assist the Mediterranean Partners in their efforts to assist displaced populations and address other needs arising from the instability in those countries involved in conflicts;
15. Urges the Mediterranean Partners to ensure the protection of minority rights, particularly those of religious minorities, and the establishment of a free and open press, media and internet, as respect for minority rights and the free flow of information are essential to the consolidation of democracy;
16. Urges Mediterranean Partners to solicit OSCE and OSCE PA institutional expertise in governmental reform, election facilitation, and political pluralism to facilitate peaceful regional transition;
17. Urges the advance of the peace process in the Middle East, and supports the intervention of President Obama in introducing important elements that could contribute to the resumption of negotiations by all stakeholders leading to a comprehensive solution, and acknowledges the State of Israel and an independent, democratic, sovereign and viable Palestinian State, living in peace and security with mutual acceptance;
18. Encourages Mediterranean Partners to consult OSCE and OSCE PA institutional resources on management of peaceful assembly, press freedom, and civil society capacity development;
19. Commends the incorporation of the Partners for Co-operation into the OSCE Border Security and Management National Focal Point Network and encourages their active engagement;
20. Commends OSCE pursuit of "Participatory Workshops on Environment and Security Issues in the Southern Mediterranean Region" to address water security, land degradation, and desertification;

21. Welcomes the establishment of the programme providing for the placement of experts from the Partners for Co-operation for a period of four months in OSCE executive structures;
22. Strongly urges all OSCE participating States to contribute robustly to the Partnership Fund in order to support such worthwhile programmes and encourage deeper engagement with the Partners for Co-operation;
23. Urges participating States to support a civil society forum in a Mediterranean Partner State to supplement the 2012 OSCE Mediterranean Conference;
24. Encourages all OSCE participating States to support the positive aspects of the political transitions in Tunisia and Egypt and other Mediterranean Partner countries through efforts to increase trade, investment and economic development in those countries and throughout the region; and
25. Calls on the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Secretariat and the OSCE Secretariat to engage the European Union, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the Union for the Mediterranean and the many other Euro-Mediterranean entities in order to facilitate focused and practical co-operation with the activities of the OSCE Mediterranean Dimension.

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. Recognizing progress made with regard to ensuring the development of democratic institutions in the Republic of Moldova, including progress in meeting OSCE commitments noted by the OSCE election observation mission during the last parliamentary elections in November 2010,
3. Noting the political impasse in electing a Head of State and the need for much greater political dialogue among political forces in Moldova,
4. Recognizing that the existence of an unsettled conflict in the Transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova constitutes a threat to security and stability in Europe and the OSCE area,
5. Reaffirming the OSCE commitments to finding a solution to the Transnistrian conflict through the 5+2 negotiation process,
6. Noting intensified consultations among the sides in the negotiations process,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

7. Calls for 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;
8. Considers that identification of the special legal status for the Transnistrian 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 Transnistrian conflict settlement process;
9. Expresses its conviction that democratization throughout the Republic of Moldova would contribute to the achievement of this aim;

10. Urges the Moldovan Government and the administration of the Transnistrian region to continue their efforts with regard to confidence- and security-building measures;
11. 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;
12. 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;
13. Reiterates the Assembly's commitment to supporting the important work done by the OSCE Mission to Moldova;
14. Invites all participants in the Transnistrian conflict settlement to undertake consultations with a view to transforming the current peacekeeping mechanism into a multinational civilian mission under an international (OSCE) mandate;
15. Welcomes the willingness of the Parliament of Moldova and representatives of the Supreme Soviet to meet informally in Stockholm from 2-3 October 2011, at a meeting facilitated by the OSCE PA Parliamentary Team on Moldova;
16. 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 Transnistrian settlement process.

RESOLUTION ON NATIONAL MINORITIES

1. Convinced that conflict prevention is one of the major aspects of the general remit given to the OSCE,
2. Noting that in this connection, the question of protecting national minorities against the background of guaranteeing State sovereignty is a crucial issue for both rights and security within the OSCE area,
3. Concerned by the situation of tension in various States, which flared up dramatically in Kyrgyzstan last year,
4. Convinced that the OSCE is concretely and effectively concerning itself with the question of national minorities, including by the establishment of the High Commissioner on National Minorities,
5. Considering that in 2008 the High Commissioner on National Minorities issued the 19 Bolzano Recommendations, to provide representatives of States, national minorities and international organizations with guidance on how to address questions concerning national minorities that arise in the context of inter-State relations in a way that protects and promotes the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, prevents conflict, maintains inter-ethnic harmony and strengthens good neighbourly relations,
6. Noting that at the Bolzano Seminar organized by the Italian delegation on 20 May 2011, the participating scholars and academics considered the Bolzano Recommendations to be a useful benchmark for establishing fair policies for national minorities,
7. Noting that the 19 Bolzano Recommendations have now joined the fundamental recommendations in this matter issued by the Council of Europe as a specific benchmark model,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

8. Hopes that the Parliaments of the participating States, acting synergistically with the lawful representatives of minorities, will rapidly appraise the compatibility of their own legislation on this matter with the principles of the 2008 Bolzano Recommendations.

RESOLUTION ON

THE OVERALL APPROACH OF THE OSCE TO PROMOTING CYBERSECURITY

1. Recognizing that information and communication technologies have enabled the creation of a globally interconnected international community, bringing major benefits as well as risks and threats that may harm individuals, economies and national and international security,
2. Recognizing that threats emanating from cyberspace have increased substantially, including terrorism, illegal trafficking and organized crime, as well as the risk of conventional conflicts between States spreading to cyberspace,
3. Welcoming the essential role played by the Corfu Process in strengthening and modernizing the role of the OSCE in contributing to the security and stability of its geographical area extending from Vancouver to Vladivostok, and in particular so that the OSCE can develop further its contribution to the battle against transnational threats, which also requires the promotion of a safer cyberspace,
4. Reiterating the importance of the implementation of the “Astana Commemorative Declaration – Towards a Security Community” adopted by the Heads of State and Government of the participating States of the OSCE on 2 December 2010, which calls for greater unity of purpose and actions to contend with new transnational threats, such as cyber threats which may come from inside or outside the OSCE region,
5. Supporting the work programme of the current Lithuanian Chairmanship of the OSCE, which aims in particular to raise the profile of the OSCE in the field of cybersecurity and to define the value that the OSCE can add in this field,
6. Expressing satisfaction with the constructive results of the OSCE conference on a comprehensive approach to cybersecurity and exploring the future OSCE role, which was held in Vienna on 9 and 10 May 2011,
7. Fully supporting the efforts, initiatives and instruments of other regional and international entities active in fields relating to cybersecurity, in particular at the United Nations and at the Council of Europe,

8. Confirming that the respect of human rights, basic freedoms, democracy and the rule of law is at the heart of the overall security approach of the OSCE, and that respect for human rights is an integral part of its efforts to promote cybersecurity,
9. Emphasizing the importance of taking account of the different way the Internet is used depending on the gender, age and education level of its users, exposing women, men, girls and boys in different ways to cybercrime and terrorist activities on the Internet,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

10. Calls on the participating States to implement the Astana Commemorative Declaration – Towards a Security Community, particularly by increasing the efficiency of the OSCE in promoting a safer cyberspace to contribute to the fight against transnational threats as well as to the security and stability of the OSCE area, with a view to a decision by the ministerial meeting in Vilnius on 5 and 6 December 2011;
11. Calls on the participating States to use the exhaustive geographical forum that is the OSCE, and its overall approach to security, focused on respect for human rights and the rule of law, to draw up confidence-building measures to promote cybersecurity in its region; including:
 - (a) measures promoting transparency, such as national exchanges of views on international legal standards, and on possible political commitments concerning codes of conduct for States in their use of information and communication technologies, particularly in support of the normative work by the United Nations and the Council of Europe, or exchanges of good practice,
 - (b) measures to promote stability and risk reduction, for example by establishing crisis communication links;
12. Calls on the participating States to support the overall efforts of the United Nations to promote cybersecurity, in particular the recommendations contained in the report by the Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Communications in the Context of International Security (A/65/201 of 30 July 2010), considering it useful to advance the development of confidence-building measures to reduce the risk of an incorrect perception after a breakdown in information and communication technologies, particularly:
 - (a) further dialogue among States to discuss norms pertaining to State use of information and communication technologies, to reduce collective risk and protect critical national and international infrastructure;
 - (b) confidence-building, stability and risk reduction measures to address the implications of State use of information and communication technologies, including exchanges of national views on the use of ICTs in conflict;

- (c) information exchanges on national legislation and national information and communication technologies security strategies and technologies, policies and best practices.

RESOLUTION ON

THE CO-ORDINATION OF MIGRATION POLICY IN THE OSCE

1. Recalling the Assembly's explicit support and acknowledgement of the work of the OSCE field missions as the backbone of the Organization in the Oslo Declaration of 2010, the Vilnius Declaration of 2009 and the Brussels Declaration of 2006,
2. Reaffirming its intention as expressed in the Oslo Declaration to engage in a more systematic follow-up of the work done by the OSCE intergovernmental operational structures and institutions and in particular the field missions,
3. Recalling the OSCE commitments as expressed in the Ministerial Council Decision No. 5/09 to an improved collection of comparable data on migration, in order to facilitate dialogue and exchange of best practice at the OSCE level and to fostering co-operation and partnership between countries of origin and destination,
4. Recognizing that participating States still develop national migration schemes and policies without taking into consideration how their regulations will impact international migration flows,
5. Recognizing furthermore that the national migration scheme of one country can, often unintentionally, be undermined and negated by those of other countries due to a lack of knowledge of the wider migration context, unfamiliarity with the experiences that other countries have gained with certain migration policy instruments and the absence of commonly agreed upon definitions,
6. Realizing that this lack of co-ordination in the field of migration policy sometimes also exists within one country if too many agencies, each from their own perspective, are involved in formulating and implementing migration schemes,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

7. Calls on participating States to make more effective use of the wealth of expertise within the OSCE in the field of migration, both at the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities and in the field missions;

8. Calls on participating States to thus better co-ordinate their migration policies and monitor their implementation by all relevant governmental and non-governmental actors, both nationally and internationally;
9. Recommends that the OSCE Secretariat, the field missions and the participating States make every effort to collect migration data and promote their international exchange and their common use;
10. Asks the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities to make a proposal for the establishment of a network of national focal points for migration, similar to those networks of focal points that already exist in the field of human trafficking and the fight against organized crime.

RESOLUTION ON

UTILIZATION OF AGRICULTURAL LAND AS A TOOL AGAINST MALNUTRITION, HUNGER AND UNCONTROLLED MIGRATION

1. Underlining the importance and topicality of implementing the resolutions of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly entitled “The Food Crisis and Security in the OSCE Area”, passed by the OSCE in 2009 in Vilnius, and “Migration as a Continuing Challenge for the OSCE” adopted in Oslo in 2010,
2. Giving special importance to the provisions of “The Millennium Development Goals” programme on elimination of hunger and malnutrition to solve global problems of humanity adopted by the UN in 2000,
3. Stressing the importance of UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon’s position, presented in the foreword of the UN Report of 2010, on the importance of rendering support to national development programme strategies by international partners, as formulated in the Millennium Declaration for achieving the goals in the area of development,
4. Taking into consideration the research and statements of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations concerning price growth and shortage of the basic food stuffs in the world market,
5. Taking into account that there are huge unused lands of agricultural importance in the developing countries, the cultivation of which might significantly increase the volumes of production of basic foodstuffs in these countries and thus ease the tension in the international market,
6. Also taking into consideration that cultivation of unused agricultural land will partially solve the issues of employment, malnutrition and hunger, which in their turn could also facilitate the settlement of the problem of uncontrolled migration flows,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

7. Stresses that food security problems have become one of the most important challenges of the 21st century, including in the OSCE area;

8. Calls on the parliaments and governments to implement necessary legal and institutional reforms to increase the use of arable agricultural lands for production of basic foodstuffs;
9. Calls on the parliaments and governments to take measures to solve social, communication and infrastructure problems to strengthen rural areas as a primary chain in securing food production and supply;
10. Calls on the developed countries and international financial institutions to develop and implement targeted assistance programmes by means of providing grants and preferential loans to developing countries for the above-mentioned goals.

RESOLUTION ON

COMBATING LABOUR TRAFFICKING IN SUPPLY CHAINS

1. Recalling the principles of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's St. Petersburg Declaration (1999), Brussels Declaration (2006) and Kyiv Declaration (2007), 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 nations that have adopted legislation to prevent and prosecute human traffickers, as well as to protect victims, with the ultimate goal of promoting human security in the OSCE region,
3. Recalling the proceedings of the 11th High Level Alliance against Trafficking Conference on "Preventing Trafficking in Human Beings for Labour Exploitation: Decent Work and Social Justice",
4. Concerned that 12.3 million people are enslaved in forced labour, bonded labour, and forced prostitution worldwide, and that for every trafficking victim subjected to forced prostitution, nine people are forced to work,
5. Alarmed that women and children in forced and bonded labour are often sexually exploited as well,
6. Appalled that forced labour is prevalent in the cotton, chocolate, steel, rubber, tin, tungsten, coltan, sugar, and seafood industries — potentially tainting everyday products bought by unsuspecting consumers,
7. Concerned that billions of dollars in products tainted by forced labour in manufacturing and raw materials procurement are imported and exported worldwide every year, according to the International Labour Organization, and
8. Encouraged that corporations are beginning to examine their supply chains and insist on best practices to ensure that their suppliers are not utilizing trafficking victims,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

9. Urges participating States to prosecute labour trafficking occurring within their borders;

10. Urges participating States to provide protection for labour trafficking victims rescued within their borders;
11. Urges participating States to ensure that all goods procured by the government are free from raw materials and finished products produced by labour trafficking;
12. Urges participating States to encourage transparent corporate policy regarding labour trafficking, to facilitate the sharing of best practice among corporations, and to insist that corporations use independent verification that their supply chains are free of human trafficking.
13. Encourages parliamentarians to work with the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings to foster political will for an OSCE Ministerial Decision or Ministerial Declaration on combating trafficking for labour exploitation, including domestic servitude.

RESOLUTION ON

FREE MOVEMENT OF INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE

1. Considering the need for free exchange of knowledge and information to foster international peace and stability,
2. Noting the principle stressing freedom of thought enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act and other OSCE documents,
3. Emphasizing the fundamental importance of freedom of expression – including the principles of diversity and pluralism, both inherently and as an essential tool for the defence of all other rights and as a core element of democracy,
4. Aware of the enormous potential of the Internet as a tool for realizing the right to freedom of expression and to information, and of the effort of some governments to restrict access to the Internet,
5. Cognizant of the limits posed by high usage costs of traditional telecommunication media and of the fact that capital concentration of media and telecommunication ownership can restrict the free movement of thought, knowledge and ideas, emphasized by the unreadiness of many governments to adopt and implement laws guaranteeing the right to plurality of information sources and the need for anti-trust measures regarding media and telecommunication capital ownership,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

6. Strongly supports the need for the establishment of free movement of information and knowledge in and between OSCE countries;
7. Stresses the need for free access to information, especially through an Internet network easily accessible to all population groups;
8. Encourages public agencies to make as much information as possible available proactively, to stress free access to it and to facilitate the sharing and interchange of information;

9. Recognizes that new technologies strengthen democracy by ensuring easy access to information and allowing the public actively to obtain and impart information;
10. Welcomes the policy of lowering telecommunication prices between countries of the OSCE and invites all OSCE countries to shape a common strategy in this field;
11. Supports media independence and calls on OSCE countries to act more decisively on guaranteeing fertile ground for the development of critical, free and pluralized media;
12. Calls upon governments to ensure and promote easy access to new technologies by easing the liberalisation of media and telecommunication markets;
13. Invites the OSCE to enable the Representative on Freedom of the Media and the ODIHR to be more active in the field of promoting free movement of information and knowledge and its free access, as this is one of the pillars for guaranteeing effective participatory democracy and the strengthening of human rights. The activities of the Representative should ensure maximum impartiality and avoid double standards to the detriment of specific countries.

RESOLUTION ON

GENDER, MIGRATION AND ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE

1. Recognizing that equal opportunities for women and men and the full and equal enjoyment of their human rights by women are essential to peace, sustainable democracy, economic development and prosperity and, therefore, to security and stability in the OSCE region,
2. Recognizing that at the UN Beijing Conference in 1995 women's rights were recognized as de facto human rights,
3. Noting that in some OSCE participating States women still do not participate fully in the economic, social, cultural and political lives of their countries,
4. Acknowledging that in many OSCE participating States, women are still the poorest and most vulnerable members of society,
5. Being aware that poverty is a key indicator of political and social instability, and that it affects men and women differently,
6. Noting that the full potential of women's economic activities and their contribution to the economic prosperity of their families and countries is unrealized and underutilized across the OSCE region,
7. Acknowledging that women share responsibility for income generation and economic stability and that their income has a multiplier effect given that it is more likely to be invested in their families and communities,
8. Concerned that women's economic dependence on men, especially in times of economic difficulty and crises, increases their vulnerability and susceptibility to violence, abuse, oppression, isolation, exploitation and discrimination, domestically or socially, and potential as victims of deliberately submissive foreign bride arrangements and illegitimate economic activities such as prostitution and human trafficking,
9. Acknowledging that gainful economic opportunities, economic empowerment, migration education and training are legitimate avenues and solutions by which women and girls

can reduce their impoverishment, achieve economic independence, improve their living conditions and realize their full economic potential,

10. Noting the variation in the prominence and success of women entrepreneurs across countries of the OSCE region and that women entrepreneurs are more likely to face challenges relating to discrimination regarding access to and control over such economic and financial resources as loans, credit, financing, property and inheritance rights, as well as barriers pertaining to social norms and traditional values, the undervaluing of women's potential and abilities, inadequate business skills and education and inadequate access to markets,
11. Acknowledging that the experiences and disadvantages of female migrants, labourers and entrepreneurs are different from those of men, due to their status, the nature of the employment sectors in which they are typically represented, their educational requirements, the limited legal channels for female migrant workers, and exclusion from the protection of sound labour legislation,
12. Noting that gender-based analysis has shown that female workers and migrants are more likely to be underrepresented in senior positions of responsibility and management, be paid lower wages, work longer hours, have less job security and face increased sexual harassment, abuse and discrimination than male counterparts,
13. Recognizing the various types of female migrants, such as permanent and temporary, labour and family class, low skill and high skill, refugees and asylum seekers, documented and undocumented, young and old, each presenting its own opportunities and challenges requiring equally diverse policy responses,
14. Concerned that the disproportionate number of migrant women employed in economic labour sectors, such as domestic and care services, garment manufacturing, hospitality, and agriculture, remain unregulated in some countries,
15. Affirming the economic and social benefits resulting from legal and orderly migration by women, including labour migration, and of actively promoting possibilities for women in the labour market and as business entrepreneurs, both for their own benefit and for the benefit of their families and their country's economic potential,
16. Noting that wider access to affordable and reliable justice on the part of vulnerable groups such as female migrants and women economically dependent on their spouses is an important avenue for ensuring their rights are respected, particularly under circumstances of marital dissolution, custody of children, employment discrimination and harassment, and equity of pay for equal work,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

17. Reiterates and commends past OSCE Parliamentary Assembly resolutions on gender, migration and economic opportunities, the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of

Gender Equality, and the work of the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, the OSCE Gender Section and OSCE field missions in promoting gender mainstreaming and regarding support for projects and seminars addressing gender equality, migration, labour, economic opportunities and skills, and data collection, entrepreneurship and economic empowerment;

18. Stresses the need to raise awareness about the untapped potential of women in all economic sectors;
19. Affirms the rights of women to increased economic autonomy, including control over their earnings, legal migration opportunities, safe and secure recruitment procedures, access to judicial proceedings, fair remuneration and decent working conditions, including the right to negotiate better terms of employment;
20. Notes the principle that maternity/paternity policies and childcare programmes are key elements in promoting equal employment opportunities and responsibility-sharing between women and men and enhancing the economic prosperity of women and their families;
21. Encourages OSCE participating States to build liaisons and strong relations with non-governmental labour and business sectors to promote training opportunities, education, employment and pay equity for women in the labour market by way of various programmes, policies, legislative and financial/tax incentives; encourages mentoring relationships and co-operation at the national and regional levels among women's organizations relating to labour, migration and entrepreneurship, including trade unions, non-governmental organizations and business associations which focus on training and counselling, exchanging good practices regarding women's entrepreneurship, developing associations and networks of women entrepreneurs, identifying priorities for economic reforms and policies that support women's economic independence and prosperity, enhancing employment opportunities, and support and protection of female migrant workers and entrepreneurs;
22. Calls upon participating States to adopt legislation that creates an enabling environment to provide equality of economic and employment opportunity for men and women; ensures equal access for women and girls to education, training and equal wages; promotes gender balance in senior positions of responsibility and management; and improves working conditions and provides equal access to benefits including child care;
23. Calls upon participating States to adopt policies that facilitate economic opportunities and independence for women, including promoting the growth of female entrepreneurship, establishing non-burdensome licensing and taxation regimes, and developing gender-sensitive programmes that facilitate access to finance, education and training and the development of local, national and regional business associations;

24. Calls upon participating States to adopt programmes and strategies that implement women's rights regarding equality of economic and employment opportunity, education, training and wages;
25. Urges participating States to enhance their capacity for reliable collection, analysis and dissemination of sex-disaggregated data and research on migration, employment and economic independence 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;
26. Encourages participating States to exchange best practice concerning gender, migration and the economic independence of women in order to develop more effective policies in business support, education and labour regulation, and to identify priority areas for further capacity-building.

RESOLUTION ON

NUCLEAR SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

1. Expressing profound concern about the ongoing effects on people's lives and health of the disaster at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant and the accident at Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, which had serious national and international consequences on an unprecedented scale, posed direct threats to the environment and caused economic disruption, affecting everything from agricultural production to trade and global services far beyond the OSCE region,
2. Noting that amid the worries of millions of people throughout the world about whether nuclear energy can ever be made sufficiently safe, nuclear power is likely to remain an important option to ensure a diverse energy supply,
3. Recalling the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Vilnius Resolution on Energy Security of 2009, which emphasizes the importance of the development of peaceful nuclear energy in line with provisions of international conventions and agreements on nuclear safety and in accordance with international nuclear safety standards and safeguards,
4. Reiterating that the environmentally and economically safe use of nuclear energy will be an integral part of the OSCE concept of comprehensive, co-operative and indivisible security to meet the energy challenges of the twenty-first century,
5. Recalling the United Nations General Assembly Resolution on the strengthening of international co-operation and co-ordination of efforts to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, and further action to provide support to international, national and public programmes targeted at the sustainable development of affected territories, including creation of the International Chernobyl Research and Information Network,
6. Referring to the OSCE Ministerial Declaration on the 20th Anniversary of the Disaster at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant and the Madrid Declaration on Environment and Security as well as reaffirming the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Astana Resolution on Chernobyl of 2008,
7. Determined to further develop mutually beneficial co-operation aimed at addressing the impact on security of economic and environmental challenges in the region, including

those provoked by nuclear accidents, as stipulated in the Astana Commemorative Declaration adopted at the Astana Summit, 2010,

8. Recalling the Declaration by Heads of States, Governments and the Representatives of the participating States and Organizations, adopted at the Kyiv Summit on Safe and Innovative Use of Nuclear Energy, 2011,
9. Welcoming with appreciation the contributions of the OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation to the Chernobyl Shelter Fund and the Nuclear Safety Account, managed by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, to finance projects to complete the mutual efforts of the G-8, the Government of Ukraine, and international donors and partners to restore the site of the Chernobyl nuclear accident to an environmentally safe and stable condition,
10. Commemorating the 25th anniversary of the disaster at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant and paying tribute to all the victims, including all emergency and recovery operation workers, of the twentieth century's pre-eminent technological catastrophe, in terms both of scope and of consequences,
11. Stressing the importance of valuable lessons learned from the Chernobyl and Fukushima Daiichi accidents that will result in further substantial improvements in nuclear operating safety, regulation and the overall safety culture,
12. Restating full solidarity with the Governments of Belarus, the Russian Federation, Ukraine, Japan and other affected countries, and with all people who suffered and still suffer from the consequences of nuclear accidents,
13. Reaffirming our commitment to work co-operatively in the area of nuclear safety with the aim of strengthening our collective capability to prevent and mitigate the occurrence of such accidents in the future,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

14. Believes that implementation of efforts to enhance nuclear safety and security have to continue to be a top priority of the OSCE participating States in all activities related to nuclear energy use;
15. Emphasizes that the most effective way forward in this field is for international co-operation through the innovative use of nuclear energy to become a prerequisite for securing a global regime of operating security and safety for all participating States with no exception;
16. Encourages all participating States to deepen international co-operation for peaceful, secure and safe nuclear energy use that will contribute to meeting increasing global energy needs and development of new technologies in medicine, agriculture, and other industrial sectors of national economies;

17. Strongly urges participating States to consider lessons learned and adopt appropriate measures to apply the highest possible safety standards;
18. Underlines that energy infrastructure projects should be implemented according to the requirements of the 1991 Espoo Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context and other related international conventions, taking into consideration all environmental risks;
19. Requests the Governments of the OSCE participating States to task the national nuclear energy industry and regulators with reviewing existing power plants and verifying their ability to maintain safety even in the face of severe adverse events, with a special focus on the new issue of the connection between natural disasters and nuclear safety;
20. Calls upon participating States to maintain the highest levels of emergency preparedness and response capability to mitigate the effects of a nuclear accident;
21. Appeals to participating States to continue to work hard on improving the safety of nuclear power plants and ensuring transparency about the risks of radiation;
22. Trusts that technological developments, such as the introduction of next-generation reactors with stronger reliance on inherent safety features, will be an important driver of enhanced safety in the coming years;
23. Strongly believes that the respect of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) nuclear safety standards and the requirements of the 1991 Espoo Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment throughout each stage of the development of a nuclear programme, from planning, siting, building and operation to decommissioning and dismantling of nuclear facilities, and co-operation and exchange of best practice between the OSCE participating States in these fields will contribute to the enhancement of nuclear safety in the OSCE region;
24. Calls upon all participating States to pursue the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and develop nuclear technologies under the safety safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency, as well as other non-proliferation requirements and international documents;
25. Urges all OSCE participating States that have not yet acceded to the Convention on Nuclear Safety to do so without delay;
26. Notes the importance of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and other conventions on nuclear safety – the Convention on the Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident, the Convention on Assistance in the Case of Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency, the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and its Amendment, the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and the Convention on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management;

27. Further urges the participating States to co-operate with the IAEA, the UN Economic Commission for Europe Espoo Convention Secretariat and other relevant international organizations to strengthen international nuclear safety and environmental standards and their proper implementation;
28. Stresses the importance for OSCE participating States of information-sharing and maintaining transparency about nuclear emergencies, to the extent possible, in order to keep the public informed as events transpire and on the evolution of events;
29. Urges all of the OSCE participating States to co-operate closely in order to improve and strengthen prevention, early warning, risk reduction, exchange of information and mutual assistance in cases of nuclear accidents likely to cause transboundary damage to the environment;
30. Reiterates that the Chernobyl catastrophe and the accident at the Japanese Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant have proved the necessity of enhancing the ability of nuclear energy facilities to counter emergency situations, and have illustrated that mitigation of nuclear incidents requires the international community to gather scientific, technical and resource capabilities;
31. Welcomes the efforts of the Government of Ukraine and the international donor community to complete construction of the Shelter facility and related nuclear safety projects at Chernobyl, in accordance with international standards, so as to restore the site to a stable and environmentally safe state, and urges all parties to ensure that a strong, long-lasting, high-level commitment remains in place to ensure the successful completion of this vital work;
32. Calls upon multilateral and bilateral donors to continue to align their assistance with the priorities of the national strategies of the affected States, and stresses the importance of working together on their implementation in a common effort in the spirit of co-operation;
33. Acknowledges the need to build a stronger connection between nuclear safety and nuclear security as well as to provide active co-operation with the nuclear industry;
34. Strongly reiterates that the highest standards of nuclear safety are an indispensable prerequisite for the use of nuclear energy to ensure that accidents like Chernobyl and Fukushima Daiichi never happen again.

RESOLUTION ON

STRENGTHENING EFFORTS TO COMBAT RACISM AND XENOPHOBIA AND FOSTER INCLUSION

1. Recognizing 2011 as the International Year for People of African Descent and thus remaining committed to respect for “human rights and fundamental freedoms, (...) for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion” as enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act,
2. Recalling subsequent OSCE commitments to foster equality and combat racism and xenophobia that also include a gender perspective,
3. Expressing extreme concern over increased discrimination and violence towards both citizens and migrants with different racial, ethnic, linguistic and religious backgrounds in the OSCE region, despite participating States’ efforts to address the problem,
4. Noting that skin colour prejudice or racial bias has been central to many manifestations of intolerance in the region, with persons who are easily identifiable due to different skin colour or other distinguishing features experiencing heightened levels of discrimination, including in law enforcement,
5. Remaining concerned that discrimination and intolerance are among factors that provoke conflicts, undermine security and stability, and harm the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the OSCE region,
6. Recognizing that a comprehensive strategy to address racism and xenophobia and foster inclusion in the OSCE region is needed,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

7. Reaffirms our role as parliamentarians to publicly speak out against intolerance and discrimination, raise awareness of the value of diversity, and support inclusive measures in our political parties and government such as the annual Transatlantic Minority Political Leadership Conference spearheaded by members of the OSCE PA;

8. Calls on participating States to implement OSCE commitments to combat intolerance and discrimination that also include a gender perspective, especially MC. Dec. 9/09 on combating hate crimes;
9. Requests increased support for the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights Tolerance and Non-discrimination Department's Racism and Xenophobia programme, including outreach to vulnerable communities, training, educational materials, and capacity building for government institutions, equality bodies, parliaments, the private sector, and civil society;
10. Requests that the Chairman-in-Office's Personal Representatives on racism and xenophobia prepare and present to the OSCE PA a special report on racism and xenophobia that includes consultations with affected communities across the OSCE region including in western Europe and North America;
11. Commends the High Commissioner on National Minorities' ongoing work on multi-ethnic societies and integration and encourages continued co-operation with the OSCE PA;
12. Calls on the OSCE to work with the OSCE PA and affected communities to develop an action plan by 2013 to combat racism and xenophobia and foster inclusion across the OSCE region in concert with the OSCE Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma;
13. Acknowledges the United Nations designation of 2011 as the International Year for People of African Descent, and the need to include African descendant communities in these and future efforts to address racism, xenophobia, and inclusion in the OSCE region in addition to other affected communities.

RESOLUTION ON

COMBATING ILLICIT TRADE IN HUMAN ORGANS

1. Recalling Resolution 55/25 of the United Nations General Assembly of 15 November 2000 adopting the Convention of the United Nations against Transnational Organized Crime, the Protocol on Preventing, Suppressing and Punishing Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,
2. Recalling also Resolution 59/156 of the United Nations General Assembly of 20 December 2004 on Preventing, Combating and Punishing Trafficking in Human Organs,
3. Supporting the efforts of the OSCE participating States to implement the Action Plan for Combating Human Trafficking (2003), as well as the principles resulting from the documents adopted by OSCE PA concerning combating human trafficking,
4. Taking into account also the conclusions of the joint study of the United Nations and the Council of Europe from 2009 under the title of *Trafficking in Organs, Tissues and Cells and Trafficking in Human Beings for the Purpose of the Removal of Organs*,
5. Recalling the Convention of the Council of Europe on Human Rights and Biomedicine of 4 April 1997 and the Additional Protocol to the Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine concerning transplantation of human organs and tissues of 24 January 2002,
6. Further recalling Resolution 1782 (2011) of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe – Investigation of Allegations of Inhuman Treatment of People and Illicit Trafficking in Human Organs in Kosovo of 25 January 2011,
7. Noting that human trafficking is one of the most severe crimes against humanity and trafficking in human organs its most extreme form,
8. Concerned by the negative economic and social implications of organized criminal activities on people's lives, as well as by the possible increase of this type of crime, in particular the illicit trade in human organs,

9. Especially concerned by abduction and human trafficking for the purpose of the removal of organs, in particular under the conditions of armed conflicts,
10. Also especially concerned about the fate of missing persons from the conflicts that occurred in the former Yugoslavia, including Kosovo, in the 1990s,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

11. Condemns any activity aimed at illicit trade in human organs;
12. Condemns most strongly the activities of organized criminal groups who by undertaking these activities adversely affect people's lives, their integrity and fundamental human rights, especially in cases where abductions are ethnically, religiously, racially and politically motivated;
13. Invites the OSCE participating States to combat determinedly organized criminal groups dealing with illicit trade in human organs and human trafficking for the purpose of the removal of organs;
14. Recommends for this purpose the establishment of closer co-operation, including exchange of information, and more efficient actions by the institutions of the OSCE participating States in combating illicit trade in human organs;
15. Recommends that a comprehensive investigation be undertaken of abductions and crimes connected with the removal and sale of human organs allegedly committed in Kosovo during the armed conflicts in the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in 1999 and immediately afterwards, and invites full co-operation with UNMIK and EULEX, as well as the relevant national institutions, and in particular the provision of all information, facts and documents on crimes concerning abductions and trade in human organs in the territory of Kosovo;
16. Supports the activities of the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and proposes that OSCE investigate and record the cases of illicit trade in human organs in the area of OSCE with the aim of preparing a study indicating the scope of this phenomenon.

RESOLUTION ON

INTERNATIONAL PARENTAL CHILD ABDUCTIONS

1. Alarmed at the significant increase in the number of reported international parental child abduction cases over the past several years,
2. Desiring to protect children internationally from the harmful effects of their wrongful removal or retention and to ensure their prompt return to the State of their habitual residence, as well as to secure protection for rights of access,
3. Endeavouring to support custody determinations by courts located in the habitual residence of the child,
4. Concerned that internationally abducted children are at risk of serious emotional and psychological problems and therefore that child abductions amount to a form of child abuse, and that left behind parents encounter substantial emotional and financial difficulties,
5. Concerned that abducting parents often abuse the legal system in the country to which they have fled and that abducting parents often manipulate and stall proceedings in order to impede return of the child, and
6. Persuaded that proper implementation of the Hague Convention of 25 October 1980 on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction will minimize the need for criminal law enforcement responses to international parental child abductions,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

7. Urges those participating States, as well as OSCE Partners for Co-operation, who are not parties to the Hague Convention of 25 October 1980 on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction to ratify or accede to it, and seek to immediately resolve current cases predating ratification or accession to the Convention;
8. Urges those States which are party to the Hague Convention of 25 October 1980 on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction to fully implement their obligations under it, including by ensuring that their domestic legislation is in accordance with it, that effective legal and institutional mechanisms for its implementation are in place, and that

law enforcement and judicial officials are trained on its provisions and implementation procedures; and

9. Urges the OSCE to take up the issue of international parental child abductions, including by considering a Ministerial Council decision on the issue to be adopted in Vilnius.

RESOLUTION ON

COMBATING INTOLERANCE AND DISCRIMINATION AGAINST CHRISTIANS IN THE OSCE AREA

1. Recognizing 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,
2. Reaffirming that acts of intolerance and discrimination pose a threat to democracy and, therefore, to overall security in the OSCE region and beyond,
3. Recalling that participating States have committed themselves to ensuring human rights and fundamental freedoms to everyone within their territory and subject to their jurisdiction and will therefore provide to all persons equal and effective protection of law,
4. Reaffirming the inviolable right of the individual to profess his or her faith alone or in community, in private and in public life and to live freely according to the dictate of his or her conscience,
5. Acknowledging the positive contribution of Christians to social cohesion, cultural enrichment and value-orientated debate in our societies,
6. Welcoming the work done in this field by the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights,
7. Welcoming the efforts of the Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office on Combating Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, also focusing on Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians and Members of other Religions, in raising awareness of this urgent challenge,
8. Condemning the problem in its different forms, both in the eastern and western countries of the OSCE,

The Parliamentary Assembly of OSCE:

9. Decides to follow up the work started in 2009 at the Expert Roundtable on Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians held in Vienna on 4 March 2009;

10. Decides to intensify efforts to monitor, research and publicize the need to fight against intolerance and discrimination throughout the OSCE area, which includes efforts in the fields of, *inter alia*, education, media, legislation, law enforcement, and hate crime; and to work closely with representatives of Christian churches;
11. Decides to intensify consultation and co-operation with the Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office on a national and international level;
12. Recommends that a public debate on intolerance and discrimination against Christians be initiated and that the right of Christians to participate fully in public life be ensured;
13. Recommends, in view of discrimination and intolerance against Christians, that legislation in the participating States, including labour law, equality law, laws on freedom of expression and assembly, and laws related to religious communities and right of conscientious objection be assessed;
14. Urges the Government of Turkey to allow the reopening of the Ecumenical Patriarchate's Theological School of Halki, without condition or further delay, in keeping with the commitment from the 1989 Vienna Concluding Document affirming the right of religious communities to provide "training of religious personnel in appropriate institutions";
15. Encourages the media not to spread prejudices against Christians and to combat negative stereotyping;
16. Encourages Christian churches to continue their participation in public life contributing to the defence of the dignity of all human beings and to freedom and social cohesion.

RESOLUTION ON

PROMOTING POLICIES IN FAVOUR OF THE ROMA POPULATION

1. Having regard to the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and in particular its Articles 1, 8, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 35 and 45,
2. Having regard to the international legislation on human rights covering all forms of racial discrimination and the 1992 United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities,
3. Having regard to Article 19 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, which empowers the Council to adopt adequate measures to counter discrimination on racial or ethnic grounds,
4. Having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 31 January 2008 on a European strategy on the Roma,
5. Having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 10 July 2008 on the census of the Roma,
6. Having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 11 March 2009 on the social situation of the Roma,
7. Having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 9 September 2010 on the situation of Roma and on freedom of movement in the European Union,
8. Having regard to the conclusions of the Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council on the inclusion of the Roma, adopted in Luxembourg on 8 June 2009,
9. Having regard to the Commission Working Document on inclusion of the Roma: “Roma in Europe: The Implementation of European Union Instruments and Policies for Roma Inclusion (Progress Report 2008-2010)”,
10. Having regard to the reports on the Roma, racism and xenophobia in the European Union Member States in 2009, published by the Fundamental Rights Agency of the European

Union, and the reports of the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe, Thomas Hammarberg,

11. Having regard to the recommendations, opinions and declarations of the Council of Europe on the Roma population (Strasbourg, 20 October 2010),
12. Having regard to the OSCE Action Plan for the Development of the Roma Population (December 2003),
13. Having regard to the first European Roma Summit, held in Brussels on 16 September 2008, and to the second Summit, held in Córdoba on 8 April 2010,
14. Having regard to the joint statement of the Trio (Spain, Belgium, Hungary) at the Summit held in Córdoba in April 2010, pledging a firm stance against stigmatization and a quest for improved co-ordination and collaboration with the Commission and the Parliament, together with participation in other political processes, such as the Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005-2015 and the OSCE Action Plan, in the framework of the recommendations of the Council of Europe and the United Nations,
 - (a) Considering that a high proportion of the 10 to 12 million Roma living in Europe have suffered systematic discrimination and face an intolerable degree of social, cultural and economic exclusion, besides experiencing violations of their human rights and suffering serious stigmatization and discrimination in public and private life,
 - (b) Considering that since the first Summit (Brussels, September 2008) there have been substantial changes:
 - i. An integration platform has been established for Roma inclusion for the purpose of exchanging good practices, promoting analytical support and stimulating cooperation: “Integrated Platform on Roma Inclusion”, established in 2009 by decision of the European Council,
 - ii. Within its framework 10 common basic principles were defined and emphasis was laid on the non-exclusive approach and on the mainstreaming approach,
 - iii. Article 7 of the Structural Funds Regulation has been modified to foster integral action for improved housing conditions and for the elimination of segregation, in both rural and urban areas,
 - iv. There is more familiarity with the Roma issue,
 - (c) Considering, however, that the living conditions of the Roma are not improving but in many cases deteriorating:

- i. Not only have the Roma not progressed on a par with the economic development of countries but in many cases their circumstances are worse and the effects of the economic crisis may exacerbate the situation even further,
- ii. The Roma population continues to be the most rejected in the majority of European countries and the prejudices and stereotypes regarding it are on the increase,
- iii. In some cases attacks on the physical integrity of individuals and violations of their fundamental rights are continuing,
- iv. There is insufficient cooperation between the various institutions and international processes (European Union, Decade, OSCE, Council of Europe, etc.),
- v. Horizontal cooperation between countries, except in specific cases and such initiatives as EU-Roma, has not progressed,
- vi. The Roma are beginning to benefit under the Structural Funds but there is no evidence of any significant impact,
- vii. Spaces for Roma participation at European level have not been developed,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

15. Takes into account that the Roma should be an essential part of the participating States' key policies:
 - (a) The 2020 Strategy and its key measures;
 - (b) The Roma perspective must be central to key policies (mainstreaming);
 - (c) The need for a strategy and a specific policy;
16. Requests the Commission and the EU Member States to use all instruments to guarantee all the rights of the Roma population;
17. Emphasizes the need to make full use of the potential of financial instruments and in particular the Structural Funds:
 - (a) Empowerment of entities to access and manage the funds;
 - (b) More transparency, information and data (broken down by ethnic group and gender);
 - (c) More integrated measures;
 - (d) Long-term measures;
 - (e) Making access to the funds conditional on desegregating policies;
 - (f) Future Structural Funds regulations should reflect the needs of the Roma;

18. Requires the introduction of new approaches and working methods, bearing in mind that:
 - (a) More data and greater transparency are required;
 - (b) Results and impacts must be quantified;
 - (c) Desegregation is a key issue;
 - (d) Three working perspectives are needed: that of guaranteed human rights and equal treatment; that of social and economic promotion and integration; and that of full citizenship;
 - (e) The perspective of the costs of exclusion should be taken into account;
19. Requires that the existing instruments be more effective, and participating States be asked for co-ordination, promotion and co-operation;
20. Urges that policies be more specific:
 - (a) The Commission must play an active promotion, support and co-ordination role;
 - (b) Local involvement is essential;
21. Requires that education be given priority in breaking the inter-generational exclusion gap:
 - (a) Desegregation at school is essential;
 - (b) Special attention must go to the transition between primary and secondary education;
22. Asks that the Roma have more prominence:
 - (a) More spaces for participation are needed;
 - (b) More public and political presence is required of the Roma;
 - (c) Better self-organization;
 - (d) Priority should be given to women, children and young people;
23. Calls for this resolution to be conveyed to the OSCE participating States.

RESOLUTION ON

PROMOTING POLICIES ON EQUALITY BETWEEN WOMEN AND MEN OF THE ROMA POPULATION

1. Considering that:
 - (a) Gender equality is a fundamental right and a fundamental principle of the European Union and therefore one of its indispensable objectives.
 - (b) Gender equality is essential to achieving the objectives set in terms of economic and social cohesion, high levels of employment and social protection, and sustainable growth.
 - (c) The European Union cannot afford to ignore the human capital, capacity and talent offered by women.
 - (d) Discrimination on the ground of sex destroys the lives of individuals, is detrimental to the economy and society as a whole, and undermines support for and confidence in the fundamental European value of gender equality and the rule of law.
 - (e) Equality of opportunities for women and men and the protection of their human rights are essential to peace, sustainable democracy and economic development, and hence to security and stability in the OSCE area,
2. Recalling the OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality,
3. Recalling the Beijing Platform of Action and resolution 1325 (2000) of the United Nations Security Council, both of which call for the equal participation and full involvement of women,
4. Having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 1 June 2006 on the situation of Roma women in the European Union,
5. Considering that women from ethnic minorities and especially Roma women face much more serious multiple discrimination than men from the same ethnic group or women from the majority, that the employment rate of Roma women is lower than that of Roma

men, and that, given their role in the family, women can be the cornerstones of the integration of marginalized women,

6. Considering that the Roma woman, in her role as a transmitter of values, has helped to keep culture alive and to maintain traditions and values, thereby safeguarding the heritage,
7. Emphasizing that for the past two decades Roma women have been claiming a space of their own for Roma values that does not imply any loss, without forgetting that they have been declaring that the genuine promotion of the Roma people requires the committed participation of Roma women, without any forfeiting of cultural identity,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

8. Encourages the participating States to offer equality of educational opportunity to the sons and daughters of the Roma.
9. Asks the participating States to favour the continuity of Roma women in their school careers.
10. Further requests the participating States to promote assistance for retaining Roma women at university and to foster university access for those over 25 years old.
11. Encourages the sponsoring of positive action measures permitting the incorporation and promotion of Roma women in the labour market.
12. Asks the participating States to promote positive action measures in order to afford Roma women their opportunity in the various public and private institutions.
13. Asks the participating States to promote policies aimed at reconciling family and working life and to advance knowledge of suitable family planning that favours and balances motherhood and personal and social development.
14. Asks the participating States to establish a permanent Observatory to defend the public image of Roma women.
15. Asks the participating States to promote equal opportunities for Roma women in politics, at university, in trade unions, in associations and in every other ambit of society.
16. Further asks the participating States to involve Roma women in drawing up equality plans for contemplation of the proposals as an ethnic minority, and to support the demands and initiatives of the various Roma women's associations.
17. Asks the participating States to establish opportunities for raising the awareness of Roma women with respect to education for health through prevention, supporting activities that contribute to improving the health of women.

18. Asks the member countries to support the demand of Roma women for participation in the work of the various national and international bodies addressing the situation of Roma women.
19. Invites the OSCE participating States and the OSCE institutions to report on progress made in meeting the commitments set out in this resolution.

RESOLUTION ON

THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE HUMAN DIMENSION OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL OF THE OSCE

1. Recalling the reaffirmation through the adoption of the Astana Commemorative Declaration by the OSCE participating States of their full adherence to the norms, principles and commitments of the OSCE,
2. Underlining the indispensable requirement for a global and co-operative approach by the OSCE in security matters,
3. Aware of the need to strengthen mutual trust between participating States, including in relation to the human dimension,

The Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE:

4. Takes note with appreciation of the progress of work in the Committee on the Human Dimension in the Permanent Council of the OSCE;
5. Welcomes the objective of the Lithuanian Chairmanship of the OSCE to try to obtain specific results by the end of 2011;
6. Notes with satisfaction the decision of the Swiss chairmanship of the Committee to reorient the Committee on the Human Dimension towards its initial task as defined in the Ministerial Decision 17/06, offering participating States a platform of dialogue for discussion on subjects relating to the human dimension in a less formal setting and ensuring that its work takes place in a positive and constructive climate of dialogue;
7. Takes note with appreciation of the establishment by the chairmanship of the Committee of the work plan on the basis of the Astana Commemorative Declaration and the intensive consultations with the participating States;
8. Notes with satisfaction the Committee's practice of hearing the views of experts on human dimension topics and of the representatives of OSCE missions on the ground during its meetings;

9. Welcomes the inclusion on the Committee agenda of an item enabling participating States to report on the efforts that they have made to implement the undertakings given within the OSCE and the recommendations of the executive structures of the OSCE;
10. Encourages the Permanent Council to further intensify its dialogue with the Committee on the Human Dimension in order to move towards full and complete implementation of the norms, principles and undertakings of the OSCE;
11. Urges the Committee on the Human Dimension to intensify and institutionalize co-operation with the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions.

RESOLUTION ON

WITNESS PROTECTION PROGRAMMES – A CHALLENGE TO JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION

1. Considering the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (UN General Assembly resolution No. 55/25, appendix I), which came into effect on 29 September 2003, and the protocols relating thereto (resolution 55/255, appendix; resolution 55/25, appendix III; resolution 55/25, appendix II) as well as the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UN General Assembly resolution No. 58/4, appendix I), effective as of 29 September 2003, which call on all Member States to take appropriate steps to prevent intimidation, constraint, corruption or physical aggression against witnesses and to strengthen international co-operation in this domain,
2. Considering the provisions concerning the protection of witnesses in the Statute of Rome of the International Criminal Court,
3. Considering the provisions concerning the protection of witnesses contained in the Rules of Procedure and Evidence of the International Criminal Court for the former Yugoslavia,
4. Considering recommendation 1952 (2011) of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe concerning “Protection of Witnesses: The Cornerstone of Justice and of Reconciliation in the Balkans” dated 26 January 2011,
5. Considering the involvement and the commitment of the OSCE countries in favour of the struggle against organized transnational crime,
6. Considering the decisive role played by witnesses in the work of the justice system for discovery of the truth and the struggle against impunity, by means of the help with which they can supply the police and the courts, particularly in matters bearing on war crimes and the struggle against organized crime, as well as the vital necessity resulting therefrom to protect them against the intimidation, threats and violence to which they might be subjected to dissuade them from testifying or to punish them for their testimony, often considered as betrayal or “treason”, and in order to provide them with help and assistance so that they can give evidence in the best possible conditions,
7. In the light of the specific difficulties encountered by witnesses known as “insiders”, in other words, coming from criminal groups or serving with the armed forces or the police,

8. Considering the fact that in certain cases, systematic disclosure of the identity of witnesses in defence of the accused may run counter to the interest of justice, particularly if such disclosure exposes the witnesses and those around them to risks,
9. Considering the fact, finally, that in the absence of appropriate protection and assistance to enable a witness to testify, neither the work of justice nor the process of reconciliation of the populations affected by war crimes can be expected to be lasting,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

10. Calls for the judicial authorities and the prosecutors of the OSCE participating States to carry out effective investigations of the allegations of threats, harassment or aggression against witnesses or those close to them, and to quickly sanction the authors thereof;
11. Calls on the OSCE participating States to include, in national legislation, programmes for the protection of witnesses before, during and after trials, or to upgrade the existing programmes;
12. Calls on the OSCE participating States to implement measures aimed at guaranteeing that judges, prosecutors, policemen and other officials in contact with persons called on to testify receive complete training in witness protection;
13. Calls on the OSCE participating states to implement, in national legislation, or to strengthen measures for assistance for witnesses before, during and after trial, in parallel to the means deployed for their physical protection, so as to guarantee successful prosecution of the authors of offences and to avoid secondary victimization of witnesses, by offering them logistical aid in particular, including to meet the need for finding new housing, legal counsel, medical care and appropriate psychological and social assistance as well as financial aid;
14. Calls on the competent national authorities to apply special measures if circumstances so require, particularly by restricting the disclosure of information concerning witnesses, removal of the identifying information concerning a witness from public documents, use of pseudonyms, closed door testimony and partially or completely anonymous testimony, with due observance of the case law of the European Court for Human Rights, as well as – if need be – a change of identity and resettlement of a witness in another place, including abroad;
15. Calls on the competent national authorities to extend, if need be, possible measures for protection and assistance from which a witness might benefit to include some or all of those around them;
16. Calls on the competent national authorities to use all possible technical means to upgrade witness protection, such as videoconferencing and image or voice distortion, to avoid disclosing a witness's identity to the defendant and to the public, in matters relating to

war crimes, but also in those concerning organized crime, in accordance with the provisions of the United Nations Convention Against Organized Transnational Crime;

17. Calls on the competent national authorities to adjust the configuration of the higher and lower courts in such a way that protected witnesses can use a separate entrance and can avoid finding themselves in the defendant's presence;
18. Calls on the OSCE participating States to create autonomous entities, separate from police forces and investigatory bodies, reporting to the Ministry of Justice, to supervise the programmes for witness protection and assistance as well as recruitment of the staff needed to guarantee proper operation thereof, and to assign the appropriate financial resources thereto;
19. Calls on the OSCE participating States to conclude agreements with the other States and with the international courts with a view to organizing and facilitating handling and reinstatement on their territory of witnesses protected in another State or by such a court;
20. Calls on the participating States to implement appropriate, stable and lasting financing for the programmes for witness protection and assistance;
21. Calls on the participating States to promulgate laws authorizing financing of such programmes from the proceeds of property seized or confiscated because of its criminal origin, so as to make appropriate training for staff possible and to pay part of the ordinary expenditure connected with witness resettlement;
22. Calls on the competent national authorities to establish, within the framework of witness assistance programmes, partnerships with the non-governmental organizations having recognized experience vis-à-vis vulnerable populations called on to testify, particularly young people and children;
23. Calls on the OSCE and the other international organizations to strengthen their co-operation in order to optimize the financing, expertise and training programmes for witness protection and assistance in all vulnerable regions;
24. Calls on the international courts to install residual mechanisms to guarantee the continuation and management of the witness protection and assistance programmes benefiting therefrom after such courts have ceased to operate.