

**OTTAWA DECLARATION
OF THE OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY**

8 JULY 1995

OTTAWA, 4 - 8 JULY 1995

We, parliamentarians of the OSCE participating States, have met in Ottawa on 48 July 1995 as the parliamentary OSCE institution to assess developments relating to security and cooperation in Europe and to offer our advice to OSCE Ministers. We do so mindful that 1995 marks the Fiftieth Anniversary of the end of World War II and the founding of the United Nations, the Twentieth Anniversary of the signing of the Helsinki Final Act, and the Fifth Anniversary of the Charter of Paris for a New Europe.

We wish all success to the next Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council, to be held in Budapest on 78 December 1995, and bring to its attention the following declarations and recommendations.

The Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE, meeting in Ottawa from 4 to 8 July 1995, adopts the following resolutions:

Chapter I: Political Affairs and Security

Chapter II: Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment

Chapter III: Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions

CHAPTER I

(POLITICAL AFFAIRS AND SECURITY)

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly,

1. Welcoming the results of the Budapest Summit, including the decision to enhance contacts and dialogue with the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly;
2. Welcoming the coming into force on 5 December 1994 of the Convention on Conciliation and Arbitration and recommending that it be signed and ratified by all participating States;
3. Further welcoming the conclusion of the Pact on Stability in Europe, over which OSCE has been assigned responsibility for implementation follow up;
4. Reaffirming the key role of the OSCE in building a secure and stable OSCE community, whole and free;

STRENGTHENING THE OSCE

5. Convinced that a strengthening of cooperation between OSCE and other transatlantic as well as European institutions such as NATO, WEU, EU, CIS and the Council of Europe is indispensable for promoting democratic change within the framework of OSCE;
6. Recalling its proposal, in the 1994 Vienna Declaration, for a decision-making procedure which no longer requires consensus or consensus-minus-one;
7. Further recalling its proposals, in the 1993 Helsinki Declaration, for the implementation of a system of cooperative security further increasing the effectiveness and improving the decision-making process of the OSCE, strengthening the possibilities for executive action by appropriate OSCE institutions, in particular by the Chairman-in-Office and further developing the capabilities of the Secretary General and the Secretariat;
8. Condemning the continuing illegal presence of armed forces and military equipment of a participating State on the territory of another participating State in violation of international law;

9. Stressing the need for all OSCE participating States to observe fully their commitments as the indispensable foundation for any meaningful effort to establish a genuine partnership in a new era;

10. Hoping that the discussions concerning "A security model for the 21st Century" will lead to the adoption of a broad concept of "Common and Comprehensive Security" encompassing not only military aspects but also economic, social, environmental and others building on close and interactive cooperation between governments and legislators at all stages of political developments in the OSCE region;

11. Looking forward with interest to the seminar to be held in Vienna in the autumn of 1995 aimed at furthering a broad and comprehensive discussion on all aspects of security, as appropriate, aimed at devising a concept of security for the twenty-first century, and which should directly involve relevant international, European and transatlantic organizations;

12. Commending the highly successful election monitoring exercises undertaken by the Assembly;

Calls upon the OSCE and its participating States:

13. To establish meaningful cooperation with the United Nations and with the Council of Europe, NATO, WEU, and other democratic organizations deemed relevant to security in the OSCE area by ensuring their permanent representation;

14. To continue active discussion of a pan-European security model on the basis of the principles of a single security space and equal security for all, with the OSCE playing a growing role in accordance with the mandate of the Budapest Summit;

15. To nominate experienced statesmen in addition to diplomats for tasks in the field of early warning and conflict prevention in line with the practice of the United Nations and the European Union;

16. To task the Conflict Prevention Centre with the gathering of early warning indicators with regular input from national governments and organizations, and to entrust the Director with providing political input to OSCE missions and to participate, in an advisory capacity, in discussions of the Senior and Permanent Councils;

17. To determine whether an OSCE Arms Control and Verification Agency, established at the Conflict Prevention Centre, could reduce duplication and enhance implementation of arms control regimes to which all or some OSCE participating States are party;

18. To ratify the 1980 United Nations Convention and the attendant Protocol prohibiting the use of anti-personnel PMN mines and to finalize the ratification process by legislation aimed at prohibiting the use, manufacture, export and transit of this type of weapon on their territory, including such use by their armed forces;

19. To re-examine the notification and observation thresholds for military activity set out in the Vienna Document 1994 to further promote military transparency under the changed political military realities, and to agree that the Document governs all military activities undertaken for any purpose;

20. To agree that any unusual and unscheduled military activity outside normal peacetime locations does indeed raise legitimate concerns that permit any participating State to request an explanation for these activities in accordance with paragraph 16 of the Vienna Document 1994;

21. To actively explore decision-making procedures based on an approximate consensus;

22. To work for the full implementation of the politically binding Code of Conduct on Politico - Military Aspects of Security, and to consolidate further the control mechanism for its implementation, by making full use of the existing appropriate OSCE control bodies, mechanisms and procedures;

23. To develop criteria for suspension of a participating State, taking into account flagrant failure to implement OSCE decisions and commitments;

24. To give priority to organising election monitoring exercises through the OSCE Assembly;

REGIONAL ISSUES

25. Considering the advancement of regional approaches in addressing security questions as an important instrument of contributing towards stability in the whole OSCE area;

26. Recording with satisfaction the results of the Pact on Stability in Europe as a whole and noting with particular respect the positive experience of the regional roundtables practice within this framework which has demonstrated the feasibility of a regional approach in tackling security and stability issues;

27. Taking note of the ongoing preparations within the OSCE to follow the implementation of the Pact and, in particular, the readiness of participating States concerned to pursue further their efforts within the regional roundtables;

28. Considering it possible and valuable to reflect the comprehensiveness of the OSCE security concept by enriching regional efforts within the OSCE framework through addressing other issues pertinent to stability in the regions, including questions of a politico-military nature, most notably the problems of limitations of offensive weaponry, implementation of defensive sufficiency both in the sense of personnel and equipment deployment and development, excessive and destabilizing concentrations of force and military hardware, both of transitional and permanent nature;

29. Considering that the flexible nature of such regional roundtables should enable them both to encourage and facilitate general security dialogue as well as prepare by itself multilateral concrete measures and endorse agreed bilateral arrangements pertinent to the objectives of the roundtable;

30. Considering that the activities of regional roundtables, while not starting as a very stringent framework with exhaustive agenda, should rather have loose and flexible character, eventually through dialogue and consensus-searching moving into regional disarmament and arms controls;

The Mediterranean

31. Convinced of the importance of enhancing security and cooperation in the whole of the Mediterranean region, as peace and stability in this sensitive zone are of extreme importance for achieving security in the OSCE area;

The Baltic Region

32. Expresses its support for the possibility of launching by all interested participating States a regional security dialogue in the Baltic Sea region, namely the Baltic Sea Security Roundtable;

33. Expresses its conviction that in the long run the Baltic Sea Security Roundtable could facilitate and enhance security dialogue among the states taking part, aiming particularly at advancing transparency in defence policies, military planning and information exchange;

34. Encourages the study of further undertakings in order to set up a cooperative regime strengthening confidence- and security-building in the Baltic Sea area;

Nagorno Karabakh

35. Strongly supporting early progress on the work on an appropriate resolution of the United Nations Security Council in support of the peace process in Nagorno Karabakh and, in particular, of a multinational OSCE peacekeeping force and OSCE cooperative

arrangements to ensure that the role and functions of a third party military force in a conflict are consistent with OSCE principles and objectives, including respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, consent of the parties, impartiality, multinational character, clear mandate, transparency, an integral link to a political process for conflict resolution, and a plan for orderly withdrawal as appropriate;

36. Convinced that an economic recovery of the region will remain impossible unless cooperation between the transcaucasian republics will have been re-established and that the necessary conditions will be improved by the engagement of the peacekeeping mission which would set an example of cooperation in itself;

37. Further convinced that it could also help to reduce the costs for the humanitarian help which will have to be brought into the region as long as economic recovery continues to be stalemated by the Karabakh conflict tensions;

38. Expressing its concern that the ceasefire in and around Karabakh, which has been lasting for more than 14 months, could be turned into a contracted truce, opening the ways for the returning of refugee populations (more than one million) and the lifting of blockades;

39. Welcoming the release of hostages and prisoners of war, which took place recently, and which has demonstrated the ability of all the conflict parties to be open for confidence-building measures;

40. Expressing its concern that the continuation of the present situation, however, would in the long run cause higher costs than the peacekeeping mission would have as a result;

41. Further expressing its conviction that the decisive task of the mission is not only to stabilize the peace-building but also to assist the process of reconciliation and recovery of the entire region;

42. Recommending that the mission should provide significant technical and economic assistance;

Calls upon OSCE and its participating states:

43. To strive persistently for the speediest implementation of 1993 UN Security Council resolutions 822, 853, 874 and 884 on immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of all local Armenian forces from all occupied regions of Azerbaijan as well as

implementation of the decision of the Budapest Summit "Intensification of OSCE action in relation to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict", including the creation of a specific mechanism for implementing these decisions;

44. To recommend to the OSCE Chair-in-Office that, with the assistance of the Minsk Conference Co-Chairmen and Minsk Group support, decisive measures be taken aimed at forming in the shortest possible time multinational OSCE peacekeeping forces and deploying them in the Nagorno Karabakh conflict zone;

45. To recommend to the OSCE Minsk Group that decisive use should be made of the "consensus-minus-one" principle and more openness ensured in its efforts to resolve questions of observer deployment, liberation of occupied territories, etc.;

46. To try seriously to agree upon the financing of a peace-keeping mission in the Nagorno Karabakh conflict;

47. To implement immediately the OSCE decision, which obliges the participating States to send out a peacekeeping mission to Nagorno Karabakh, by the end of 1995 comprising at least 2,000 participants;

Chechnya

48. Noting the significant progress that has been made regarding a peaceful settlement of the crisis in Chechnya and stressing the importance of cooperation between the Russian Parliament and Government and the Chairman-in-Office for a peaceful resolution of a crisis in Chechnya based on OSCE principles;

49. Supporting the work of the OSCE Assistance Group which has been active in Grozny since 25 April 1995;

50. Stressing the necessity for an immediate cessation of the fighting to stop the loss of life and suffering in Chechnya as well as the need for an unconditional and urgent resumption of negotiations aimed at a durable peaceful settlement of the conflict;

51. Recalling the importance of the OSCE Assistance Group to Chechnya;

52. Condemning the Russian Federation for its gross violation of international law and OSCE principles stemming from its military campaign in Chechnya;

53. Further condemning those responsible for the terrorist act of taking innocent civilians as hostages in Budennovsk;

54. Calls upon the parties to the conflict to exercise maximum restraint and seek a political resolution to the war;

Calls upon the OSCE and its participating states:

55. To provide full cooperation to Russian authorities and concerned organizations in Chechnya in coordinating humanitarian assistance, ensuring compliance with human rights commitments, assisting in free elections, establishing legitimate administrative structures, and achieving an overall political settlement;

The former Yugoslavia

56. Expressing its deep concern over the continuing reckless and cruel military conflict waged on territories in the former Yugoslavia, and convinced of the need for the adoption of effective measures with a view to strengthen security and stability in the Southern part of Central Europe - the Balkans;

57. Reaffirming that recognition of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia and all of the republics of the former Yugoslavia by Serbia-Montenegro is indispensable for admission of Serbia-Montenegro to the OSCE;

58. Regarding the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina as the most serious violation of the Principles Guiding Relations Between States enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act;

59. Viewing as especially important the principles regarding: Refraining from the Threat or Use of Force; Inviolability of Frontiers; Territorial Integrity of States; Non-intervention in Internal Affairs; Respect for Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms; and Fulfilment in Good Faith of Obligations under International Law;

60. Concerned that the continued toleration of these violations poses a threat not only to Bosnia-Herzegovina but also to the principles themselves and their full application throughout the OSCE region;

61. Concerned, further, that a failure to base responses to the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina on these principles jeopardizes the credibility of the OSCE and the international community as a whole; and

62. Noting that 1995 is the Twentieth Anniversary of the signing of the Helsinki Final Act, and that commemorative events will take place to mark this occasion;

63. Recommends to the President or the Standing Committee that, if security conditions permit by the end of 1995, a special one-day meeting of OSCE parliamentarians be convened in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, in order to demonstrate solidarity with that country, to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the Helsinki principles, and to examine ways in which these principles can be made more relevant to an eventual outcome to the conflict;

64. Calls upon the OSCE participating States to make security conditions in Sarajevo conducive to holding this session by the end of 1995;

65. Invites senior representatives of all OSCE participating States to attend and participate in this special meeting;

66. Reminding Greece of the importance of the OSCE in European security architecture and urging this participating State to stop vetoing the accession of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the OSCE, without setting any preconditions;

67. Concerned that the continuation of the Greek embargo against the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is jeopardizing the development of the economy of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia which could easily result in further de-stabilization of the situation in that country and, subsequently, in the region. For these reasons, it is required that the Government of Greece should lift the trade embargo imposed on the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia without any delay;

68. Reiterating its call that the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia be admitted into the OSCE as a fully participating State, if necessary by consensus-minus-one, and that all OSCE States recognize and develop normal relations with that country;

69. Calls for the OSCE mission to be immediately returned to Kosovo and for direct talks to start between Prishtina and Belgrade in the presence of a third party for the resolution of the crisis in Kosovo;

Calls upon the OSCE and its participating states:

70. To assist in achieving, as soon as possible, a peaceful, lasting and just settlement of the conflicts in the former Yugoslavia, and in preventing these conflicts from going beyond its present boundaries;

71. To undertake efforts aimed at building and strengthening of regional security in the southern part of Central Europe with a view to achieving an irreversible normalisation and stabilisation in this troubled part of the continent, and, for this purpose, to pay particular attention to regional economic cooperation and to take more effective measures to assist the countries of that region which suffer unjust damage because of the implementation of the sanctions imposed against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia;

72. To begin consideration of an arms control regime to ensure that the armed forces of the former Yugoslavia are based on defensive sufficiency;

Moldova

Calls upon the OSCE and its participating States:

73. To explore the assistance the OSCE could offer regarding the entry into force of the agreement between the Republic of Moldova and the Russian Federation on the withdrawal of the Russian military operational group temporarily stationed in Moldova, and entrust the OSCE mission in the Republic of Moldova to follow closely the realisation of it, thus implementing the relevant Budapest decision on Moldova and bringing peace and stability into this region of Europe;

NUCLEAR TESTING

74. Strongly deploring the French decision to resume nuclear testing;

75. Concerned that this decision will put a strain on the ongoing negotiations on a comprehensive test ban treaty at the Disarmament Conference in Geneva, represents a setback in relation to the progress that has been made in disarmament efforts in recent years, and will complicate efforts to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons;

76. Believing that such a decision will not contribute to efforts to establish an international community in which the role of nuclear weapons is significantly reduced;

77. Urges therefore the French authorities to reverse their decision on resumption of nuclear testing;

78. Urges all nuclear powers to refrain indefinitely from testing nuclear weapons.

CHAPTER II

(ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT)

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly,

1. Recognizing the linkages that exist between common security, the human dimension and economic cooperation and their combined contribution to democratic transformation in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the newly-independent states of the former Soviet Union;

2. Aware that effective economic transformation in these countries is a slow and difficult process, but is essential if the economic and social well-being of their citizens is to be improved;

3. Recognizing that the situations that prevail in each country differ, and that the process and pace of restructuring must take account of the economic and social conditions existing in each country;

4. Convinced that appropriate political, legal and administrative institutions and practices are based on the principles of democracy and the rule of law essential for the development of effective market economies;

5. Stressing the importance of initial, ongoing training in the evolution of countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union toward a market economy and participative democracy;

6. Concerned that reforms are accompanied by a number of dangerous, negative phenomena - significant inflation, a growth in inter-enterprise debt and shortage of credit financing, a drop in the standard of living of the population and an excessive decrease in demand -that jeopardize the prospects for economic growth;

7. Convinced that economic reforms must be carried out in conjunction with the implementation of an effective social protection system;

8. Noting that the social costs of market reforms must not jeopardize political stability and the prospects of economic progress;

9. Recognizing that privatization of the means of production is a necessary basis for economic development, but that it is a difficult process requiring well conceived programs adapted to the specific conditions in each country;

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

10. Convinced of the need, in conjunction with economic reforms, to preserve and enhance the environment in countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union;
11. Reaffirming the recognition of the linkages between common security, economic sustainability and the human dimension;
12. Urges governments to build a broad-based security model that would reach beyond conventional security by recognizing the environmental inter-dependence of OSCE nations, and furthermore recognize the economic advantages of preventing air and water pollution so as to protect human health, run an efficient economy, and manage better our diminishing natural resources;
13. Urges governments to approve policies aimed at integrating economic with environmental goals for the attainment of environmentally sustainable development;
14. Urges governments to make conservation their major policy thrust in their management and exploitation of fisheries;
15. Urges governments to phase out gradually unsustainable subsidies and to develop economic instruments that will enhance the value of natural resources for the benefit of future generations;

PRIORITIES FOR THE REFORMING COUNTRIES

16. Urges the governments of the reforming countries to put in place and maintain economic stabilization policies which are necessary for the development of effective market economies;
17. Calls upon the governments of these countries to establish legal and administrative structures which provide the foundation for a working market economy, and to adopt legislation which promotes a sustainable and environmentally sound development;
18. Calls upon the governments of reforming states to achieve public agreement on the goals, methods and pace of reforms through the use of democratic institutions;
19. Appeals to the reforming states to strengthen legal and other mechanisms needed to fight against organized crime and corruption, particularly in government structures, which disintegrate social and economic reforms and initiate a chain reaction of the growth of criminality in society, entail massive violation of human rights and impoverishment of citizens of those countries and make them constant hostages of virtually legalised criminal interrelations; and also invites all participating States to fight organized crime;

20. Urges the governments of the reforming states to give priority to the promotion of strong banking systems and capital market institutions, since this is necessary both for domestic private enterprise and to encourage foreign investment;

21. Urges the participating States to consider methods of enhancing public/private sector dialogue, and encouraging consultation with the business community regarding efforts to promote investment, including eliminating anti-market forces, in order to support continued economic growth and development in the reforming countries;

22. Calls upon the governments of these countries to persist with effective policies for privatization;

23. Urges these governments to address the growing problems represented by inter-enterprise debt and lack of working capital and recommends that international financial institutions develop and give to the reforming countries effective programmes on solving the problems of inter-enterprise debt and to work out some mechanisms of implementation of those programmes;

THE SOCIAL DIMENSION

24. Calls upon the governments of reforming countries to establish a social security system that in particular meets the needs of the most vulnerable groups in society;

25. Urges the OSCE to support the countries in economic transition to document the social difficulties they are facing especially monitoring the health situation as well as the situation of women, children and the elderly;

26. Urges the international financial institutions, in accomplishing their assistance programmes, to take fully into account social welfare aspects of the assistance as an integral part of their total responsibilities and commitments;

27. Recognizing that the speed of economic transformation must take account of the legal, economic and political status of women in society;

28. Appeals to the Western countries and the international financial institutions to target technical assistance to the development of small and medium sized businesses both for female and male entrepreneurs in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the newly independent States of the former Soviet Union;

COORDINATION AND COOPERATION

29. Urges the reforming countries to strengthen the mechanisms for regional economic cooperation, especially inter-regional trade, so as to assist economic development;

30. Calls upon reforming countries to integrate the environment in the economic restructuring process and hopes that the Sofia Conference will bring about improved coordination of aid to these countries;
31. Calls upon Western countries to support the economic transition process by reducing barriers to trade with reforming states;
32. Welcomes the conclusion of the GATT Uruguay Round Agreements and expresses the hope that all reforming countries within the OSCE become members of the world trade organization;
33. Appeals to Western countries to provide targeted and coordinated financial, educational and technical assistance as a support for efforts of the reforming countries, in particular in the area of training, to undertake economic reform; and considers that in this case, the size and the speed of the assistance should be commensurate with a process of real democratisation of society (particularly in the field of democratic elections) and the unhampered realisation of the human dimension;
34. Urges the international financial institutions to improve their coordination, in particular within the framework of the Group of 24, in their provision of technical, scientific and financial assistance to the reforming countries;
35. Supports the recommendation of the Third Economic Forum that the participating States review the implementation of previous commitments, in the Bonn Document and elsewhere within the economic dimension, and ensure that special attention is paid to the economic dimension during the ongoing discussions of a comprehensive model of security for the 21st Century;
36. Confirms its support for the concept of the OSCE Economic Forum, while desiring that the aims of the Forum be better defined, the meeting agendas more focused and the goals credible and attainable, given its resources and of the role of other competent international organizations;
37. Recommends that the OSCE, while avoiding duplication, analyse and publicize successful efforts by reforming countries to improve their economic performance as a way of assisting other reforming countries;
38. Welcomes the substantial efforts made by some participating States of the OSCE to support the economic restructuring in the reforming countries and calls on the parliaments of the participating States of the OSCE to ensure a fair burden-sharing in international support for the reforming countries;
39. Calls upon OSCE participating States to take the necessary measures for alleviating the negative effects on reforming neighbouring states resulting from economic sanctions and the blockade of the former Yugoslavia.

CHAPTER III

(DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS

AND HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS)

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly,

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OSCE COMMITMENTS

1. Underlining that respect for human rights is an essential precondition to the maintenance and development of peace and security and that human rights violations often lead to an exacerbation of situations and inter-ethnic conflicts;
2. Reaffirming the central place of the human dimension in the OSCE process;
3. Recalling the provisions of the OSCE Copenhagen Document (5-29 June 1990) and in order to bring about the untroubled integration in society of persons belonging to national minorities;
4. Reaffirms the importance of international humanitarian law as codified by the Geneva Conventions and the additional protocols relating to them and invites all States to sign and ratify them;
5. Specially underscores the necessity for the OSCE participating States to comply unconditionally with the Fourth Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, dated 12 August 1949, and the additional protocols;
6. Supports the establishment of an international criminal law covering war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide, and a permanent international criminal court with jurisdiction over crimes committed by individuals so that potential war criminals will be called to account for their actions before this court on the basis of international conventions and other humanitarian law;
7. Declares that OSCE participating States have a fundamental commitment to refrain from human rights violations of any kind;
8. Urges the Chair-in-Office to bring such violations to the attention of the OSCE Permanent Council and of the ODIHR and of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities;
9. Calls on governments of OSCE participating States to take the necessary measures to bring about the integration of national minorities in democratic society, while ensuring that they maintain their identity and respecting the principle of the territorial integrity of each State;

10. Recommends that participating States enhance the implementation of human rights commitments by making full use of the Vienna and Moscow mechanisms and the newly established OSCE bodies, including the ODIHR, the High Commissioner on National Minorities and the resources and capabilities of the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE;

11. Urges the participating States to reaffirm explicitly their acknowledgement of the human dimension mechanism as a tool of dialogue and co-operation;

12. Welcomes the OSCE Budapest Document 1994 pledging support by the participating States of the OSCE for the High Commissioner on National Minorities in the continuation of his work and greater efforts in the implementation of his recommendations;

13. Stresses the need to promote greater public awareness of the OSCE and its activities and to create additional opportunities for NGO participation in these activities;

14. Expresses the wish for closer cooperation with non-governmental organizations in the area of early-warning where a well-timed exchange of information and opinions with locally active NGOs may be of great benefit;

15. Invites participating States to attach all due importance to human dimension implementation review meetings and to review conferences and to facilitate effective collaboration with non-governmental organizations;

INTOLERANCE AND DISCRIMINATION/MINORITIES ISSUES

16. Deeply concerned by the continuing climate of discrimination and intolerance in the OSCE area, including in countries with considerable democratic experience;

17. Convinced that manifestations of intolerance and discrimination not only affect persons belonging to national minorities and ethnic, cultural or religious groups within countries, but also undermine harmony between state and society;

18. Concerned by mass migratory movements in the OSCE region, including millions of refugees and displaced persons;

19. Emphasizing that migration and refugee issues are of paramount concern for the OSCE participating States;

20. Convinced of the need for pan-European structures, including a rapid response capability and methods for burden sharing, to deal with mass arrivals of refugees;

21. Calls on the Secretary General of the OSCE to undertake a study, in cooperation with other relevant organizations involved in assisting refugees and displaced persons in the OSCE region, on ways to promote closer cooperation among OSCE participating States

in cases of mass arrivals, including the possibility of establishing an OSCE burden-sharing mechanism, and to report to the 1996 session of the Parliamentary Assembly;

22. Calls for the development of constitutional and legal guarantees for minorities, supports the Pact on Stability in Europe and hopes for the strengthening of the means available to the ODIHR, from the perspectives of human and financial resources;

23. Believes that OSCE participating States must make any negotiation involving the recognition of Serbia-Montenegro as an interlocutor conditional on the full recognition of the rights of the residents of Kosovo of Albanian origin. No negotiations on the question of sanctions should be undertaken without such a condition;

24. Expresses the view that, as appropriate, participating States should sign, ratify and implement fully the international agreements on the elimination of every form of racial discrimination;

25. Stresses the importance of the European Convention on Human Rights, including the recognition of the right of individual complaints as well as the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (opened for signature by European States on 1st February 1995);

26. Calls on the European OSCE participating States concerned to sign the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and advocates its swift ratification so that a coherent European policy may be established in this area;

27. Calls on the participating States and national legislatures to develop legislation to combat discrimination on the grounds of race, gender, colour, religion or ethnic origin and to consider enhanced penalties for hate crimes;

28. Urges participating States to re-examine their respective histories, to acknowledge past episodes of discrimination, intolerance and persecution, and to seek actively ways to co-operate with their neighbours and with other countries;

29. Calls on the participating States to ensure that all persons belonging to different segments of their populations be accorded equal respect and consideration in their constitutions, legislation and administration and that there be no subordination, explicit or implied, on the basis of ethnicity, race, colour, language, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national or social origin or belonging to a minority;

30. Calls on the participating States to execute special measures for the protection of national minorities, in consultation with them;

31. Recalls the commitments under the 1992 Helsinki Document not to increase statelessness;

32. Affirms that citizenship may only be extended or bestowed by a State subject to the consent of the individual concerned;

33. Calls on the participating States to give equal rights to individuals as citizens, not as members of a particular national or ethnic group. Accordingly, they should ensure that all citizens be accorded equal respect and consideration in their constitutions, legislation and administration and that there be no subordination, explicit or implied, on the basis of ethnicity, national origin, race, or religion; further calls on the participating States to acknowledge that citizenship itself is based on a genuine and effective link between a population and a territory and should not be based on race or ethnicity and must be consistent with the state's international obligations in the field of human rights;

34. Urges that, upon a change in sovereignty, all persons who have a genuine and effective link with a new State should acquire the citizenship of that State;

35. Calls on the Secretary General of the OSCE to monitor, country by country, the points mentioned in paragraph 29 above, in cooperation with the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, and to inform the Assembly accordingly;

36. Acknowledges, in view of the integration of national minorities in civic societies, the importance of local and regional administrative arrangements which take into account the specific needs of national minorities at local and regional levels, as well as the importance of developing administrative systems, such as the Ombudsman institution, for dealing with individual complaints by citizens at the national level;

37. Calls on the OSCE to share information and establish closer working relations with the Council of Europe and other appropriate pan-European structures, with the aim of achieving co-operative arrangements for the protection of national minorities in order to avoid any overlapping and duplication of work;

38. Welcomes the increased attention paid by the OSCE to the problems of discrimination and intolerance faced by Roma and Sinti communities and individuals in particular within the participating States of the OSCE, and pledges to support initiatives which will help to eliminate these problems.
