



**COPENHAGEN DECLARATION
OF THE
PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
OF THE
ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY
AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

(As adopted)
COPENHAGEN, 10 JULY 1998

**COPENHAGEN DECLARATION OF THE
OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY**

10 July 1998

PREAMBLE

1. We, parliamentarians of the OSCE participating States, have met in Copenhagen on 7-10 July 1998 as the parliamentary OSCE Institution to assess developments relating to security and co-operation in Europe and to offer our views to OSCE Ministers.
2. We wish all success to the next OSCE Ministerial Council to be held in Oslo in December 1998, and bring to its attention the following declarations and recommendations.

KOSOVO

3. **Deeply concerned about the tragic developments in Kosovo, the daily loss of life, severe human suffering and the destruction of communities that has resulted in thousands of local inhabitants, particularly Kosovo Albanians, fleeing their homes;**
4. **Condemning violence from all sides, in particular when used against peaceful and unarmed civilians;**
5. Denouncing the policies of the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) for its military aggression against the Albanian population of Kosovo, including the shelling and destruction of villages;
6. Convinced that decisive measures are urgently required in order to force the Government of the FRY to refrain from these unacceptable actions against its own population; and
7. **Convinced that the human rights situation in Kosovo and the danger of increasing instability in the entire Balkan region can negatively affect the legitimate interests of the international community, not least of all as a result of the refugee flows;**

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly,

8. **Appeals to all parties to the conflict to return to the principle of non-violence and to distance themselves from any provocation;**
9. Suggests that the European Union, the United States and others in a position to do so impose comprehensive and effective economic sanctions against the FRY until it halts its aggression in Kosovo;
10. **Considers that NATO, in line with the UN Charter and international law, and with the explicit endorsement of a relevant UN Security Council resolution, may**

take such military measures as to ensure the termination of aggression and the protection of the population of Kosovo and its neighbours;

11. **Appeals to President Milosevic to speed up implementation of the commitments he entered into in the Moscow joint statement of 16 June 1998;**

12. Calls upon the Albanian population in Kosovo to denounce and refrain from any form of violence, including the use of terrorism, in the protection and promotion of their rights;

13. **Appeals to all outside parties to cease providing funds, supplying weapons and other equipment, or providing training in the use of the latter in support of terrorist activities;**

14. Recognizes the territorial integrity of the FRY and other states in the region;

15. **While supporting the demands for strong autonomy for Kosovo, reaffirms the position that the principles of international law with regard to the inviolability of frontiers and the territorial integrity of States, as enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act and all subsequent OSCE documents, should be respected in the case of the FRY and other States in the region;**

16. Urges the Government of the FRY and the leaders of the Albanian population in Kosovo to negotiate seriously in order to bring about a peaceful and just solution to the conflict;

17. Appeals to the Government of the FRY to receive the Special Representative of the Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE to promote the negotiation process, and to agree to the re-opening of the OSCE Mission of Long Duration to Kosovo, Sandjak and Vojvodina;

18. Asks the international community to help those States in the region, Albania in particular, which are suffering from an influx of refugees, and to give humanitarian assistance to the refugees and to other victims of aggression in Kosovo;

19. Calls upon the UN Security Council to agree on the continuation of the UNPREDEP mandate in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia;

20. Urges the Government of the FRY to proceed without hindrance or further delay to implement the agreement between the FRY and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia concerning the demarcation of their common international borders;

21. Calls for

effective measures to prevent the tens of thousands of Kosovo Albanian refugees from becoming another permanently displaced population in Europe;

the investigation and prosecution by the International Criminal Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia of crimes against humanity committed in Kosovo;

the immediate withdrawal of Serbian special police units and the end of operations against the civilian population; and continued and unrestricted access to Kosovo for all humanitarian organizations.

**THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE STRUCTURES,
INSTITUTIONS AND PERSPECTIVES
OF THE OSCE
CHAPTER I
(POLITICAL AFFAIRS AND SECURITY)**

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly,

22. Recognizing that the comprehensive nature and membership of the OSCE make it uniquely positioned in the broader European security architecture;

23. Convinced that, as the OSCE approaches its 25th anniversary, it is timely for the Parliamentary Assembly to assess the development of OSCE Institutions and structures, and to offer concrete recommendations with the aim of refining these tools as we seek to advance indivisible security and co-operation among participating States;

24. **Stressing that the Institutions, mechanisms and instruments of the OSCE should be utilized to their maximum potential to ensure that the OSCE fully executes its political and operational role as a primary instrument in conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation;**

25. Acknowledging that any assessment of OSCE Institutions and structures should recognize that institutionalization is a process which began in earnest in 1991 and remains in its early stage of development;

26. **Emphasizing** that one of the fundamental challenges facing OSCE participating States remains the implementation of the commitments and principles contained in the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris and other OSCE documents adopted by consensus. This challenge should be met by offering assistance to States encountering problems in this area, through the refinement of existing instruments and mechanisms of co-operation and the elaboration of new ones;

27. Recognizing that meeting the challenge of implementation of OSCE principles and commitments does not require the creation of new institutions and structures, but rather

should involve a refinement of existing OSCE tools and resources in the pursuit of greater effectiveness;

28. Noting that any review of OSCE Institutions and structures naturally must include an assessment of the role of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and its work **to ensure the efficient performance of the task assigned to it in discussing the major issues related to the activities of the Organization: to create conflict prevention and settlement mechanisms, to support democratic institutions in OSCE participating States and to promote the development of the institutional structures of the OSCE;**

29. Welcomes the initiative taken by the 1996 Lisbon Summit meeting of the OSCE and the subsequent decision of its Copenhagen Ministerial Council on 19 December 1997, to formulate the Document/Charter;

30. Appreciates the activities of the OSCE in the reporting period;

31. Welcomes the strengthening of Euro-Atlantic relations through the enlargement of NATO - an organization founded on the principles of democracy, individual liberty and the rule of law - in a manner consistent with the sovereign right of participating States to be party to treaties of alliance as provided for under Principle One of the Helsinki Final Act;

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly,

32. Appeals to the participating States to work actively for the development of the Organization in all areas;

33. Calls upon all security institutions to expand and intensify their co-operation in a way that will do justice to the proclaimed concept of non-hierarchical cooperation among mutually reinforcing institutions;

34. Calls upon the participating States to strengthen the Organization's abilities to take action in the sense of a proactive policy of crisis avoidance;

35. Calls upon the participating States to engage in constructive and result-oriented talks on the OSCE Document/Charter for Security;

36. Urges the participating States, with a view to the growing demands on the OSCE, to place adequate resources at the disposal of the Organization to enable it to carry out its duties in an appropriate manner;

37. Urges, in particular, the establishment of continuous monitoring of compliance with OSCE principles and norms, so that implementation constitutes a basic and routine OSCE activity, including granting the Chairman-in-Office the power to invoke an appropriate review mechanism;

38. **Urges the Chairman-in-Office and the Security Model Committee to speed up the preparation of the draft concept of the Document/Charter;**
39. **Calls for a broad public engagement in the discussion on the Charter as well as on the Common and Comprehensive Security Model for the 21st Century;**
40. **Calls upon the Chairman-in-Office, as work on the Comprehensive and Common Security Model for Europe in the 21st Century continues, to incorporate certain important principles recommended by the Parliamentary Assembly in the 1996 Stockholm Declaration relating to the place and role of the OSCE in the architecture of European security in the Twenty-First century;**
41. Reiterates the previous recommendations of the Parliamentary Assembly for the OSCE to adopt Approximate consensus, whereby the OSCE can act with agreement of participating States which equals 90 percent of both membership and financial contributions;
42. **Calls upon participating States which have signed the Convention on Conciliation and Arbitration to ratify it as soon as possible and calls upon the OSCE to improve the information provided to participating States on the intervention mechanisms and procedures of the Court;**
43. **Calls on participating States to have recourse to the Court of Conciliation and Arbitration, established in Geneva on 29 May 1995, which has a flexible procedure, as a means for the peaceful resolution of disputes, and calls on all States which have not yet done so to sign the convention;**
44. **Calls for an active role of the OSCE in the development of co-operation among international organizations of European and Euro-Atlantic orientation constituting the modern European security architecture - OSCE, NATO, the Western European Union, the European Union and the Council of Europe;**
45. Welcomes developments beyond the OSCE designed to enhance security in Europe and strengthen Euro-Atlantic co-operation, including expansion of the European Union, development of co-operation between the Council of Europe and the OSCE, on-going enhancement of the Partnership for Peace, establishment of the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council, as well as the conclusion of the NATO-Russia Founding Act and the NATO-Ukraine Charter and the USA-Baltic Charter;
46. **Urges the encouragement of regional initiatives aimed at security, stability and co-operation in Europe, and the development of OSCE co-operation with the countries participating in such initiatives;**
47. Calls for greater consideration of the possible expansion of the OSCE role in geographical regions contiguous to the OSCE area, building upon existing contacts with the Partners for Co-operation;

48. **Calls for the continuation and intensification of the dialogue with the partners in the Mediterranean;**

49. **Recommends the Mediterranean dimension of security be taken into account in the draft Document/Charter for European Security in order to permit a strengthening of co-operation with Mediterranean partner countries;**

50. **Urges the OSCE Ministerial Council to develop the role of the OSCE as a regional organization in close co-operation with the United Nations;**

51. **Urges the OSCE Ministerial Council to examine the following recommendations as it considers ways of enhancing existing OSCE Institutions and structures to meet the challenges of the Twenty-First Century, **bearing in mind that the OSCE is one of the most important international organizations acting in the field of conflict prevention, early warning and preventive diplomacy:****

51.1 Consider expanding those circumstances under which the existing consensusminus-one decision-making mechanism is utilized to include, *inter alia*, approval of budgets, deployment of missions, and selection of senior personnel;

51.2 Consider as a matter of priority strengthening OSCE=s coordination function in co-operation with other international organizations, while maintaining the flexibility and effectiveness of OSCE operations;

51.3 Consider a role for the OSCE with regard to new threats to security, such as: international crime, terrorism, extremism, local conflicts, environmental disasters and nuclear risks, to develop appropriate Confidence and Security Building Measures and co-operate closely with other organizations in these areas;

51.4 Consider creating an effective mechanism for involving the parties to conflicts in direct talks under OSCE auspices as the most effective method of reaching agreement and the final settlement of problems by peaceful means;

51.5 As it seeks to enhance its capacity for early warning and conflict prevention, the OSCE should take due account of the need to engage sub-state actors in responding to potential intra-state conflicts;

51.6 Recalling the importance that the Assembly attaches to the regular holding, at least every two years, of Summit Meetings of Heads of State or Government;

51.7 Review Conferences should be organized in such a manner as to ensure that a thorough implementation debate occurs in an atmosphere unhindered by the plethora of regular OSCE meetings and activities to ensure high-level participation throughout the Conference from every participating State;

51.8 Support meetings in the form of a reinforced Permanent Council when justified by particularly important issues;

51.9 Every effort should be made to maintain the OSCE=s flexibility by improving operations of the Secretariat while avoiding bureaucratization and politicization of this important administrative body;

51.10 Procedures should be established for recruitment and standards of qualifications for senior positions in the Secretariat which will ensure the establishment of a highly qualified and professional permanent staff. **Gender aspects should be considered in all staff recruitment. The paramount consideration in the employment of staff and in the determination of the conditions of service should be the necessity of securing the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity. Due regard should be paid to the importance of recruiting staff on as wide a geographical range as possible;**

51.11 Clear guidelines separating policy determination from implementation responsibilities should be established within the OSCE Institutions and structures, as well as guidelines for functional separation of administrative tasks, decisions, and supervision within the International Secretariat;

51.12 The important work of the Central Asia Liaison Office should be strengthened by providing sufficient staff resources and exploring the establishment of branch offices. In addition, consideration should be given to taking advantage of the expertise of OSCE parliamentarians in training programmes conducted in the region;

51.13 The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and its members should play a meaningful role in seminars and activities undertaken in connection with the implementation of the Programme of Co-ordinated Support;

51.14 Support for the OSCE missions should be strengthened through the establishment of a regime for recruitment of staff for service on missions. Gender aspects should be considered in all staff recruitment for missions and the participation of more female staff should be encouraged. All mission members should receive adequate training to prepare them for service in the field, including instruction focused on existing OSCE commitments. A roving training team could help facilitate this essential work. Women should be represented on such training teams to ensure that women=s experiences as well as those of men are taken into account. Furthermore, the OSCE emphasizes the necessity of the participating States to train experts in the field of crisis prevention and encourages the participating States to establish Civilian Peace Services for international peace missions;

51.15 Guidelines should be established to govern the closing of OSCE missions;

51.16 In keeping with the aims of the OSCE in advancing transparency, it is desirable for the OSCE to reinforce its policy of openness to the public and the media, including the meetings of the Forum for Security Cooperation;

51.17 The OSCE should undertake a comprehensive review of existing CSBMs to consider their refinement and possible enhancement to the existing measures to make them more relevant to today=s security environment in Europe, possibly including, *inter alia*: a regular exchange of information on the size, composition, and location of internal security forces; a regular exchange of information on armed forces stationed on foreign territory and trans-border movements; establishment of regional and sub-regional CSBMs, in order to enhance regional stability; and a more detailed exchange of information on the qualitative and structural facets of national armed forces;

51.18 In recognition of the important role non-governmental organizations (NGOs) can play in advancing the aims of the OSCE, every effort should be made to increase contacts and interaction between OSCE Institutions and NGOs;

51.19 Participating States should intensify discussions on proposals for establishing a network of non-governmental research institutions, which could be called an OSCE Academy or OSCE Institute for Co-operative Security, for the benefit of all participating States and their peoples;

51.20 The participating States should be encouraged to take advantage of the opportunity to post OSCE-related statements on the official OSCE Internet homepage;

51.21 Participating States should be encouraged to ratify at the earliest possible opportunity the AntiPersonnel Mines Treaty signed in Ottawa in December 1997;

51.22 The OSCE should address to a greater extent the principles and obligations contained in the 1991 Moscow Document on equality between men and women and make better use of the potential of women in relation to the prevention and resolution of conflicts and to democratization. Participating States should have greater recourse to women in the recruitment of OSCE personnel and in nominating women as heads of missions;

52. Calls upon Parliaments of participating States of the OSCE to establish a direct relationship with their Ministries of Foreign Affairs regarding the preparation of the national input in the OSCE Ministerial Council (exante) and a debate in Parliament on the results of Ministerial Councils;

53. Calls on the Chairman-in-Office, representing the Council, to send to the Assembly at least two months before its Annual Session a report consisting of a political and financial evaluation of the activities of the OSCE in the last twelve months and a general plan of priority activities of the OSCE in the next twelve months;

54. **Calls** for the strengthening of collaboration between the OSCE and the Council of Europe at all levels, taking into account their specific competences and;

55. **Recommends** the conclusion of agreements between the two organizations in order to make better use of the comparative advantages of each organization and strengthen the principle of >lead agency= (one organization co-ordinating the joint action undertaken by several organizations).

CHAPTER II (ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT)

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly,

56. **Recognizing** the insufficient development of OSCE activities in the Economic Dimension as well as the relative neglect of environmental, science and technology issues, particularly at the governmental level;

57. **Noting** that the Economic Forum should play a major role in laying out guidelines for the OSCE Economic Dimension;

58. **Aware**, however, that the mandate extended to the Coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities by the Lisbon Summit of 1996 has signalled increased attention to the economic component in determining overall security, particularly at a regional level;

59. **Further noting** that the Parliamentary Assembly has contributed to the development of the OSCE institutional structures as well as to the implementation of the OSCE objectives in the Economic Dimension by enhancing the democratic representativeness of this OSCE Institution;

60. **Underlining** that environmental obligations should guide and condition the behaviour of the participating States with regard to their energy and, most particularly, their nuclear programmes and that they should consider the concerns and welfare of their inhabitants as well as those of neighbouring countries;

61. **Recalling** that the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, through the organization of events such as the Monaco Parliamentary Conference on Sub-regional Economic Cooperation, has recently promoted a new regional approach in dealing with economic and environmental issues;

62. **Concerned** by the growth of unemployment in the OSCE region;

63. **Convinced** that transnational criminal organizations have a considerable destabilizing effect on businesses and democratic institutions and their activities damage economic relations and strongly endanger security;

64. Stressing that criminal organizations inflict different kinds of damage on economic life, often with serious effects on overall security;

65. Acknowledging that criminal Mafia organizations and corruption are two closely linked phenomena which can seriously jeopardize businesses, public administration, the general economic framework and market transparency;

66. Underlining that the most dangerous criminal organizations operating in the OSCE area are transnational and that their influence is growing due to the globalization of financial markets;

67. Taking into account the special situation and interests of transition economies and the conclusions of the recent sixth Economic Forum concerning the growing interdependence between political, economic and energy security in Europe as well as the conclusion of the Aarhus Convention;

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly,

68. Calls on the OSCE Institutions, in accordance with the principles set forth in the Lisbon Document, to identify the risks to security arising from economic, social and environmental problems, to discuss their causes and assess their potential consequences on security;

69. Requests that OSCE Institutions improve their cooperation with other international organizations, thus avoiding overlap or duplication of activities among international institutions dealing with economic and environmental issues;

70. Recommends taking concrete steps to set up the early warning system of social and economic indicators with a direct link to security, as proposed at the Prague meeting of the Economic Forum of 1996;

71. Calls upon the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities to include the issues of economic and social reform in the transition economies among his top priorities with a view to supporting the reform process in the countries concerned, promoting their full integration into the world economy on an equal and non-discriminatory basis, and advancing their prompt admission to global and regional economic and trade organizations on the same terms as the other members and participants;

72. Further calls on the Co-ordinator to be responsible for establishing a broad network which should be based on the capabilities of all relevant OSCE institutions, including long-term missions, thereby ensuring that urgent information reaches OSCE Bodies and Institutions, notably the Permanent Council, the Chairman-in-Office and the Secretary General, without delay;

73. **Urges the reinforcement of the role of the Co-ordinator, allowing him to act as a link between the central OSCE Institutions and the OSCE structures operating in the field, for instance, by giving to the OSCE long-term missions an extended mandate including environmental issues;**

74. **Calls for the Co-ordinator also to be responsible for bringing the guidelines of the Economic Forum to the attention of the Permanent Council and report annually to the General Committee for Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment of the Parliamentary Assembly;**

75. **Calls for the staff, as well as the financial and technological resources assigned to the Coordinator, to be reinforced in order to enhance his operational capabilities in the various geographical areas within his purview;**

76. **Recommends that OSCE Institutions achieve a more regional approach in dealing with economic issues, as stressed during the successful Monaco Conference on SubRegional Economic Cooperation, by facilitating long-running collaboration with the numerous regional and sub-regional organizations and initiatives;**

77. **Invites OSCE Institutions and, in general, the Governmental side to involve more actively the Parliamentary Assembly in decision-making concerning the Economic Dimension and to take into due consideration its proposal for an OSCE Economic Charter;**

78. **Calls for the inclusion of unemployment and proposed solutions to this grave problem to be among the subjects dealt with by the Co-ordinator in his consultations with international economic organizations;**

79. **Further calls for the Co-ordinator to consider poverty within a large sector in society as a possible destabilizing factor at national as well as regional levels, giving special emphasis to the problems of creating new jobs and establishing an effective social security system in the transition economies;**

80. **Invites OSCE Institutions, and particularly the Parliamentary Assembly itself, to initiate a specific discussion of unemployment and its impact on overall security in order to identify indicators for an early warning system in the field of security and to ensure that the data collected by other economic organizations on combatting unemployment are more accessible;**

81. **Invites participating States to ensure that rules for employment offer legal guarantees against discrimination based on gender, race, religion or any other grounds whatsoever;**

82. **Recommends** that the Parliamentary Assembly should initiate discussion for the preparation of an **Environmental Code of Conduct** to be adopted by participating States;

83. **Calls**, on the basis of the conclusions of the Monaco Parliamentary Conference, for the urgent promotion of sub-regional co-operation and transboundary exchanges, particularly in the field of environmental issues, which are of an increasingly transnational nature;

84. **Exhorts** governments to sustain judiciary and police co-operation as effective responses to international organized crime, taking special care to have appropriate and homogenous legal instruments;

85. **Calls** upon the Governments of OSCE participating States to consider as common objectives:

- combatting fraud of an international nature;
- judicial co-operation in both civil and penal matters;
- police co-operation to prevent and combat organized crime and all forms of illicit trafficking;
- the exchange of information within INTERPOL or a European police office, and
- combatting tax evasion;

86. **Appeals** to OSCE Institutions to pave the way for a deeper co-operation with other international and sub-regional organizations in the field of transnational crime;

87. **Calls** for the creation of an OSCE judicial area in which obstacles to international law enforcement and judicial co-operation are abolished, and in which judicial investigators are accordingly able to exchange directly information needed for their enquiries, and make available their findings to authorities beyond their borders who submit legal requests for that information. This process, however, must respect the legal traditions of participating States;

88. **Recommends** the inclusion of information on the special risks posed by criminal organizations among the indicators which the Co-ordinator is mandated to monitor within the framework of an early warning system related to economic security;

89. **Encourages** national Parliaments to play a special part in promoting a process of harmonization of policies against corruption and organized crime within the OSCE, in proposing legislative and administrative measures to fight these phenomena and in stimulating public debate of the threat posed by organized crime;

90. **Recommends** the ratification by all OSCE participating States of the Council of Europe's Convention on Money Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime and the implementation of improved police cooperation for its enforcement in those areas where it does not yet exist;

91. **Calls for the prompt** implementation of the Treaty on the Energy Charter by all signatory countries, which would help to enhance energy security in the OSCE region by improving the investment climate, promoting the unrestricted flow of energy and ensuring its safe transit. **Energy development, power production and balancing energy needs with environmental protection should be pursued within a co-operative framework;**

92. **Calls upon** the participating States to redouble their efforts to draw up a draft Charter on European Security, in which the economic dimension should have a prominent place in the overall conception of comprehensive and indivisible security for Europe in the Twenty-First Century;

93. **Recalls** the provision of the Charter of Paris on meetings of other Ministers, and **urges** the participating States to consider the convening of a ministerial meeting to review practical forms of co-operation to combat corruption and organized crime;

94. **Urges** the OSCE to include consultation with the private sector, both business and labour, and to encourage their attendance at the Economic Forum and its follow-on seminars.

CHAPTER III (DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS)

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly,

95. **Encouraged** by the ongoing success of the work of the OSCE Missions and their contribution to the monitoring and implementation of Human Dimension commitments;

96. **Strongly supporting** the work carried out by women and men participating in OSCE Missions and Offices and other activities related to the field of the Human Dimension.

97. **Noting** that, upon the decision that a mission is required in a certain area, there is no mechanism designed to define from the outset the various resources that are to be made available to it;

98. **Supporting** the efforts of the ODIHR to strengthen and reinvigorate the OSCE's human dimension activities and the Human Dimension implementation review;

99. Concerned that the financial resources of the High Commissioner on National Minorities and the Representative on Freedom of the Media are small in relation to the size of their task;

100. **Underlining the need to give greater attention to the human rights of Roma and Sinti, taking into account the action undertaken by the Council of Europe;**

101. Alarmed that extant review systems are not sufficient to ensure the implementation of OSCE Principles on behalf of participating States;

102. **Noting the failure of some governments to implement the recommendations of ODIHR with respect to election procedures;**

103. **Stressing that as ethnic, linguistic, cultural and religious rights constitute an integral aspect of the OSCE Human Dimension, the preservation of religious and cultural monuments and sites, most particularly in high risk or conflict regions of the OSCE area, have to be given adequate importance and be dealt with within the framework of OSCE activities related to the protection of rights in the field of the Human Dimension;**

104. **Recalling the commitments of the OSCE concerning equality between men and women, as set out in the document of the 1991 Moscow meeting and the Platform adopted by the World Conference on Women held in Beijing;**

105. **Expressing its support for the recommendations of the ODIHR seminar of October 1997 on *The Role of Women in Society*;**

106. **Emphasizing the importance of the participation and contribution of women in the fields of democratization and the prevention and resolution of conflicts;**

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly,

107. Calls on Governments to co-operate with and more fully support OSCE Missions;

108. Suggests the creation of a mechanism to monitor whether an OSCE Mission=s needs have outgrown its resources, and to supplement them where necessary;

109. Proposes that the criteria for a decision to financially prioritize a Mission in a certain country should include whether that country receives benefits and/or funds from other international actors;

110. Stresses that an OSCE Mission should function as the core of the OSCE presence in a country;

111. **Urges that Governments implement the recommendations made in election monitoring reports prepared by the ODIHR;**

112. **Suggests that an effective mechanism be developed to follow-up the recommendations of each election observation mission. The follow-up should take place in co-operation and consultation between the ODIHR and the Government of the country concerned, including helping new democracies implement the recommendations of the election observation missions in their electoral systems and practices;**

113. **Recommends that parliamentary institutions, including the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the European Parliament and the North Atlantic Assembly, intensify their co-operation in election monitoring and that an appropriate division of labour be developed between the parliamentary and governmental institutions, including separation of responsibilities between assistance with the organization of elections and judgement of the quality and fairness of those elections;**

114. **Requests that the OSCE consider including on the agenda of the Ministerial or Permanent Councils unresolved issues relating to ethnic minorities **upon recommendation of the High Commissioner on National Minorities;****

115. **Urges that the budgets of the High Commissioner on National Minorities and the Representative on Freedom of the Media be increased;**

116. **Calls on the OSCE participating States to devote greater attention and resources, including at the ODIHR and the Permanent Council, to ensure that the human rights of the Roma and Sinti are fully respected;**

117. **Emphasizes the importance of increased efforts to improve the situation of Roma and Sinti populations by means of a senior appointee in the ODIHR to concentrate solely on this issue;**

118. **Suggests the inclusion of appropriate non-governmental organizations in the implementation process at all levels;**

119. **Urges the OSCE to implement gender mainstreaming in all its activities, in particular the establishment of appropriate mechanisms, at a senior level, and to coordinate these efforts;**

120. **Calls upon the Ministerial Council to instruct all OSCE Institutions to take effective steps to ensure the implementation of recommendations made - notably those referring to the full participation of women in the activities of the OSCE, including at decision-making levels;**

121. Stresses the importance of strengthening inter-institutional and structural links between the ODIHR, the Representative on Freedom of the Media and the OSCE Permanent Council;

122. Calls for Human Dimension issues to be reflected in the substantive chapter of the future Document/Charter on European Security;

123. Recommends that the implementation of Human Dimension issues becomes a matter of immediate attention on the OSCE Permanent Council agenda.

RESOLUTION ON AN ECONOMIC CHARTER FOR THE OSCE

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

1. aware of the OSCE's comprehensive approach to security, the importance of economic, social and ecological factors for security and co-operation in Europe, as well as the security risks that can arise from crisis-related developments in these areas;
2. building on the principles contained in the Bonn document of 1990 for a strategy of free-market reform based on pluralism and the rule of law for countries in transformation, common rules of conduct for intercompany co-operation and investment, as well as promotion of economic co-operation among governments;
3. believing in the need to create an economic area from Vancouver to Vladivostok committed to shared principles and values. Creating such an economic area becomes possible now that physical confrontation and conflicts between systems have been overcome and in view of the significant progress countries in transformation have made in restructuring their economies;
4. recognizing that, to an ever increasing extent, all the OSCE participating states are facing the same challenges deriving, in particular, from the process of economic globalization, from the need for new and secure jobs, from the impact of environmental pollution, and from the social security situation of their populations;
5. Calls upon the governments of the OSCE participating states to include the following considerations in the further development of the OSCE economic dimension, based on the document of the Bonn conference of 1990 and the Lisbon document of 1996;

I. Agreement on an economic policy of the member states of the OSCE based on common principles:

6. In their economic dimension, security and co-operation depend to a great extent on confidence in reliable and transparent rules for political and economic activity on the part of all those involved in the economic process. These rules include:

7. Confidence in a reliable market economy that is socially and environmentally responsible and committed to strong economic growth, monetary stability, a high level of employment, balanced public budgets, and balanced foreign trade. The **Parliamentary Assembly** of the OSCE calls upon the governments of the participating States, when setting the economic framework conditions, to direct their economic policies both towards achieving these objectives and creating the structural prerequisites necessary for this. This includes allowing prices to be set in accordance with market requirements, establishing reliable ownership rights, creating safeguards for economic competition and environmental standards, as well as supporting the development of small and medium-sized enterprises and the service sector. It calls upon the international economic Organizations to support the participating States in the process of achieving these objectives;

8. Confidence in legal security, without which any economic activity is fraught with risks that are hard to calculate. Aware of the importance of a reliable legal framework; the **Parliamentary Assembly** calls upon international economic Organizations, in particular the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) to continue their efforts to provide legal advice and to formulate model texts for economic legislation, to define a minimum standard body of economically relevant legal texts, and, on request, to report on the status of legal conditions for economic activity in the OSCE states. The **Parliamentary Assembly** calls upon the participating States to accede to the existing international conventions in the area of economic law;

9. The **Parliamentary Assembly** notes with concern the effects of organised crime and corruption on economic activity and the risks that emanate from this to co-operation and security in Europe. To an increasing extent organised crime is becoming a threat to society and the legal standards it is based on. As such, the **Parliamentary Assembly** calls upon the governments of the participating States to take the necessary legislative and law enforcement measures to fight organised crime and to continue their exchange of information on the threat posed by organised crime as well as on possible countermeasures, also doing so in the OSCE framework;

10. Confidence in the security of market access and the protection of investments are indispensable prerequisites for economic activity in general, and for cross-border co-operation in particular. Accordingly, the **Parliamentary Assembly** calls upon the governments of the participating States to cooperate in the framework of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in opening markets, eliminating trade barriers, and resolving trade conflicts, as well as supporting participating States that are not yet members of the WTO in their endeavors to achieve membership. The **Parliamentary Assembly** encourages governments to support efforts leading towards provisions for social and environmental standards, as well as ILO worker protection standards within the WTO;

11. The **Parliamentary Assembly** calls upon the governments of the participating States to grant foreign investors the same treatment as domestic investors. It welcomes the entry into force of the European Energy Charter on 16 April 1998 and calls upon the

contracting States to implement the provisions of the Energy Charter Treaty rapidly in national law to facilitate co-operation in the energy sector;

12. Confidence in the guarantee of an appropriate standard of social protection constitutes a necessary supplement to efficient economic activity and a prerequisite for the avoidance of social conflicts. As such, the **Parliamentary Assembly** calls upon the governments of participating States to develop and maintain social protection systems that guarantee minimum standards of protection against material risks associated with sickness, disability, unemployment, accidents, old age and the risks of poverty. The **Parliamentary Assembly** refers in this connection to the work of international Organizations, in particular that of the United Nations, **the ILO**, the OECD and the European Union. Particular attention must be given to the fight against unemployment and to measures aimed at avoiding discrimination in the employment market based on gender, race or religion or any other grounds whatsoever. The **Parliamentary Assembly** attaches great importance to the freedom of labour and management Organizations to negotiate proper working agreements;

13. Recognizing the importance of education and training for economic development and prosperity, as well as for the personal development of the individual, there is a need to strengthen employment-related training and the process of lifelong learning among employees. Convinced that international exchange in the process of training and employment will strengthen understanding, confidence and co-operation in Europe, the **Parliamentary Assembly** calls upon the governments of the participating States to assess possibilities of intensifying relevant programmes;

14. The **Parliamentary Assembly** calls upon the governments of the participating States to do everything possible to implement these principles and to standardise obligations in the economic sector scattered in a large number of documents with a view to achieving a harmonization of regulatory framework conditions;

II. Elements for the development of strong and forward-looking economies

15. Globalization of the economy, the need for secure jobs, and the impact on the natural environment are confronting the OSCE participating States with new challenges. Since transboundary problems are involved here, common strategies are needed to solve them. Opportunities for co-operation among the OSCE participating States present themselves particularly in the following areas;

16. The build-up and further development of cross-border infrastructures are the prerequisite and basis for the further development of co-operation in the OSCE area. The intensification of economic exchange in the OSCE area, the increasing importance of the service sector, and the development of an information-based society presuppose strong transport, energy and communications infrastructures. With this in mind, the **Parliamentary Assembly** welcomes the efforts being undertaken by the European Union to move forward with the expansion of trans-European networks and the high priority the World Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development attach to the

infrastructural sector but deplore the lack of means available in order to achieve this. It calls upon all participating States in connection with the development and use of infrastructures, particularly in the telecommunications sector, to create the necessary prerequisites for investments by private companies and to work towards opening up state monopolies to competition. The **Parliamentary Assembly** calls upon the governments of the participating States to take into account data protection requirements in developing their information infrastructures;

17. Aware that use of the rich scientific and technological potential present in all participating States can create an important impetus for economic development, the **Parliamentary Assembly** encourages the intensification of scientific and technological co-operation. It calls upon all participating States to guarantee the protection of intellectual property, without which the economic implementation of scientific and technological knowledge in the international context will hardly be possible;

18. Overcoming environmental problems and preserving natural resources presupposes environmentally conscious and resource-saving economic activity. The **Parliamentary Assembly** reaffirms the objectives formulated at the environmental summit of Rio de Janeiro. In particular, it advocates continued efforts to improve environmental quality and to reduce the environmental impacts emanating from the territory of the OSCE participating States. It calls upon the governments of the participating States to help bring about a breakthrough everywhere for the polluter-pays principle, the principle of clear cost apportionment and the use of instruments which do not distort market mechanisms in order to internalise environmental costs. It refers in this context to the potential for skilled jobs in the field of environmental technology which could develop as a consequence of increased efforts in the environmental policy sector. In addition, it welcomes the increasing importance international financial institutions attach to the environmental sector and encourages them to continue on this course;

III. Strengthening of regional co-operation

19. The OSCE participating States will endeavor to continue to develop regional economic co-operation. The **Parliamentary Assembly** encourages all initiatives which will serve the purpose of developing good-neighbourly relations and co-operation. Deepened bilateral and regional co-operation of this kind will supplement the co-operation of all OSCE participating States on an equal footing. The **Parliamentary Assembly** reaffirms the objectives formulated in the Monaco Declaration of 10 October 1997 on the promotion of subregional economic co-operation processes. It stresses their importance for the development of democracy and market-economy systems, cross-border exchanges, as well as the strengthening of civilian society. It refers to the important function of subregional economic co-operation processes as dialogue and action fora for the countries in transformation. Based on its flexible nature, subregional co-operation will be able to contribute to the process of European integration and thereby counteract the formation of new dividing lines. The **Parliamentary Assembly** calls upon the governments of the participating States to strengthen subregional co-operation

processes and to make use of their capacities to prevent conflict as well as to strengthen co-operation in the context of subsidiarity;

IV. The economic dimension of the OSCE and its instruments

20. Implementation of the principles for an OSCE-wide area having the same basic economic orientation, as depicted in Chapter I, would create the prerequisites for overcoming risks and dangers for security and co-operation in the OSCE area. These derive from the difficult process of transformation from centrally administrated planned economies to free-market economies. In addition, one must consider distortions accompanying the process of economic globalization which are manifested in production and employment trends;

21. The growing differentiation of the economic situation throughout the OSCE area is a process that may be accompanied by the danger of the emergence of new borders based on prosperity differences. It is a conspicuous fact that the rapid and systematic implementation of free-market reforms has correlated closely with the onset of strong and dynamic economic growth. Economic problems in some countries, social tensions, economically motivated migration, and transboundary environmental problems indeed constitute real economically-based dangers, as well as for security and co-operation in Europe. These dangers will be evidenced early on by changes in fundamental macroeconomic data such as inflation, growth, employment, balance of payments, and budgets. These indicators are of particular importance for the early recognition and resolution of economic crises;

22. The **Parliamentary Assembly** calls upon the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank), as well as the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development to make available to the OSCE the results of their studies of threats to economic stability, and to involve the OSCE, along with the relevant countries in question, in the formulation of strategies to enhance economic stability;

The **Parliamentary Assembly** sees the task of the OSCE in its economic dimension in

23. taking into account economic factors in connection with early identification of threats to security with the prevention and resolution of conflict;

24. sharing with the responsible international Organizations at appropriate senior levels information about risks to security stemming from economic and environmental problems;

25. creating political support for the development of economic policies for the OSCE participating States based on common principles and bringing the economic dimensions

of the OSCE which embraces the economic aspects of comprehensive security into the international debate on economic and security issues;

The **Parliamentary Assembly** calls

26. for the **Council** to give appropriate consideration to economic questions relevant to security in its work;

27. for the **OSCE Economic Forum**, which meets every year in Prague, to create support for the development of economic policies based on common principles as a foundation for confidence building, economic co-operation, and comprehensive security in Europe and, in this context, to devote attention to the creation of the prerequisites for this indicated in Chapter I;

28. upon the OSCE Chairman-in-Office to invite regional economic associations to attend the conferences of the Economic Forum;

29. for the **Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities** to make full use of the potential of his mandate, approved at the meeting of the Council of Ministers in Copenhagen in December 1997, with a view to promoting the importance of the economic dimension for security and co-operation in Europe. This includes, in particular, being involved in the meetings of the Economic Forum, conducting a dialogue with international economic and financial Organizations on security-relevant economic trends, and processing this information for the presentation to the Permanent Council;

30. for the mandates of OSCE missions to attach due importance to the economic aspects of comprehensive security and for consideration to be given in each individual instance to the assignment of economic experts to OSCE missions;

31. for use to be made of the knowledge and experience of international economic and financial Organizations, in particular of

31.1 the International Monetary Fund in the analysis and assessment of the fundamental macroeconomic data of the participating States;

31.2 the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) in connection with the preparation of strategies and programmes for OSCE economic activities, e.g. in connection with the Economic Forum and the holding of joint seminars;

31.3 the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), in particular in connection with the assessment of economic development in countries in transformation;

31.4 the European Union which, through its comprehensive system of treaties contributes considerably towards stabilization of the area and promotes in significant measure the development of democracy, the rule of law, and the market economy system;

31.5 the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in connection with the economic analysis of and the provision of advice to countries in transition, as well as the World Trade Organization (WTO) in connection with the expansion and liberalization of trade;

32. The **Parliamentary Assembly** suggests the strengthening of the OSCE=s capacity to use the knowledge and experience of international economic and financial organizations in order to determine, as soon as possible, the threats to security resulting from a situation of economic crisis. The reports drawn up by the OSCE staff under the responsibility of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, in their turn, will be used by international Organizations and the OSCE member States which should then implement all necessary measures;

33. **The Parliamentary Assembly calls for more intensive involvement of the private sector, both business and labour, in addressing the economic dimension, particularly through participation in the OSCE Economic Forum and its follow-on seminars. It acknowledges the establishment of the European Business Congress (EBC) and looks forward to the EBC=s development in accordance with OSCE principles;**

34. The **Parliamentary Assembly** calls upon the participating States to formulate an OSCE Economic Charter on the basis of the principles and recommendations contained in this resolution. It is willing to work together on a basis of mutual confidence with the new Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities as well as to make cooperation with the Economic Forum closer and more effective in the future.