

OSCE Human Dimension Commitments

Volume 2
Chronological Compilation

4th Edition

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Volume 2, Chronological Compilation,
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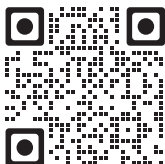
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Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe

Helsinki 1975

(...)

The High Representatives of the participating States have solemnly adopted the following:

Questions relating to Security in Europe

The States participating in the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe,

Reaffirming their objective of promoting better relations among themselves and ensuring conditions in which their people can live in true and lasting peace free from any threat to or attempt against their security;

Convinced of the need to exert efforts to make détente both a continuing and an increasingly viable and comprehensive process, universal in scope, and that the implementation of the results of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe will be a major contribution to this process;

Considering that solidarity among peoples, as well as the common purpose of the participating States in achieving the aims as set forth by the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, should lead to the development of better and closer relations among them in all fields and thus to overcoming the confrontation stemming from the character of their past relations, and to better mutual understanding;

Mindful of their common history and recognizing that the existence of elements common to their traditions and values can assist them in developing their relations, and desiring to search, fully taking into account the individuality and diversity of their positions and views, for possibilities of joining their efforts with a view to overcoming distrust and increasing confidence, solving the problems that separate them and co-operating in the interest of mankind;

Recognizing the indivisibility of security in Europe as well as their common interest in the development of co-operation throughout Europe and among selves and expressing their intention to pursue efforts accordingly;

Recognizing the close link between peace and security in Europe and in the world as a whole and conscious of the need for each of them to make its contribution to the strengthening of world peace and security and to the promotion of fundamental rights, economic and social progress and well-being for all peoples;

Have adopted the following:

1. (a) Declaration on Principles Guiding Relations between Participating States

The participating States,

Reaffirming their commitment to peace, security and justice and the continuing development of friendly relations and co-operation;

Recognizing that this commitment, which reflects the interest and aspirations of peoples, constitutes for each participating State a present and future responsibility, heightened by experience of the past;

Reaffirming, in conformity with their membership in the United Nations and in accordance with the purposes and principles of the United Nations, their full and active support for the United Nations and for the enhancement of its role and effectiveness in strengthening international peace, security and justice, and in promoting the solution of international problems, as well as the development of friendly relations and co-operation among States;

Expressing their common adherence to the principles which are set forth below and are in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations, as well as their common will to act, in the application of these principles, in conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

Declare their determination to respect and put into practice, each of them in its relations with all other participating States, irrespective of their political, economic or social systems as well as of their size, geographical location or level of economic development, the following principles, which all are of primary significance, guiding their mutual relations:

I. Sovereign equality, respect for the rights inherent in sovereignty

The participating States will respect each other's sovereign equality and individuality as well as all the rights inherent in and encompassed by its sovereignty, including in particular the right of every State to juridical equality, to territorial integrity and to freedom and political independence. They will also respect each other's right freely to choose and develop its political, social, economic and cultural systems as well as its right to determine its laws and regulations.

Within the framework of international law, all the participating States have equal rights and duties. They will respect each other's right to define and conduct as it wishes its relations with other States in accordance with international law and in the spirit of the present Declaration. They consider that their frontiers can be changed, in accordance with international law, by peaceful means and by agreement. They also have the right to belong or not to belong to international organizations, to be or not to be a party to bilateral or multilateral treaties including the right to be or not to be a party to treaties of alliance; they also have the right to neutrality.

II. Refraining from the threat or use of force

The participating States will refrain in their mutual relations, as well as in their international relations in general, from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations and with the present Declaration. No consideration may be invoked to serve to warrant resort to the threat or use of force in contravention of this principle.

Accordingly, the participating States will refrain from any acts constituting a threat of force or direct or indirect use of force against another participating State. Likewise they will refrain from any manifestation of force for the purpose of inducing another participating State to renounce the full exercise of its sovereign rights. Likewise they will also refrain in their mutual relations from any act of reprisal by force. No such threat or use of force will be employed as a means of settling disputes, or questions likely to give rise to disputes, between them.

III. Inviolability of frontiers

The participating States regard as inviolable all one another's frontiers as well as the frontiers of all States in Europe and therefore they will refrain now and in the future from assaulting these frontiers.

Accordingly, they will also refrain from any demand for, or act of, seizure and usurpation of part or all of the territory of any participating State.

IV. Territorial integrity of States

The participating States will respect the territorial integrity of each of the participating States.

Accordingly, they will refrain from any action inconsistent with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations against the territorial integrity, political independence or the unity of any participating State, and in particular from any such action constituting a threat or use of force.

The participating States will likewise refrain from making each other's territory the object of military occupation or other direct or indirect measures of force in contravention of international law, or the object of acquisition by means of such measures or the threat of them. No such occupation or acquisition will be recognized as legal.

V. Peaceful settlement of disputes

The participating States will settle disputes among them by peaceful means in such a manner as not to endanger international peace and security, and justice.

They will endeavour in good faith and a spirit of co-operation to reach a rapid and equitable solution on the basis of international law. For this purpose they will use such means as negotiation, enquiry, mediation, conciliation, arbitration, judicial settlement or other peaceful means of their own choice including any settlement procedure agreed to in advance of disputes to which they are parties.

In the event of failure to reach a solution by any of the above peaceful means, the parties to a dispute will continue to seek a mutually agreed way to settle the dispute peacefully.

Participating States, parties to a dispute among them, as well as other participating States, will refrain from any action which might aggravate the situation to such a degree as to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security and thereby make a peaceful settlement of the dispute more difficult.

VI. Non-intervention in internal affairs

The participating States will refrain from any intervention, direct or indirect, individual or collective, in the internal or external affairs falling within the domestic jurisdiction of another participating State, regardless of their mutual relations.

They will accordingly refrain from any form of armed intervention or threat of such intervention against another participating State.

They will likewise in all circumstances refrain from any other act of military, or of political, economic or other coercion designed to subordinate to their own interest the exercise by another participating State of the rights inherent in its sovereignty and thus to secure advantages of any kind.

Accordingly, they will, *inter alia*, refrain from direct or indirect assistance to terrorist activities, or to subversive or other activities directed towards the violent overthrow of the regime of another participating State.

VII. Respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief

The participating States will respect human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief, for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion.

They will promote and encourage the effective exercise of civil, political, economic, social, cultural and other rights and freedoms all of which derive from the inherent dignity of the human person and are essential for his free and full development.

Within this framework the participating States will recognize and respect the freedom of the individual to profess and practice, alone or in community with others, religion or belief acting in accordance with the dictates of his own conscience.

The participating States on whose territory national minorities exist will respect the right of persons belonging to such minorities to equality before the law, will afford them the full opportunity for the actual enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms and will, in this manner, protect their legitimate interests in this sphere.

The participating States recognize the universal significance of human rights and fundamental freedoms, respect for which is an essential factor for the peace, justice and well-being necessary to ensure the development of friendly relations and co-operation among themselves as among all States.

They will constantly respect these rights and freedoms in their mutual relations and will endeavour jointly and separately, including in co-operation with the United Nations, to promote universal and effective respect for them.

They confirm the right of the individual to know and act upon his rights and duties in this field.

In the field of human rights and fundamental freedoms, the participating States will act in conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. They will also fulfil their obligations as set forth in the

international declarations and agreements in this field, including *inter alia* the International Covenants on Human Rights, by which they may be bound.

VIII. Equal rights and self-determination of peoples

The participating States will respect the equal rights of peoples and their right to self-determination, acting at all times in conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and with the relevant norms of international law, including those relating to territorial integrity of States.

By virtue of the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, all peoples always have the right, in full freedom, to determine, when and as they wish, their internal and external political status, without external interference, and to pursue as they wish their political, economic, social and cultural development.

The participating States reaffirm the universal significance of respect for and effective exercise of equal rights and self-determination of peoples for the development of friendly relations among themselves as among all States; they also recall the importance of the elimination of any form of violation of this principle.

IX. Co-operation among States

The participating States will develop their co-operation with one another and with all

States in all fields in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. In developing their co-operation the participating States will place special emphasis on the fields as set forth within the framework of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, with each of them making its contribution in conditions of full equality.

They will endeavour, in developing their co-operation as equals, to promote mutual understanding and confidence, friendly and good-neighbourly relations among themselves, international peace, security and justice. They will equally endeavour, in developing their cooperation, to improve the well-being of peoples and contribute to the fulfillment of their aspirations through, *inter alia*, the benefits resulting from increased mutual knowledge and from progress and achievement in the economic, scientific, technological, social, cultural and humanitarian fields. They will take steps to promote conditions favourable to making these benefits available to all; they will take into account the interest of all in the narrowing of differences in the levels of economic development, and in particular the interest of developing countries throughout the world.

They confirm that governments, institutions, organizations and persons have a relevant and positive role to play in contributing toward the achievement of these aims of their cooperation.

They will strive, in increasing their cooperation as set forth above, to develop closer relations among themselves on an improved and more enduring basis for the benefit of peoples.

X. Fulfilment in good faith of obligations under international law

The participating States will fulfil in good faith their obligations under international law, both those obligations arising from the generally recognized principles and rules of international law and those obligations arising from treaties or other agreements, in conformity with international law, to which they are parties.

In exercising their sovereign rights, including the right to determine their laws and regulations, they will conform with their legal obligations under international law; they will furthermore pay due regard to and implement the provisions in the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

The participating States confirm that in the event of a conflict between the obligations of the members of the United Nations under the Charter of the United Nations and their obligations under any treaty or other international agreement, their obligations under the Charter will prevail, in accordance with Article 103 of the Charter of the United Nations.

All the principles set forth above are of primary significance and, accordingly, they will be equally and unreservedly applied, each of them being interpreted taking into account the others.

The participating States express their determination fully to respect and apply these principles, as set forth in the present Declaration, in all aspects, to their mutual relations and cooperation in order to ensure to each participating State the benefits resulting from the respect and application of these principles by all.

The participating States, paying due regard to the principles above and, in particular, to the first sentence of the tenth principle, "Fulfilment in good faith of obligations under international law", note that the present Declaration does not affect their rights and obligations, nor the corresponding treaties and other agreements and arrangements.

The participating States express the conviction that respect for these principles will encourage the development of normal and friendly relations and the progress of cooperation among them in all fields. They also express the conviction that respect for these principles will encourage the development of political contacts among them which in time would contribute to better mutual understanding of their positions and views.

The participating States declare their intention to conduct their relations with all other States in the spirit of the principles contained in the present Declaration.

(b) Matters related to giving effect to certain of the above Principles

(i) The participating States,

Reaffirming that they will respect and give effect to refraining from the threat or use of force and convinced of the necessity to make it an effective norm of international life,

Declare that they are resolved to respect and carry out, in their relations with one another, *inter alia*, the following provisions which are in conformity with the Declaration on Principles Guiding Relations between Participating States:

- To give effect and expression, by all the ways and forms which they consider appropriate, to the duty to refrain from the threat or use of force in their relations with one another.
- To refrain from any use of armed forces inconsistent with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the provisions of the Declaration on Principles Guiding Relations between Participating States, against another participating State, in particular from invasion of or attack on its territory.
- To refrain from any manifestation of force for the purpose of inducing another participating State to renounce the full exercise of its sovereign rights.

- To refrain from any act of economic coercion designed to subordinate to their own interest the exercise by another participating State of the rights inherent in its sovereignty and thus to secure advantages of any kind.
 - To take effective measures which by their scope and by their nature constitute steps towards the ultimate achievement of general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.
 - To promote, by all means which each of them considers appropriate, a climate of confidence and respect among peoples consonant with their duty to refrain from propaganda for wars of aggression or for any threat or use of force inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations and with the Declaration on Principles Guiding Relations between Participating States, against another participating State.
 - To make every effort to settle exclusively by peaceful means any dispute between them, the continuance of which is likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security in Europe, and to seek, first of all, a solution through the peaceful means set forth in Article 33 of the United Nations Charter.
 - To refrain from any action which could hinder the peaceful settlement of disputes between the participating States.
- (...)

Co-operation in the Field of Economics, of Science and Technology and of the Environment

(...)

6. Co-operation in other areas

(...)

Economic and social aspects of migrant labour

The participating States,

Considering that the movements of migrant workers in Europe have reached substantial proportions, and that they constitute an important economic, social and human factor for host countries as well as for countries of origin,

Recognizing that workers' migrations have also given rise to a number of economic, social, human and other problems in both the receiving countries and the countries of origin,

Taking due account of the activities of the competent international organizations, more particularly the International Labour Organisation, in this area,

- are of the opinion that the problems arising bilaterally from the migration of workers in Europe as well as between the participating States should be dealt with by the parties directly concerned, in order to resolve these problems in their mutual interest, in the light of the concern of each State involved to take due account of the requirements resulting from its socio-economic situation, having regard to the obligation of each State to comply with the bilateral and multilateral agreements to which it is party, and with the following aims in view:

- to encourage the efforts of the countries of origin directed towards increasing the possibilities of employment for their nationals in their own territories, in particular by developing economic co-operation appropriate for this purpose and suitable for the host countries and the countries of origin concerned;
 - to ensure, through collaboration between the host country and the country of origin, the conditions under which the orderly movement of workers might take place, while at the same time protecting their personal and social welfare and, if appropriate, to organize the recruitment of migrant workers and the provision of elementary language and vocational training;
 - to ensure equality of rights between migrant workers and nationals of the host countries with regard to conditions of employment and work and to social security, and to endeavour to ensure that migrant workers may enjoy satisfactory living conditions, especially housing conditions;
 - to endeavour to ensure, as far as possible, that migrant workers may enjoy the same opportunities as nationals of the host countries of finding other suitable employment in the event of unemployment;
 - to regard with favour the provision of vocational training to migrant workers and, as far as possible, free instruction in the language of the host country, in the framework of their employment;
 - to confirm the right of migrant workers to receive, as far as possible, regular information in their own language, covering both their country of origin and the host country;
 - to ensure that the children of migrant workers established in the host country have access to the education usually given there, under the same conditions as the children of that country and, furthermore, to permit them to receive supplementary education in their own language, national culture, history and geography;
 - to bear in mind that migrant workers, particularly those who have acquired qualifications, can by returning to their countries after a certain period of time help to remedy any deficiency of skilled labour in their country of origin;
 - to facilitate, as far as possible, the reuniting of migrant workers with their families;
 - to regard with favour the efforts of the countries of origin to attract the savings of migrant workers, with a view to increasing, within the framework of their economic development, appropriate opportunities for employment, thereby facilitating the reintegration of these workers on their return home.
- (...)

Co-operation in Humanitarian and Other Fields

The participating States,

Desiring to contribute to the strengthening of peace and understanding among peoples and to the spiritual enrichment of the human personality without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Conscious that increased cultural and educational exchanges, broader dissemination of information, contacts between people, and the solution of humanitarian problems will contribute to the attainment of these aims,

Determined therefore to cooperate among themselves, irrespective of their political, economic and social systems, in order to create better conditions in the above fields, to develop and strengthen existing forms of co-operation and to work out new ways and means appropriate to these aims,

Convinced that this co-operation should take place in full respect for the principles guiding relations among participating States as set forth in the relevant document,

Have adopted the following:

1. Human Contacts

The participating States,

Considering the development of contacts to be an important element in the strengthening of friendly relations and trust among peoples,

Affirming, in relation to their present effort to improve conditions in this area, the importance they attach to humanitarian considerations,

Desiring in this spirit to develop, with the continuance of détente, further efforts to achieve continuing progress in this field,

And conscious that the questions relevant hereto must be settled by the States concerned under mutually acceptable conditions,

Make it their aim to facilitate freer movement and contacts, individually and collectively, whether privately or officially, among persons, institutions and organizations of the participating States, and to contribute to the solution of the humanitarian problems that arise in that connection,

Declare their readiness to these ends to take measures which they consider appropriate and to conclude agreements or arrangements among themselves, as may be needed, and

Express their intention now to proceed to the implementation of the following:

(a) Contacts and Regular Meetings on the Basis of Family Ties

In order to promote further development of contacts on the basis of family ties the participating States will favourably consider applications for travel with the purpose of allowing persons to enter or leave their territory temporarily, and on a regular basis if desired, in order to visit members of their families.

Applications for temporary visits to meet members of their families will be dealt with without distinction as to the country of origin or destination: existing requirements for travel documents and visas will be applied in this spirit. The preparation and issue of such documents and visas will be effected within reasonable time limits, cases of urgent necessity – such as serious illness or death – will be given priority treatment. They will take such steps as may be necessary to ensure that the fees for official travel documents and visas are acceptable.

They confirm that the presentation of an application concerning contacts on the basis of family ties will not modify the rights and obligations of the applicant or of members of his family.

(b) Reunification of Families

The participating States will deal in a positive and humanitarian spirit with the applications of persons who wish to be reunited with members of their family, with special attention being given to requests of an urgent character – such as requests submitted by persons who are ill or old.

They will deal with applications in this field as expeditiously as possible

They will lower where necessary the fees charged in connection with these applications to ensure that they are at a moderate level.

Applications for the purpose of family reunification which are not granted may be renewed at the appropriate level and will be reconsidered at reasonably short intervals by the authorities of the country of residence or destination, whichever is concerned, under such circumstances fees will be charged only when applications are granted.

Persons whose applications for family reunification are granted may bring with them or ship their household and personal effects; to this end the participating States will use all possibilities provided by existing regulations.

Until members of the same family are reunited meetings and contacts between them may take place in accordance with the modalities for contacts on the basis of family ties.

The participating States will support the efforts of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies concerned with the problems of family reunification.

They confirm that the presentation of an application concerning family reunification will not modify the rights and obligations of the applicant or of members of his family.

The receiving participating State will take appropriate care with regard to employment for persons from other participating States who take up permanent residence in that State in connection with family reunification with its citizens and see that they are afforded opportunities equal to those enjoyed by its own citizens for education, medical assistance and social security.

(c) Marriage between Citizens of Different States

The participating States will examine favourably and on the basis of humanitarian considerations requests for exit or entry permits from persons who have decided to marry a citizen from another participating State.

The processing and issuing of the documents required for the above purposes and for the marriage will be in accordance with the provisions accepted for family reunification.

In dealing with requests from couples from different participating States, once married, to enable them and the minor children of their marriage to transfer their permanent residence to a State in which either one is normally a resident, the participating States will also apply the provisions accepted for family reunification.

(d) Travel for Personal or Professional Reasons

The participating States intend to facilitate wider travel by their citizens for personal or professional reasons and to this end they intend in particular:

- gradually to simplify and to administer flexibly the procedures for exit and entry;
- to ease regulations concerning movement of citizens from the other participating States in their territory, with due regard to security requirements.

They will endeavour gradually to lower, where necessary, the fees for visas and official travel documents.

They intend to consider, as necessary, means – including, in so far as appropriate, the conclusion of multilateral or bilateral consular conventions or other relevant agreements or understandings – for the improvement of arrangements to provide consular services, including legal and consular assistance.

They confirm that religious faiths, institutions and organizations, practising within the constitutional framework of the participating States, and their representatives can, in the field of their activities, have contacts and meetings among themselves and exchange information.

(e) Improvement of Conditions for Tourism on an Individual or Collective Basis

The participating States consider that tourism contributes to a fuller knowledge of the life, culture and history of other countries, to the growth of understanding among peoples, to the improvement of contacts and to the broader use of leisure. They intend to promote the development of tourism, on an individual or collective basis, and, in particular, they intend:

- to promote visits to their respective countries by encouraging the provision of appropriate facilities and the simplification and expediting of necessary formalities relating to such visits;
- to increase, on the basis of appropriate agreements or arrangements where necessary, co-operation in the development of tourism, in particular by considering bilaterally possible ways to increase information relating to travel to other countries and to the reception and service of tourists, and other related questions of mutual interest.

(f) Meetings among Young People

The participating States intend to further the development of contacts and exchanges among young people by encouraging:

- increased exchanges and contacts on a short or long term basis among young people working, training or undergoing education through bilateral or multilateral agreements or regular programmes in all cases where it is possible;
- study by their youth organizations of the question of possible agreements relating to frameworks of multilateral youth co-operation;
- agreements or regular programmes relating to the organization of exchanges of students, of international youth seminars, of courses of professional training and foreign language study;
- the further development of youth tourism and the provision to this end of appropriate facilities;

- the development, where possible, of exchanges, contacts and co-operation on a bilateral or multilateral basis between their organizations which represent wide circles of young people working, training or undergoing education;
- awareness among youth of the importance of developing mutual understanding and of strengthening friendly relations and confidence among peoples.

(g) Sport

In order to expand existing links and co-operation in the field of sport the participating States will encourage contacts and exchanges of this kind, including sports meetings and competitions of all sorts, on the basis of the established international rules, regulations and practice.

(h) Expansion of Contacts

By way of further developing contacts among governmental institutions and non-governmental organizations and associations, including women's organizations, the participating States will facilitate the convening of meetings as well as travel by delegations, groups and individuals.

2. Information

The participating States,

Conscious of the need for an ever wider knowledge and understanding of the various aspects of life in other participating States,

Acknowledging the contribution of this process to the growth of confidence between peoples,

Desiring, with the development of mutual understanding between the participating States and with the further improvement of their relations, to continue further efforts towards progress in this field,

Recognizing the importance of the dissemination of information from the other participating States and of a better acquaintance with such information,

Emphasizing therefore the essential and influential role of the press, radio, television, cinema and news agencies and of the journalists working in these fields,

Make it their aim to facilitate the freer and wider dissemination of information of all kinds, to encourage co-operation in the field of information and the exchange of information with other countries, and, to improve the conditions under which journalists from one participating State exercise their profession in another participating State, and

Express their intention in particular:

(a) Improvement of the Circulation of, Access to, and Exchange of Information

(i) Oral Information

- To facilitate the dissemination of oral information through the encouragement of lectures and lecture tours by personalities and specialists from the other participating States, as well as exchanges of opinions at round table meetings, seminars, symposia, summer schools, congresses and other bilateral and multilateral meetings.

(ii) Printed Information

- To facilitate the improvement of the dissemination, on their territory, of newspapers and printed publications, periodical and non-periodical, from the other participating States. For this purpose: they will encourage their competent firms and organizations to conclude agreements and contracts designed gradually to increase the quantities and the number of titles of newspapers and publications imported from the other participating States. These agreements and contracts should in particular mention the speediest conditions of delivery and the use of the normal channels existing in each country for the distribution of its own publications and newspapers, as well as forms and means of payment agreed between the parties making it possible to achieve the objectives aimed at by these agreements and contracts; where necessary, they will take appropriate measures to achieve the above objectives and to implement the provisions contained in the agreements and contracts.
- To contribute to the improvement of access by the public to periodical and non-periodical printed publications imported on the bases indicated above. In particular:
 - they will encourage an increase in the number of places where these publications are on sale,
 - they will facilitate the availability of these periodical publications during congresses, conferences, official visits and other international events and to tourists during the season,
 - they will develop the possibilities for taking out subscriptions according to the modalities particular to each country;
 - they will improve the opportunities for reading and borrowing these publications in large public libraries and their reading rooms as well as in university libraries.

They intend to improve the possibilities for acquaintance with bulletins of official information issued by diplomatic missions and distributed by those missions on the basis of arrangements acceptable to the interested parties.

(iii) Filmed and Broadcast Information

- To promote the improvement of the dissemination of filmed and broadcast information. To this end:
 - they will encourage the wider showing and broadcasting of a greater variety of recorded and filmed information from the other participating States, illustrating the various aspects of life in their countries and received on the basis of such agreements or arrangements as may be necessary between the organizations and firms directly concerned;
 - they will facilitate the import by competent organizations and firms of recorded audiovisual material from the other participating States.

The participating States note the expansion in the dissemination of information broadcast by radio, and express the hope for the continuation of this process, so as to meet the interest of mutual understanding among peoples and the aims set forth by this Conference.

(b) Co-operation in the Field of Information

To encourage co-operation in the field of information on the basis of short or long term agreements or arrangements. In particular:

- they will favour increased co-operation among mass media organizations. Including press agencies, as well as among publishing houses and organizations:

- they will favour co-operation among public or private, national or international radio and television organizations, in particular through the exchange of both live and recorded radio and television programmes, and through the joint production and the broadcasting and distribution of such programmes;
- they will encourage meetings and contacts both between journalists organizations and between journalists from the participating States;
- they will view favourably the possibilities of arrangements between periodical publications as well as between newspapers from the participating States, for the purpose of exchanging and publishing articles;
- they will encourage the exchange of technical information as well as the organization of joint research and meetings devoted to the exchange of experience and views between experts in the field of the press, radio and television.

(c) Improvement of Working Conditions for Journalists

The participating States, desiring to improve the conditions under which journalists from one participating State exercise their profession in another participating State, intend in particular to:

- examine in a favourable spirit and within a suitable and reasonable time scale requests from journalists for visas;
- grant to permanently accredited journalists of the participating States, on the basis of arrangements, multiple entry and exit visas for specified periods;
- facilitate the issue to accredited journalists of the participating States of permits for stay in their country of temporary residence and, if and when these are necessary, of other official papers which it is appropriate for them to have;
- ease, on a basis of reciprocity, procedures for arranging travel by journalists of the participating States in the country where they are exercising their profession, and to provide progressively greater opportunities for such travel, subject to the observance of regulations relating to the existence of areas closed for security reasons,
- ensure that requests by such journalists for such travel receive, in so far as possible, an expeditious response, taking into account the time scale of the request;
- increase the opportunities for journalists of the participating States to communicate personally with their sources, including organizations and official institutions;
- grant to journalists of the participating States the right to import, subject only to its being taken out again, the technical equipment (photographic, cinematographic, tape recorder, radio and television) necessary for the exercise of their profession;*
- enable journalists of the other participating States, whether permanently or temporarily accredited, to transmit completely, normally and rapidly by means recognized by the participating States to the information organs which they represent, the results of their professional activity, including tape recordings and undeveloped film, for the purpose of publication or of broadcasting on the radio or television.

* While recognizing that appropriate local personnel are employed by foreign journalists in many instances, the participating States note that the above provisions would be applied, subject to the observance of the appropriate rules, to persons from the other participating States, who are regularly and professionally engaged as technicians, photographers or cameramen of the press, radio, television or cinema.

The participating States reaffirm that the legitimate pursuit of their professional activity will neither render journalists liable to expulsion nor otherwise penalize them. If an accredited journalist is expelled, he will be informed of the reasons for this act and may submit an application for re-examination of his case.

3. Co-operation and Exchanges in the Field of Culture

The participating States

Considering that cultural exchanges and co-operation contribute to a better comprehension among people and among peoples, and thus promote a lasting understanding among States,

Confirming the conclusions already formulated in this field at the multilateral level, particularly at the Intergovernmental Conference on Cultural Policies in Europe, organized by UNESCO in Helsinki in June 1972, where interest was manifested in the active participation of the broadest possible social groups in an increasingly diversified cultural life,

Desiring, with the development of mutual confidence and the further improvement of relations between the participating States, to continue further efforts toward progress in this field,

Disposed in this spirit to increase substantially their cultural exchanges, with regard both to persons and to cultural works, and to develop among them an active co-operation, both at the bilateral and the multilateral level, in all the fields of culture,

Convinced that such a development of their mutual relations will contribute to the enrichment of the respective cultures, while respecting the originality of each, as well as to the reinforcement among them of a consciousness of common values, while continuing to develop cultural co-operation with other countries of the world,

Declare that they jointly set themselves the following objectives:

- (a) to develop the mutual exchange of information with a view to a better knowledge of respective cultural achievements,
- (b) to improve the facilities for the exchange and for the dissemination of cultural property,
- (c) to promote access by all to respective cultural achievements,
- (d) to develop contacts and co-operation among persons active in the field of culture,
- (e) to seek new fields and forms of cultural co-operation,

Thus give expression to their common will to take progressive, coherent and long-term action in order to achieve the objectives of the present declaration; and

Express their intention now to proceed to the implementation of the following:

Extension of Relations

To expand and improve at the various levels co-operation and links in the field of culture, in particular by:

- concluding, where appropriate, agreements on a bilateral or multilateral basis, providing for the extension of relations among competent State institutions and non-governmental organizations

in the field of culture, as well as among people engaged in cultural activities, taking into account the need both for flexibility and the fullest possible use of existing agreements, and bearing in mind that agreements and also other arrangements constitute important means of developing cultural co-operation and exchanges;

- contributing to the development of direct communication and co-operation among relevant State institutions and non-governmental organizations, including, where necessary, such communication and co-operation carried out on the basis of special agreements and arrangements;
- encouraging direct contacts and communications among persons engaged in cultural activities, including, where necessary, such contacts and communications carried out on the basis of special agreements and arrangements.

Mutual Knowledge

Within their competence to adopt, on a bilateral and multilateral level, appropriate measures which would give their peoples a more comprehensive and complete mutual knowledge of their achievements in the various fields of culture, and among them:

- to examine jointly, if necessary with the assistance of appropriate international organizations, the possible creation in Europe and the structure of a bank of cultural data, which would collect information from the participating countries and make it available to its correspondents on their request, and to convene for this purpose a meeting of experts from interested States;
- to consider, if necessary in conjunction with appropriate international organizations, ways of compiling in Europe an inventory of documentary films of a cultural or scientific nature from the participating States;
- to encourage more frequent book exhibitions and to examine the possibility of organizing periodically in Europe a large-scale exhibition of books from the participating States;
- to promote the systematic exchange, between the institutions concerned and publishing houses, of catalogues of available books as well as of pre-publication material which will include, as far as possible, all forthcoming publications; and also to promote the exchange of material between firms publishing encyclopaedias, with a view to improving the presentation of each country;
- to examine jointly questions of expanding and improving exchanges of information in the various fields of culture, such as theatre, music, library work as well as the conservation and restoration of cultural property.

Exchanges and Dissemination

To contribute to the improvement of facilities for exchanges and the dissemination of cultural property, by appropriate means, in particular by:

- studying the possibilities for harmonizing and reducing the charges relating to international commercial exchanges of books and other cultural materials, and also for new means of insuring works of art in foreign exhibitions and for reducing the risks of damage or loss to which these works are exposed by their movement;
- facilitating the formalities of customs clearance, in good time for programmes of artistic events, of the works of art, materials and accessories appearing on lists agreed upon by the organizers of these events;
- encouraging meetings among representatives of competent organizations and relevant firms to examine measures within their field of activity – such as the simplification of orders, time limits

for sending supplies and modalities of payment – which might facilitate international commercial exchanges of books;

- promoting the loan and exchange of films among their film institutes and film libraries;
- encouraging the exchange of information among interested parties concerning events of a cultural character foreseen in the participating States, in fields where this is most appropriate, such as music, theatre and the plastic and graphic arts, with a view to contributing to the compilation and publication of a calendar of such events, with the assistance, where necessary, of the appropriate international organizations;
- encouraging a study of the impact which the foreseeable development, and a possible harmonization among interested parties, of the technical means used for the dissemination of culture might have on the development of cultural co-operation and exchanges, while keeping in view the preservation of the diversity and originality, of their respective cultures;
- encouraging, in the way they deem appropriate, within their cultural policies, the further development of interest in the cultural heritage of the other participating States, conscious of the merits and the value of each culture;
- endeavouring to ensure the full and effective application of the international agreements and conventions on copyrights and on circulation of cultural property to which they are party or to which they may decide in the future to become party.

Access

To promote fuller mutual access by all to the achievements – works, experiences and performing arts – in the various fields of culture of their countries, and to that end to make the best possible efforts, in accordance with their competence, more particularly:

- to promote wider dissemination of books and artistic works, in particular by such means as:
 - facilitating, while taking full account of the international copyright conventions to which they are party, international contacts and communications between authors and publishing houses as well as other cultural institutions, with a view to a more complete mutual access to cultural achievements;
 - recommending that, in determining the size of editions, publishing houses take into account also the demand from the other participating States, and that rights of sale in other participating States be granted, where possible, to several sales organizations of the importing countries, by agreement between interested partners;
 - encouraging competent organizations and relevant firms to conclude agreements and contracts and contributing, by this means, to a gradual increase in the number and diversity of works by authors from the other participating States available in the original and in translation in their libraries and bookshops;
 - promoting, where deemed appropriate, an increase in the number of sales outlets where books by authors from the other participating States, imported in the original on the basis of agreements and contracts, and in translation, are for sale;
 - promoting, on a wider scale, the translation of works in the sphere of literature and other fields of cultural activity, produced in the languages of the other participating States, especially from the less widely-spoken languages, and the publication and dissemination of the translated works by such measures as:
 - encouraging more regular contacts between interested publishing houses;
 - developing their efforts in the basic and advanced training of translators;

- encouraging, by appropriate means, the publishing houses of their countries to publish translations;
- facilitating the exchange between publishers and interested institutions of lists of books which might be translated;
- promoting between their countries the professional activity and co-operation of translators;
- carrying out joint studies on ways of further promoting translations and their dissemination; improving and expanding exchanges of books, bibliographies and catalogue cards between libraries;
- to envisage other appropriate measures which would permit, where necessary by mutual agreement among interested parties, the facilitation of access to their respective cultural achievements, in particular in the field of books;
- to contribute by appropriate means to the wider use of the mass media in order to improve mutual acquaintance with the cultural life of each;
- to seek to develop the necessary conditions for migrant workers and their families to preserve their links with their national culture, and also to adapt themselves to their new cultural environment;
- to encourage the competent bodies and enterprises to make a wider choice and effect wider distribution of full-length and documentary films from the other participating States, and to promote more frequent non-commercial showings, such as premières, film weeks and festivals, giving due consideration to films from countries whose cinematographic works are less well known;
- to promote, by appropriate means, the extension of opportunities for specialists from the other participating States to work with materials of a cultural character from film and audio-visual archives, within the framework of the existing rules for work on such archival materials;
- to encourage a joint study by interested bodies, where appropriate with the assistance of the competent international organizations, of the expediency and the conditions for the establishment of a repertory of their recorded television programmes of a cultural nature, as well as of the means of viewing them rapidly in order to facilitate their selection and possible acquisition.

Contacts and Co-operation

To contribute, by appropriate means, to the development of contacts and co-operation in the various fields of culture, especially among creative artists and people engaged in cultural activities, in particular by making efforts to:

- promote for persons active in the field of culture, travel and meetings including, where necessary, those carried out on the basis of agreements, contracts or other special arrangements and which are relevant to their cultural co-operation;
- encourage in this way contacts among creative and performing artists and artistic groups with a view to their working together, making known their works in other participating States or exchanging views on topics relevant to their common activity;
- encourage, where necessary through appropriate arrangements, exchanges of trainee and specialists and the granting of scholarships for basic and advanced training in various fields of culture such as the arts and architecture, museums and libraries, literary studies and translation, and contribute to the creation of favourable conditions of reception in their respective institutions;
- encourage the exchange of experience in the training of organizers of cultural activities as well as of teachers and specialists in fields such as theatre, opera, ballet, music and fine arts;

- continue to encourage the organization of international meetings among creative artists, especially young creative artists, on current questions of artistic and literary creation which are of interest for joint study;
- study other possibilities for developing exchanges and co-operation among persons active in the field of culture, with a view to a better mutual knowledge of the cultural life of the participating States.

Fields and Forms of Co-operation

To encourage the search for new fields and forms of cultural co-operation, to these ends contributing to the conclusion among interested parties, where necessary, of appropriate agreements and arrangements, and in this context to promote:

- joint studies regarding cultural policies, in particular in their social aspects, and as they relate to planning, town-planning, educational and environmental policies, and the cultural aspects of tourism;
- the exchange of knowledge in the realm of cultural diversity, with a view to contributing thus to a better understanding by interested parties of such diversity where it occurs;
- the exchange of information, and as may be appropriate, meetings of experts, the elaboration and the execution of research programmes and projects, as well as their joint evaluation, and the dissemination of the results, on the subjects indicated above;
- such forms of cultural co-operation and the development of such joint projects as: international events in the fields of the plastic and graphic arts, cinema, theatre, ballet, music, folklore, etc.; book fairs and exhibitions, joint performances of operatic and dramatic works, as well as performances given by soloists, instrumental ensembles, orchestras, choirs and other artistic groups, including those composed of amateurs, paying due attention to the organization of international cultural youth events and the exchange of young artists;
- the inclusion of works by writers and composers from the other participating States in the repertoires of soloists and artistic ensembles;
- the preparation, translation and publication of articles, studies and monographs, as well as of low-cost books and of artistic and literary collections, suited to making better known respective cultural achievements, envisaging for this purpose meetings among experts and representatives of publishing houses;
- the co-production and the exchange of films and of radio and television programmes, by promoting, in particular, meetings among producers, technicians and representatives of the public authorities with a view to working out favourable conditions for the execution of specific joint projects and by encouraging, in the field of co-production, the establishment of international filming teams;
- the organization of competitions for architects and town-planners, bearing in mind the possible implementation of the best projects and the formation, where possible, of international teams;
- the implementation of joint projects for conserving, restoring and showing to advantage works of art, historical and archaeological monuments and sites of cultural interest, with the help, in appropriate cases, of international organizations of a governmental or non-governmental character as well as of private institutions – competent and active in these fields – envisaging for this purpose:
 - periodic meetings of experts of the interested parties to elaborate the necessary proposals, while bearing in mind the need to consider these questions in a wider social and economic context;

- the publication in appropriate periodicals of articles designed to make known and to compare, among the participating States, the most significant achievements and innovations;
- a joint study with a view to the improvement and possible harmonization of the different systems used to inventory and catalogue the historical monuments and places of cultural interest in their countries;
- the study of the possibilities for organizing international courses for the training of specialists in different disciplines relating to restoration.

* * *

National minorities or regional cultures

The participating States, recognizing the contribution that national minorities or regional cultures can make to co-operation among them in various fields of culture, intend, when such minorities or cultures exist within their territory, to facilitate this contribution, taking into account the legitimate interests of their members.

4. Co-operation and Exchanges in the Field of Education

The participating States,

Conscious that the development of relations of an international character in the fields of education and science contributes to a better mutual understanding and is to the advantage of all peoples as well as to the benefit of future generations,

Prepared to facilitate, between organizations, institutions and persons engaged in education and science, the further development of exchanges of knowledge and experience as well as of contacts, on the basis of special arrangements where these are necessary,

Desiring to strengthen the links among educational and scientific establishments and also to encourage their co-operation in sectors of common interest, particularly where the levels of knowledge and resources require efforts to be concerted internationally, and

Convinced that progress in these fields should be accompanied and supported by a wider knowledge of foreign languages,

Express to these ends their intention in particular:

(a) Extension of Relations

To expand and improve at the various levels co-operation and links in the fields of education and science, in particular by:

- concluding, where appropriate, bilateral or multilateral agreements providing for cooperation and exchanges among State institutions, non-governmental bodies and persons engaged in activities in education and science, bearing in mind the need both for flexibility and the fuller use of existing agreements and arrangements;
- promoting the conclusion of direct arrangements between universities and other institutions of higher education and research, in the framework of agreements between governments where appropriate;

- encouraging among persons engaged in education and science direct contacts and communications including those based on special agreements or arrangements where these are appropriate.

(b) Access and Exchanges

To improve access, under mutually acceptable conditions, for students, teachers and scholars of the participating States to each other's educational, cultural and scientific institutions, and to intensify exchanges among these institutions in all areas of common interest, in particular by:

- increasing the exchange of information on facilities for study and courses open to foreign participants, as well as on the conditions under which they will be admitted and received;
- facilitating travel between the participating States by scholars, teachers and students for purposes of study, teaching and research as well as for improving knowledge of each other's educational, cultural and scientific achievements;
- encouraging the award of scholarships for study, teaching and research in their countries to scholars, teachers and students of other participating States;
- establishing, developing or encouraging programmes providing for the broader exchange of scholars, teachers and students, including the organization of symposia, seminars and collaborative projects, and the exchanges of educational and scholarly information such as university publications and materials from libraries;
- promoting the efficient implementation of such arrangements and programmes by providing scholars, teachers and students in good time with more detailed information about their placing in universities and institutes and the programmes envisaged for them; by granting them the opportunity to use relevant scholarly, scientific and open archival materials; and by facilitating their travel within the receiving State for the purpose of study or research as well as in the form of vacation tours on the basis of the usual procedures;
- promoting a more exact assessment of the problems of comparison and equivalence of academic degrees and diplomas by fostering the exchange of information on the organization, duration and content of studies, the comparison of methods of assessing levels of knowledge, and academic qualifications, and, where feasible, arriving at the mutual recognition of academic degrees and diplomas either through governmental agreements, where necessary, or direct arrangements between universities and other institutions of higher learning and research;
- recommending, moreover, to the appropriate international organizations that they should intensify their efforts to reach a generally acceptable solution to the problems of comparison and equivalence between academic degrees and diplomas.

(c) Science

Within their competence to broaden and improve co-operation and exchanges in the field of science, in particular:

To increase, on a bilateral or multilateral basis, the exchange and dissemination of scientific information and documentation by such means as:

- making this information more widely available to scientists and research workers of the other participating States through, for instance, participation in international information sharing programmes or through other appropriate arrangements;
- broadening and facilitating the exchange of samples and other scientific materials used particularly for fundamental research in the fields of natural sciences and medicine;

- inviting scientific institutions and universities to keep each other more fully and regularly informed about their current and contemplated research work in fields of common interest.

To facilitate the extension of communications and direct contacts between universities, scientific institutions and associations as well as among scientists and research workers, including those based where necessary on special agreements or arrangements, by such means as:

- further developing exchanges of scientists and research workers and encouraging the organization of preparatory meetings or working groups on research topics of common interest;
- encouraging the creation of joint teams of scientists to pursue research projects under arrangements made by the scientific institutions of several countries;
- assisting the organization and successful functioning of international conferences and seminars and participation in them by their scientists and research workers;
- furthermore envisaging, in the near future, a “Scientific Forum” in the form of a meeting of leading personalities in science from the participating States to discuss interrelated problems of common interest concerning current and future developments in science, and to promote the expansion of contacts, communications and the exchange of information between scientific institutions and among scientists;
- foreseeing, at an early date, a meeting of experts representing the participating States and their national scientific institutions, in order to prepare such a “Scientific Forum” in consultation with appropriate international organizations, such as UNESCO and the ECE;
- considering in due course what further steps might be taken with respect to the “Scientific Forum”.

To develop in the field of scientific research, on a bilateral or multilateral basis, the coordination of programmes carried out in the participating States and the organization of joint programmes, especially in the areas mentioned below, which may involve the combined efforts of scientists and in certain cases the use of costly or unique equipment. The list of subjects in these areas is illustrative; and specific projects would have to be determined subsequently by the potential partners in the participating States, taking account of the contribution which could be made by appropriate international organizations and scientific institutions:

- exact and natural sciences, in particular fundamental research in such fields as mathematics, physics, theoretical physics, geophysics, chemistry, biology, ecology and astronomy;
- medicine, in particular basic research into cancer and cardiovascular diseases, studies on the diseases endemic in the developing countries, as well as medico-social research with special emphasis on occupational diseases, the rehabilitation of the handicapped and the care of mothers, children and the elderly;
- the humanities and social sciences, such as history, geography, philosophy, psychology, pedagogical research, linguistics, sociology, the legal, political and economic sciences; comparative studies on social, socioeconomic and cultural phenomena which are of common interest to the participating States, especially the problems of human environment and urban development; and scientific studies on the methods of conserving and restoring monuments and works of art.

(d) Foreign Languages and Civilizations

To encourage the study of foreign languages and civilizations as an important means of expanding communication among peoples for their better acquaintance with the culture of each country, as well as for the strengthening of international co-operation; to this end to stimulate, within their competence, the further development and improvement of foreign language teaching and the

diversification of choice of languages taught at various levels, paying due attention to less widely-spread or studied languages, and in particular:

- to intensify co-operation aimed at improving the teaching of foreign languages through exchanges of information and experience concerning the development and application of effective modern teaching methods and technical aids, adapted to the needs of different categories of students, including methods of accelerated teaching; and to consider the possibility of conducting, on a bilateral or multilateral basis, studies of new methods of foreign language teaching;
- to encourage co-operation between institutions concerned, on a bilateral or multilateral basis, aimed at exploiting more fully the resources of modern educational technology in language teaching, for example through comparative studies by their specialists and, where agreed, through exchanges or transfers of audio-visual materials, of materials used for preparing textbooks, as well as of information about new types of technical equipment used for teaching languages;
- to promote the exchange of information on the experience acquired in the training of language teachers and to intensify exchanges on a bilateral basis of language teachers and students as well as to facilitate their participation in summer courses in languages and civilizations, wherever these are organized;
- to encourage co-operation among experts in the field of lexicography with the aim of defining the necessary terminological equivalents, particularly in the scientific and technical disciplines, in order to facilitate relations among scientific institutions and specialists;
- to promote the wider spread of foreign language study among the different types of secondary education establishments and greater possibilities of choice between an increased number of European languages; and in this context to consider, wherever appropriate, the possibilities for developing the recruitment and training of teachers as well as the organization of the student groups required;
- to favour, in higher education, a wider choice in the languages offered to language students and greater opportunities for other students to study various foreign languages; also to facilitate, where desirable, the organization of courses in languages and civilizations, on the basis of special arrangements as necessary to be given by foreign lecturers, particularly from European countries having less widely-spread or studied languages;
- to promote, within the framework of adult education, the further development of specialized programmes, adapted to various needs and interests, for teaching foreign languages to their own inhabitants and the languages of host countries to interested adults from other countries; in this context to encourage interested institutions to cooperate, for example, in the elaboration of programmes for teaching by radio and television and by accelerated methods, and also, where desirable, in the definition of study objectives for such programmes, with a view to arriving at comparable levels of language proficiency;
- to encourage the association, where appropriate, of the teaching of foreign languages with the study of the corresponding civilizations and also to make further efforts to stimulate interest in the study of foreign languages, including relevant out-of-class activities.

(e) Teaching Methods

To promote the exchange of experience, on a bilateral or multilateral basis, in teaching methods at all levels of education, including those used in permanent and adult education, as well as the exchange of teaching materials, in particular by:

- further developing various forms of contacts and co-operation in the different fields of pedagogical science, for example through comparative or joint studies carried out by interested institutions or through exchanges of information on the results of teaching experiments;
- intensifying exchanges of information on teaching methods used in various educational systems and on results of research into the processes by which pupils and students acquire knowledge, taking account of relevant experience in different types of specialized education;
- facilitating exchanges of experience concerning the organization and functioning of education intended for adults and recurrent education, the relationships between these and other forms and levels of education, as well as concerning the means of adapting education, including vocational and technical training, to the needs of economic and social development in their countries;
- encouraging exchanges of experience in the education of youth and adults in international understanding, with particular reference to those major problems of mankind whose solution calls for a common approach and wider international co-operation;
- encouraging exchanges of teaching materials – including school textbooks, having in mind the possibility of promoting mutual knowledge and facilitating the presentation of each country in such books – as well as exchanges of information on technical innovations in the field of education.

National minorities or regional cultures

The participating States, recognizing the contribution that national minorities or regional cultures can make to co-operation among them in various fields of education, intend, when such minorities or cultures exist within their territory, to facilitate this contribution, taking into account the legitimate interests of their members.

Follow-up to the Conference

The participating States,

Having considered and evaluated the progress made at the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe,

Considering further that, within the broader context of the world, the Conference is an important part of the process of improving security and developing co-operation in

Europe and that its results will contribute significantly to this process, Intending to implement the provisions of the Final Act of the Conference in order to give full effect to its results and thus to further the process of improving security and developing co-operation in Europe,

Convinced that, in order to achieve the aims sought by the Conference, they should make further unilateral, bilateral and multilateral efforts and continue, in the appropriate forms set forth below, the multilateral process initiated by the Conference,

1. Declare their resolve, in the period following the Conference, to pay due regard to and implement the provisions of the Final Act of the Conference:

- (a) unilaterally, in all cases which lend themselves to such action;
- (b) bilaterally, by negotiations with other participating States;

(c) multilaterally, by meetings of experts of the participating States, and also within the framework of existing international organizations, such as the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and UNESCO, with regard to educational, scientific and cultural co-operation;

2. Declare furthermore their resolve to continue the multilateral process initiated by the Conference:

(a) by proceeding to a thorough exchange of views both on the implementation of the provisions of the Final Act and of the tasks defined by the Conference, as well as, in the context of the questions dealt with by the latter, on the deepening of their mutual relations, the improvement of security and the development of co-operation in Europe, and the development of the process of détente in the future;

(b) by organizing to these ends meetings among their representatives, beginning with a meeting at the level of representatives appointed by the Ministers of foreign Affairs. This meeting will define the appropriate modalities for the holding of other meetings which could include further similar meetings and the possibility of a new Conference;

3. The first of the meetings indicated above will be held at Belgrade in 1977. A preparatory meeting to organize this meeting will be held at Belgrade on 15 June 1977. The preparatory meeting will decide on the date, duration, agenda and other modalities of the meeting of representatives appointed by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs;

4. The rules of procedure, the working methods and the scale of distribution for the expenses of the Conference will, *mutatis mutandis*, be applied to the meetings envisaged in paragraphs 1 (c), 2 and 3 above. All the above-mentioned meetings will be held in the participating States in rotation. The services of a technical secretariat will be provided by the host country.

The original of this Final Act, drawn up in English, French, German, Italian, Russian and Spanish, will be transmitted to the Government of the Republic of Finland, which will retain it in its archives. Each of the participating States will receive from the Government of the Republic of Finland a true copy of this Final Act.

The text of this Final Act will be published in each participating State, which will disseminate it and make it known as widely as possible.

The Government of the Republic of Finland is requested to transmit to the Secretary – General of the United Nations the text of this Final Act, which is not eligible for registration under Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations, with a view to its circulation to all the members of the Organization as an official document of the United Nations.

The Government of the Republic of Finland is also requested to transmit the text of this Final Act to the Director-General of UNESCO and to the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

Wherefore, the undersigned High Representatives of the participating States, mindful of the high political significance which they attach to the results of the Conference, and declaring their determination to act in accordance with the provisions contained in the above texts, have subscribed their signatures below

(...)

Concluding Document of the Madrid Meeting

(Second Follow-up Meeting to the Helsinki Conference)

Madrid 1983

Questions relating to Security in Europe

The participating States express their determination

- to exert new efforts to make detente an effective, as well as continuing, increasingly viable and comprehensive process, universal in scope, as undertaken under the Final Act;
- to seek solutions to outstanding problems through peaceful means;
- to fulfil consistently all the provisions under the Final Act and, in particular, strictly and unreservedly to respect and put into practice all the ten principles contained in the Declaration on Principles Guiding Relations between Participating States, irrespective of their political, economic or social systems, as well as of their size, geographical location or level of economic development, including their commitment to conduct their relations with all other States in the spirit of these principles;
- to develop relations of mutual co-operation, friendship and confidence, refraining from any action which, being contrary to the Final Act, might impair such relations;
- to encourage genuine efforts to implement the Final Act;
- to exert genuine efforts towards containing an increasing arms build-up as well as towards strengthening confidence and security and promoting disarmament.

Principles

They reaffirm their determination fully to respect and apply these principles and accordingly, to promote by all means, both in law and practice, their increased effectiveness.

They consider that one such means could be to give legislative expression – in forms appropriate to practices and procedures specific to each country – to the ten principles set forth in the Final Act.

They recognize it as important that treaties and agreements concluded by participating States reflect and be consonant with the relevant principles and, where appropriate, refer to them.

The participating States reaffirm the need that refraining from the threat or use of force, as a norm of international life, should be strictly and effectively observed. To this end they stress their duty, under the relevant provisions of the Final Act, to act accordingly.

The participating States condemn terrorism, including terrorism in international relations, as endangering or taking innocent human lives or otherwise jeopardizing human rights and fundamental

freedoms and emphasize the necessity to take resolute measures to combat it. They express their determination to take effective measures for the prevention and suppression of acts of terrorism, both at the national level and through international co-operation including appropriate bilateral and multilateral agreements, and accordingly to broaden and reinforce mutual co-operation to combat such acts. They agree to do so in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations, the United Nations Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States and the Helsinki Final Act.

In the context of the combat against acts of terrorism, they will take all appropriate measures in preventing their respective territories from being used for the preparation, organization or commission of terrorist activities, including those directed against other participating States and their citizens. This also includes measures to prohibit on their territories illegal activities of persons, groups and organizations that instigate, organize or engage in the perpetration of acts of terrorism.

The participating States confirm that they will refrain from direct or indirect assistance to terrorist activities or to subversive or other activities directed towards the violent overthrow of the regime of another participating State. Accordingly, they will refrain, *inter alia*, from financing, encouraging, fomenting or tolerating any such activities.

They express their determination to do their utmost to assure necessary security to all official representatives and persons who participate on their territories in activities within the scope of diplomatic, consular or other official relations.

They emphasize that all the participating States recognize in the Final Act the universal significance of human rights and fundamental freedoms, respect for which is an essential factor for the peace, justice and well-being necessary to ensure the development of friendly relations and co-operation among themselves, as among all States.

The participating States stress their determination to promote and encourage the effective exercise of human rights and fundamental freedoms, all of which derive from the inherent dignity of the human person and are essential for his free and full, development, and to assure constant and tangible progress in accordance with the Final Act, aiming at further and steady development in this field in all participating States, irrespective of their political, economic and social systems.

They similarly stress their determination to develop their laws and regulations in the field of civil, political, economic, social, cultural and other human rights and fundamental freedoms; they also emphasize their determination to ensure the effective exercise of these rights and freedoms.

They recall the right of the individual to know and act upon his rights and duties in the field of human rights and fundamental freedoms, as embodied in the Final Act, and will take the necessary action in their respective countries to effectively ensure this right.

The participating States reaffirm that they will recognize, respect and furthermore agree to take the action necessary to ensure the freedom of the individual to profess and practise, alone or in community with others, religion or belief acting in accordance with the dictates of his own conscience.

In this context, they will consult, whenever necessary, the religious faiths, institutions and organizations, which act within the constitutional framework of their respective countries.

They will favourably consider applications by religious communities of believers practising or prepared to practise their faith within the constitutional framework of their States, to be granted the status provided for in their respective countries for religious faiths, institutions and organizations.

They stress also the importance of constant progress in ensuring the respect for and actual enjoyment of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities as well as protecting their legitimate interests as provided for in the Final Act.

They stress the importance of ensuring equal rights of men and women; accordingly, they agree to take all actions necessary to promote equally effective participation of men and women in political, economic, social and cultural life.

The participating States will ensure the right of workers freely to establish and join trade unions, the right of trade unions freely to exercise their activities and other rights as laid down in relevant international instruments. They note that these rights will be exercised in compliance with the law of the State and in conformity with the State's obligations under international law. They will encourage, as appropriate, direct contacts and communication among such trade unions and their representatives.

They reaffirm that governments, institutions, organizations and persons have a relevant and positive role to play in contributing toward the achievement of the above-mentioned aims of their co-operation.

They reaffirm the particular significance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the international Covenants on Human Rights and other relevant international instruments of their joint and separate efforts to stimulate and develop universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms; they call on all participating States to act in conformity with those international instruments and on those participating States, which have not yet done so, to consider the possibility of acceding to the covenants.

They agree to give favourable consideration to the use of bilateral round-table meetings, held on a voluntary basis, between delegations composed by each participating State to discuss issues of human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with an agreed agenda in a spirit of mutual respect with a view to achieving greater understanding and co-operation based on the provisions of the Final Act.

They decide to convene a meeting of experts of the participating States on questions concerning respect, in their States, for human rights and fundamental freedoms, in all their aspects, as embodied in the Final Act.

(...)

Co-operation in the Field of Economics, of Science and Technology and of the Environment

(...)

In the context of the provisions of the Final Act concerning migrant labour in Europe,

the participating States note that recent developments in the world economy have affected the situation of migrant workers. In this connection, the participating States express their wish that host

countries and countries of origin, guided by a spirit of mutual interest and co-operation, intensify their contacts with a view to improving further the general situation of migrant workers and their families, *inter alia* the protection of their human rights including their economic, social and cultural rights while taking particularly into account the special problems of second generation migrants. They will also endeavour to provide or promote, where reasonable demand exists, adequate teaching of the language and culture of the countries of origin.

The participating States recommend that, among other measures for facilitating the social and economic reintegration of returning migrant labour, the payment of pensions as acquired or established under the social security system to which such workers have been admitted in the host country should be ensured by appropriate legislative means or reciprocal agreements (...)

Co-operation in Humanitarian and other Fields

The participating States,

Recalling the introductory sections of the Chapter on Co-operation in Humanitarian and other Fields of the Final Act including those concerning the development of mutual understanding between them and detente and those concerning progress in cultural and educational exchanges, broader dissemination of information, contacts between people and the solution of humanitarian problems,

Resolving to pursue and expand co-operation in these fields and to achieve a fuller utilization of the possibilities offered by the Final Act,

Agree now to implement the following:

Human Contacts

The participating States will favourably deal with applications relating to contacts and regular meetings on the basis of family ties, reunification of families and marriage between citizens of different States and will decide upon them in the same spirit.

They will decide upon these applications in emergency cases for family meetings as expeditiously as possible, for family reunification and for marriage between citizens of different States in normal practice within six months and for other family meetings within gradually decreasing time limits.

They confirm that the presentation or renewal of applications in these cases will not modify the rights and obligations of the applicants or of members of their families concerning *inter alia* employment, housing, residence status, family support, access to social, economic or educational benefits, as well as any other rights and obligations flowing from the laws and regulations of the respective participating State.

The participating States will provide the necessary information on the procedures to be followed by the applicants in these cases and on the regulations to be observed, as well as, upon the applicant's request, provide the relevant forms.

They will, where necessary, gradually reduce fees charged in connection with these applications, including those for visas and passports, in order to bring them to a moderate level in relation to the average monthly income in the respective participating State.

Applicants will be informed as expeditiously as possible of the decision that has been reached. In case of refusal applicants will also be informed of their right to renew applications after reasonably short intervals.

The participating States reaffirm their commitment fully to implement the provisions regarding diplomatic and other official missions and consular posts of other participating States contained in relevant multilateral or bilateral conventions, and to facilitate the normal functioning of those missions. Access by visitors to these missions will be assured with due regard to the necessary requirements of security of these missions.

They also reaffirm their willingness to take, within their competence, reasonable steps, including necessary security measures, when appropriate, to ensure satisfactory conditions for activities within the framework of mutual co-operation on their territory, such as sporting and cultural events, in which citizens of other participating States take part.

The participating States will endeavour, where appropriate, to improve the conditions relating to legal, consular and medical assistance for citizens of other participating States temporarily on their territory for personal or professional reasons, taking due account of relevant multilateral or bilateral conventions or agreements.

They will further implement the relevant provisions of the Final Act, so that religious faiths, institutions, organizations and their representatives can, in the field of their activity, develop contacts and meetings among themselves and exchange information.

The participating States will encourage contacts and exchanges among young people and foster the broadening of co-operation among their youth organizations. They will favour the holding among young people and youth organizations of educational, cultural and other comparable events and activities. They will also favour the study of problems relating to the younger generation. The participating States will further the development of individual or collective youth tourism, when necessary on the basis of arrangements, *inter alia* by encouraging the granting of suitable facilities by the transport authorities and tourist organizations of the participating States or such facilities as those offered by the railway authorities participating in the "Inter-Rail" system.

Information

The participating States will further encourage the freer and wider dissemination of printed matter, periodical and non-periodical, imported from other participating States, as well as an increase in the number of places where these publications are on public sale. These publications will also be accessible in reading rooms in large public libraries and similar institutions.

In particular, to facilitate the improvement of dissemination of printed information, the participating States will encourage contacts and negotiations between their competent firms and organizations with a view to concluding long-term agreements and contracts designed to increase the quantities and number of titles of newspapers and other publications imported from other participating States. They consider it desirable that the retail prices of foreign publications are not excessive in relation to prices in their country of origin.

They confirm their intention, according to the relevant provisions of the Final Act, to further extend the possibilities for the public to take out subscriptions.

They will favour the further expansion of co-operation among mass media and their representatives, especially between the editorial staffs of press agencies, newspapers, radio and television organizations as well as film companies. They will encourage a more regular exchange of news, articles, supplements and broadcasts as well as the exchange of editorial staff for better knowledge of respective practices. On the basis of reciprocity, they will improve the material and technical facilities provided for permanently or temporarily accredited television and radio reporters. Moreover, they will facilitate direct contacts among journalists as well as contacts within the framework of professional organizations.

They will decide without undue delay upon visa applications from journalists and reexamine within a reasonable time frame applications which have been refused. Moreover, journalists wishing to travel for personal reasons and not for the purpose of reporting shall enjoy the same treatment as other visitors from their country of origin.

They will grant permanent correspondents and members of their families living with them multiple entry and exit visas valid for one year.

The participating States will examine the possibility of granting, where necessary on the basis of bilateral arrangements, accreditation and related facilities to journalists from other participating States who are permanently accredited in third countries.

They will facilitate travel by journalists from other participating States within their territories, *inter alia* by taking concrete measures where necessary, to afford them opportunities to travel more extensively, with the exception of areas closed for security reasons. They will inform journalists in advance, whenever possible, if new areas are closed for security reasons.

They will further increase the possibilities and, when necessary, improve the conditions for journalists from other participating States to establish and maintain personal contacts and communication with their sources.

They will, as a rule, authorize radio and television journalists, at their request, to be accompanied by their own sound and film technicians and to use their own equipment.

Similarly, journalists may carry with them reference material, including personal notes and files, to be used strictly for their professional purposes.*
(...)

The participating States will, where necessary, facilitate the establishment and operation, in their capitals, of press centres or institutions performing the same functions, open to the national and foreign press with suitable working facilities for the latter.

They will also consider further ways and means to assist journalists from other participating States and thus to enable them to resolve practical problems they may encounter.

* In this context it is understood that import of printed matter may be subject to local regulations which will be applied with due regard to the journalists' need for adequate working material.

Co-operation and Exchanges in the Field of Culture

They will endeavour, by taking appropriate steps, to make the relevant information concerning possibilities offered by bilateral cultural agreements and programmes available to interested persons, institutions and non-governmental organizations, thus facilitating their effective implementation.

The participating States will further encourage wider dissemination of and access to books, films and other forms and means of cultural expression from other participating States, to this end improving by appropriate means, on bilateral and multilateral bases, the conditions for international commercial and non-commercial exchange of their cultural goods, *inter alia* by gradually lowering customs duties on these items.

The participating States will endeavour to encourage the translation, publication and dissemination of works in the sphere of literature and other fields of cultural activity from other participating States, especially those produced in less widely spoken languages, by facilitating co-operation between publishing houses, in particular through the exchange of lists of books which might be translated as well as of other relevant information.

They will contribute to the development of contacts, co-operation and joint projects among the participating States regarding the protection, preservation and recording of historical heritage and monuments and the relationship between man, environment and this heritage; they express their interest in the possibility of convening an intergovernmental conference on these matters within the framework of UNESCO.

The participating States will encourage their radio and television organizations to continue developing the presentation of the cultural and artistic achievements of other participating States on the basis of bilateral and multilateral arrangements between these organizations, providing *inter alia* for exchanges of information on productions, for the broadcasting of shows and programmes from other participating States, for co-productions, for the invitation of guest conductors and directors, as well as for the provision of mutual assistance to cultural film teams.

(...)

Co-operation and Exchanges in the Field of Education

The participating States will promote the establishment of governmental and non-governmental arrangements and agreements in education and science, to be carried out with the participation of educational or other competent institutions.

The participating States will contribute to the further improvement of exchanges of students, teachers and scholars and their access to each other's educational, cultural and scientific institutions, and also their access to open information material in accordance with the laws and regulations prevailing in each country. In this context, they will facilitate travel by scholars, teachers and students within the receiving State, the establishment by them of contacts with their colleagues, and will also encourage libraries, higher education establishments and similar institutions in their territories to make catalogues and lists of open archival material available to scholars, teachers and students from other participating States.

They will encourage a more regular exchange of information about scientific training programmes, courses and seminars for young scientists and facilitate a wider participation in these activities of young scientists from different participating States. They will call upon the appropriate national

and international organizations and institutions to give support, where appropriate, to the realization of these training activities.

(...)

The participating States will favour widening the possibilities of teaching and studying less widely spread or studied European languages. They will, to this end, stimulate, within their competence, the organization of and attendance at summer university and other courses, the granting of scholarships for translators and the reinforcement of linguistic faculties including, in case of need, the provision of new facilities for studying these languages.

The participating States express their readiness to intensify the exchange, among them and within competent international organizations, of teaching materials, school textbooks, maps, bibliographies and other educational material, in order to promote better mutual knowledge and facilitate a fuller presentation of their respective countries.

Document of the Stockholm Conference on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe

Stockholm 1986

(...)

Refraining from the threat or use of force

(...)

(18) The participating States stress their commitment to the Final Act and the need for full implementation of all its provisions, which will further the process of improving security and developing co-operation in Europe, thereby contributing to international peace and security in the world as a whole.

(19) They emphasize their commitment to all the principles of the Declaration on Principles Guiding Relations between Participating States and declare their determination to respect and put them into practice irrespective of their political, economic or social systems as well as of their size, geographical location or level of economic development.

(20) All these ten principles are of primary significance and, accordingly, they will be equally and unreservedly applied, each of them being interpreted taking into account the others.

(21) Respect for and the application of these principles will enhance the development of friendly relations and co-operation among the participating States in all fields covered by the provisions of the Final Act.

(22) They reconfirm their commitment to the basic principle of the sovereign equality of States and stress that all States have equal rights and duties within the framework of international law.

(23) They reaffirm the universal significance of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Respect for and the effective exercise of these rights and freedoms are essential factors for international peace, justice and security, as well as for the development of friendly relations and co-operation among themselves as among all States, as set forth in the Declaration on Principles Guiding Relations between Participating States.

(24) They reaffirm that, in the broader context of world security, security in Europe is closely linked with security in the Mediterranean area as a whole; in this context, they confirm their intention to develop good neighbourly relations with all States in the region, with due regard to reciprocity, and in the spirit of the principles contained in the Declaration on Principles Guiding Relations between Participating States, so as to promote confidence and security and make peace prevail in the region in accordance with the provisions contained in the Mediterranean chapter of the Final Act.

(25) They emphasize the necessity to take resolute measures to prevent and to combat terrorism, including terrorism in international relations. They express their determination to take effective measures, both at the national level and through international cooperation, for the prevention and suppression of all acts of terrorism. They will take all appropriate measures in preventing their respective territories from being used for the preparation, organization or commission of terrorist activities. This also includes measures to prohibit on their territories illegal activities, including subversive activities, of persons, groups and organizations that instigate, organize or engage in the perpetration of acts of terrorism, including those directed against other States and their citizens.

Concluding Document of the Vienna Meeting

(Third Follow-up Meeting to the Helsinki Conference)

Vienna 1989

(...)

Questions relating to Security in Europe

The participating States express their determination

- to build on the current positive developments in their relations in order to make detente a viable, comprehensive and genuine process, universal in scope;
- to assume their responsibility fully to implement the commitments contained in the Final Act and other CSCE documents;
- to intensify their efforts to seek solutions to problems burdening their relations and to strengthen safeguards for international peace and security;
- to promote co-operation and dialogue among them, to ensure the effective exercise of human rights and fundamental freedoms and to facilitate contacts and communication between people;
- to exert new efforts to make further progress to strengthen confidence and security and to promote disarmament.

Principles

(1) The participating States reaffirm their commitment to all ten principles of the Final Act's Declaration on Principles Guiding Relations between participating States and their determination to respect them and put them into practice. The participating States reaffirm that all these principles are of primary significance and, accordingly, will be equally and unreservedly applied, each of them being interpreted taking into account the others.

(2) They stress that respect for and full application of these principles as well as strict compliance with all CSCE commitments deriving from them are of great political importance and essential for building confidence and security as well as for the development of their friendly relations and of their co-operation in all fields.

(3) In this context, they confirm that they will respect each other's right freely to choose and develop their political, social, economic and cultural systems as well as their right to determine their laws, regulations, practices and policies. In exercising these rights, they will ensure that their laws, regulations, practices and policies conform with their obligations under international law and are brought into harmony with the provisions of the Declaration on Principles and other CSCE commitments.

(4) They also confirm that, by virtue of the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples and in conformity with the relevant provisions of the Final Act, all peoples always have the right, in full freedom, to determine, when and as they wish, their internal and external political status, without external interference, and to pursue as they wish their political, economic, social and cultural development.

(...)

(8) The participating States unreservedly condemn, as criminal, all acts, methods and practices of terrorism, wherever and by whomever committed, including those which jeopardize friendly relations among States and their security, and agree that terrorism cannot be justified under any circumstances.

(9) They express their determination to work for the eradication of terrorism both bilaterally and through multilateral co-operation, particularly in such international fora as the United Nations, the International Civil Aviation Organization and the International Maritime Organization and in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Final Act and the Madrid Concluding Document.

(10) Convinced of the need to combine measures at a national level with reinforced international co-operation, the participating States express their intention

(10.1) – to pursue a policy of firmness in response to terrorist demands;

(10.2) – to reinforce and develop bilateral and multilateral co-operation among themselves in order to prevent and combat terrorism as well as to increase efficiency in existing co-operation at the bilateral level or in the framework of groups of States including, as appropriate, through the exchange of information;

(10.3.) – to prevent on their territories illegal activities of persons, groups or organizations that instigate, organize or engage in the perpetration of acts of terrorism or subversive or other activities directed towards the violent overthrow of the regime of another participating State;

(10.4) – to take effective measures for the prevention and suppression of acts of terrorism directed at diplomatic or consular representatives and against terrorism involving violations of the Vienna Conventions on Diplomatic and Consular Relations, in particular their provisions relating to diplomatic and consular privileges and immunities;

(10.5) – to ensure the extradition or prosecution of persons implicated in terrorist acts and to co-operate closely in cases of conflict of jurisdiction where several States are concerned, acting in both respects in accordance with the relevant international agreements;

(10.6) – to consider becoming parties, if they have not yet done so, to the relevant international conventions relating to the suppression of acts of terrorism;

(10.7) – to continue to work in the appropriate international bodies in order to improve and extend measures against terrorism and to ensure that the relevant agreements are accepted and acted upon by as many States as possible.

(11) They confirm that they will respect human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief, for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion. They also confirm the universal significance of human rights and fundamental freedoms, respect for which is an essential factor for the peace, justice and security necessary to ensure the development of friendly relations and cooperation among themselves, as among all States.

(12) They express their determination to guarantee the effective exercise of human rights and fundamental freedoms, all of which derive from the inherent dignity of the human person and are

essential for his free and full development. They recognize that civil, political, economic, social, cultural and other rights and freedoms are all of paramount importance and must be fully realized by all appropriate means.

(13) In this context they will

(13.1) – develop their laws, regulations and policies in the field of civil, political, economic, social, cultural and other human rights and fundamental freedoms and put them into practice in order to guarantee the effective exercise of these rights and freedoms;

(13.2) – consider acceding to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Optional Protocol to the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and other relevant international instruments, if they have not yet done so;

(13.3) – publish and disseminate the text of the Final Act, of the Madrid Concluding Document and of the present Document as well as those of any relevant international instruments in the field of human rights, in order to ensure the availability of these documents in their entirety, to make them known as widely as possible and to render them accessible to all individuals in their countries, in particular through public library systems;

(13.4) – effectively ensure the right of the individual to know and act upon his rights and duties in this field, and to that end publish and make accessible all laws, regulations and procedures relating to human rights and fundamental freedoms;

(13.5) – respect the right of their citizens to contribute actively, individually or in association with others, to the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

(13.6) – encourage in schools and other educational institutions consideration of the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

(13.7) – ensure human rights and fundamental freedoms to everyone within their territory and subject to their jurisdiction, without distinction of any kind such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status;

(13.8) – ensure that no individual exercising, expressing the intention to exercise or seeking to exercise these rights and freedoms or any member of his family, will as a consequence be discriminated against in any manner;

(13.9) – ensure that effective remedies as well as full information about them are available to those who claim that their human rights and fundamental freedoms have been violated; they will, *inter alia*, effectively apply the following remedies:

- the right of the individual to appeal to executive, legislative, judicial or administrative organs;
- the right to a fair and public hearing within a reasonable time before an independent and impartial tribunal, including the right to present legal arguments and to be represented by legal counsel of one's choice;
- the right to be promptly and officially informed of the decision taken on any appeal, including the legal grounds on which this decision was based. This information will be provided as a rule in writing and, in any event, in a way that will enable the individual to make effective use of further available remedies.

(14) The participating States recognize that the promotion of economic, social, cultural rights as well as of civil and political rights is of paramount importance for human dignity and for the attainment of the legitimate aspirations of every individual. They will therefore continue their efforts with a view to achieving progressively the full realization of economic, social and cultural rights by all appropriate means, including in particular by the adoption of legislative measures. In this

context they will pay special attention to problems in the areas of employment, housing, social security, health, education and culture.

They will promote constant progress in the realization of all rights and freedoms within their countries, as well as in the development of relations among themselves and with other States, so that everyone actually enjoys to the full his economic, social and cultural rights as well as his civil and political rights.

(15) The participating States confirm their determination to ensure equal rights of men and women. Accordingly, they will take all measures necessary, including legislative measures, to promote equally effective participation of men and women in political, economic, social and cultural life. They will consider the possibility of acceding to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, if they have not yet done so.

(16) In order to ensure the freedom of the individual to profess and practise religion or belief, the participating States will, *inter alia*,

(16.1) – take effective measures to prevent and eliminate discrimination against individuals or communities on the grounds of religion or belief in the recognition, exercise and enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms in all fields of civil, political, economic, social and cultural life, and to ensure the effective equality between believers and non-believers;

(16.2) – foster a climate of mutual tolerance and respect between believers of different communities as well as between believers and non-believers;

(16.3) – grant upon their request to communities of believers, practising or prepared to practise their faith within the constitutional framework of their States, recognition of the status provided for them in their respective countries;

(16.4) – respect the right of these religious communities to

- establish and maintain freely accessible places of worship or assembly,
- organize themselves according to their own hierarchical and institutional structure,
- select, appoint and replace their personnel in accordance with their respective requirements and standards as well as with any freely accepted arrangement between them and their State,
- solicit and receive voluntary financial and other contributions;

(16.5) – engage in consultations with religious faiths, institutions and organizations in order to achieve a better understanding of the requirements of religious freedom;

(16.6) – respect the right of everyone to give and receive religious education in the language of his choice, whether individually or in association with others;

(16.7) – in this context respect, *inter alia*, the liberty of parents to ensure the religious and moral education of their children in conformity with their own convictions;

(16.8) – allow the training of religious personnel in appropriate institutions;

(16.9) – respect the right of individual believers and communities of believers to acquire, possess, and use sacred books, religious publications in the language of their choice and other articles and materials related to the practice of religion or belief,

(16.10) – allow religious faiths, institutions and organizations to produce, import and disseminate religious publications and materials;

(16.11) – favourably consider the interest of religious communities to participate in public dialogue, including through the mass media.

(17) The participating States recognize that the exercise of the above-mentioned rights relating to the freedom of religion or belief may be subject only to such limitations as are provided by law and consistent with their obligations under international law and with their international commitments. They will ensure in their laws and regulations and in their application the full and effective exercise of the freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief.

(18) The participating States will exert sustained efforts to implement the provisions of the Final Act and of the Madrid Concluding Document pertaining to national minorities. They will take all the necessary legislative, administrative, judicial and other measures and apply the relevant international instruments by which they may be bound, to ensure the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms of persons belonging to national minorities within their territory. They will refrain from any discrimination against such persons and will contribute to the realization of their legitimate interests and aspirations in the field of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

(19) They will protect and create conditions for the promotion of the ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious identity of national minorities on their territory. They will respect the free exercise of rights by persons belonging to such minorities and ensure their full equality with others.

(20) The participating States will respect fully the right of everyone

- to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each State, and
- to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.

(21) The participating States will ensure that the exercise of the above-mentioned rights will not be subject to any restrictions except those which are provided by law and are consistent with their obligations under international law, in particular the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and with their international commitments, in particular the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. These restrictions have the character of exceptions. The participating States will ensure that these restrictions are not abused and are not applied in an arbitrary manner, but in such a way that the effective exercise of these rights is ensured.

(22) In this context they will allow all refugees who so desire to return in safety to their homes.

(23) The participating States will

(23.1) – ensure that no one will be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile;

(23.2) – ensure that all individuals in detention or incarceration will be treated with humanity and with respect for the inherent dignity of the human person;

(23.3) – observe the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners as well as the United Nations Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials;

(23.4) – prohibit torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and take effective legislative, administrative, judicial and other measures to prevent and punish such practices;

(23.5) – consider acceding to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, if they have not yet done so;

(23.6) – protect individuals from any psychiatric or other medical practices that violate human rights and fundamental freedoms and take effective measures to prevent and punish such practices.

(24) With regard to the question of capital punishment, the participating States note that capital punishment has been abolished in a number of them. In participating States where capital punishment has not been abolished, sentence of death may be imposed only for the most serious crimes

in accordance with the law in force at the time of the commission of the crime and not contrary to their international commitments. This question will be kept under consideration. In this context, the participating States will co-operate within relevant international organizations.

(25) With the aim of developing mutual understanding and confidence, promoting friendly and good neighbourly relations, strengthening international peace, security and justice and improving the implementation of their CSCE commitments, the participating States will further develop co-operation and promote dialogue between them in all fields and at all levels on the basis of full equality. They agree that full respect for and application of the principles and the fulfilment of the other CSCE provisions will improve their relations and advance the development of their co-operation. They will refrain from any action inconsistent with the provisions of the Final Act and other CSCE documents and recognize that any such action would impair relations between them and hinder the development of co-operation among them.

(26) They confirm that governments, institutions, organizations and persons have a relevant and positive role to play in contributing to the achievement of the aims of their co-operation and to the full realization of the Final Act. To that end they will respect the right of persons to observe and promote the implementation of CSCE provisions and to associate with others for this purpose. They will facilitate direct contacts and communication among these persons, organizations and institutions within and between participating States and remove, where they exist, legal and administrative impediments inconsistent with the CSCE provisions. They will also take effective measures to facilitate access to information on the implementation of CSCE provisions and to facilitate the free expression of views on these matters.

(...)

Co-operation in the Field of Economics, of Science and Technology and of the Environment

(...)

Co-operation in other areas

(40) The participating States emphasize the need for effective implementation of the provisions of the Final Act and the Madrid Concluding Document relating to migrant workers and their families in Europe. They invite host countries and countries of origin to make efforts to improve further the economic, social, cultural and other conditions of life for migrant workers and their families legally residing in the host countries. They recommend that host countries and countries of origin should promote their bilateral co-operation in relevant fields with a view to facilitating the reintegration of migrant workers and their families returning to their country of origin.

(41) The participating States will, in accordance with their relevant commitments undertaken in the Final Act and the Madrid Concluding Document, consider favourably applications for family reunification as well as family contacts and visits involving migrant workers from other participating States legally residing in the host countries.

(42) The participating States will ensure that migrant workers from other participating States, and their families, can freely enjoy and maintain their national culture and have access to the culture of the host country.

(43) Aiming at ensuring effective equality of opportunity between the children of migrant workers and the children of their own nationals regarding access to all forms and levels of education, the participating States affirm their readiness to take measures needed for the better use and improvement of educational opportunities. Furthermore, they will encourage or facilitate, where reasonable demand exists, supplementary teaching in their mother tongue for the children of migrant workers.

(44) The participating States recognize that issues of migrant workers have their human dimension.

(45) The participating States acknowledge that the impact of economic and technological change is being acutely felt in the work place. They underline their readiness to encourage co-operation in the field of vocational training policy through increased exchange of information and experience, with the aim of enhancing the educational standards, professional knowledge, skills and adaptability of personnel involved in industry and commerce.

(46) The participating States recognize the importance of facilitating the integration of young people into professional life. They will therefore continue their efforts to ensure the necessary conditions for the education and vocational training of young people and to promote youth employment opportunities in various sectors of the economy. They will continue their efforts to create conditions for developing the level of scientific and cultural knowledge of their citizens, especially young people, and for facilitating their access to achievements in the areas of natural and social sciences, as well as culture.

(...)

Co-operation in Humanitarian and other fields

The participating States,

Considering that co-operation in humanitarian and other fields is an essential factor for the development of their relations,

Agreeing that their co-operation in these fields should take place in full respect for the principles guiding relations between participating States as set forth in the Final Act as well as for the provisions in the Madrid Concluding Document and in the present Document pertaining to those principles,

Confirming that, in implementing the provisions concerning co-operation in humanitarian and other fields in the framework of their laws and regulations, they will ensure that those laws and regulations conform with their obligations under international law and are brought into harmony with their CSCE commitments,

Recognizing that the implementation of the relevant provisions of the Final Act and of the Madrid Concluding Document requires continuous and intensified efforts,

Have adopted and will implement the following:

Human Contacts

(1) In implementing the human contacts provisions of the Final Act, the Madrid Concluding Document and the present Document, they will fully respect their obligations under international law as referred to in the subchapter of the present Document devoted to principles, in particular that

everyone shall be free to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country, as well as their international commitments in this field.

(2) They will ensure that their policies concerning entry into their territories are fully consistent with the aims set out in the relevant provisions of the Final Act, the Madrid Concluding Document and the present Document.

(3) They will take the necessary steps to find solutions as expeditiously as possible, but in any case within six months, to all applications based on the human contacts provisions of the Final Act and the Madrid Concluding Document, outstanding at the conclusion of the Vienna Follow-up Meeting.

(4) Thereafter they will conduct regular reviews in order to ensure that all applications based on the human contacts provisions of the Final Act and of the other aforementioned CSCE documents are being dealt with in a manner consistent with those provisions.

(5) They will decide upon applications relating to family meetings in accordance with the Final Act and the other aforementioned CSCE documents in as short a time as possible and in normal practice within one month.

(6) In the same manner they will decide upon applications relating to family reunification or marriage between citizens of different States, in normal practice within three months.

(7) In dealing favourably with applications relating to family meetings, they will take due account of the wishes of the applicant, in particular on the timing and sufficiently long duration of such meetings, and on travelling together with other members of his family for joint family meetings.

(8) In dealing favourably with applications relating to family meetings, they will also allow visits to and from more distant relatives.

(9) In dealing favourably with applications relating to family reunification or marriage between citizens of different States, they will respect the wishes of the applicants on the country of destination ready to accept them.

(10) They will pay particular attention to the solution of problems involving the reunification of minor children with their parents. In this context and on the basis of the relevant provisions of the Final Act and of the other aforementioned CSCE documents, they will ensure

- that an application for this purpose submitted while the child is a minor will be dealt with favourably and expeditiously in order to effect the reunification without delay, and
- that adequate arrangements are made to protect the interests and welfare of the children concerned.

(11) They will consider the scope for gradually reducing and eventually eliminating any requirement which might exist for travellers to obtain local currency in excess of actual expenditure, giving priority to persons travelling for the purpose of family meetings. They will accord such persons the opportunity in practice to bring in or to take out with them personal possessions or gifts.

(12) They will pay immediate attention to applications for travel of an urgent humanitarian nature and deal with them favourably as follows:

- They will decide within three working days upon applications relating to visits to a seriously ill or dying family member, travel to attend the funeral of a family member or travel by those who have a proven need of urgent medical treatment or who can be shown to be critically or terminally ill.
- They will decide as expeditiously as possible upon applications relating to travel by those who are seriously ill or by the elderly, and other travel of an urgent humanitarian nature.
- They will intensify efforts by their local, regional and central authorities concerned with the implementation of the above, and ensure that charges for giving priority treatment to such applications do not exceed costs actually incurred.

(13) In dealing with applications for travel for family meetings, family reunification or marriage between citizens of different States, they will ensure that acts or omissions by members of the applicant's family do not adversely affect the rights of the applicant as set forth in the relevant international instruments.

(14) They will ensure that all documents necessary for applications based on the human contacts provisions of the Final Act and of the other aforementioned CSCE documents are easily accessible to the applicant. The documents will remain valid throughout the application procedure. In the event of a renewed application the documents already submitted by the applicant in connection with previous applications will be taken into consideration.

(15) They will simplify practices and gradually reduce administrative requirements for applications based on the human contacts provisions of the Final Act and of the other aforementioned CSCE documents.

(16) They will ensure that, when applications based on the human contacts provisions of the Final Act and of the other aforementioned CSCE documents are refused for reasons specified in the relevant international instruments, the applicant is promptly provided in writing with an official notification of the grounds on which the decision was based. As a rule and in all cases where the applicant so requests, he will be given the necessary information about the procedure for making use of any effective administrative or judicial remedies against the decision available to him as envisaged in the above-mentioned international instruments. In cases where exit for permanent settlement abroad is involved, this information will be provided as part of the official notification foreseen above.

(17) If in this context an individual's application for travel abroad has been refused for reasons of national security, they will ensure that, within strictly warranted time limits, any restriction on that individual's travel is as short as possible and is not applied in an arbitrary manner. They will also ensure that the applicant can have the refusal reviewed within six months and, should the need arise, at regular intervals thereafter so that any changes in the circumstances surrounding the refusal, such as time elapsed since the applicant was last engaged in work or duties involving national security, are taken into account. Before individuals take up such work or duties they will be formally notified if and how this could affect applications they might submit for such travel.

(18) Within one year of the conclusion of the Vienna Follow-up Meeting they will publish and make easily accessible, where this has not already been done, their laws and statutory regulations concerning movement by individuals within their territory and travel between States.

(19) In dealing favourably with applications based on the human contacts provisions of the Final Act and of the other aforementioned CSCE documents, they will ensure that these are dealt with

in good time in order, *inter alia*, to take due account of important family, personal or professional considerations significant for the applicant.

(20) They will deal favourably with applications for travel abroad without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, age or other status. They will ensure that any refusal does not affect applications submitted by other persons.

(21) They will further facilitate travel on an individual or collective basis for personal or professional reasons and for tourism, such as travel by delegations, groups and individuals. To this end they will reduce the time for the consideration of applications for such travel to a minimum.

(22) They will give serious consideration to proposals for concluding agreements on the issuing of multiple entry visas and the reciprocal easing of visa processing formalities, and consider possibilities for the reciprocal abolition of entry visas on the basis of agreements between them.

(23) They will consider adhering to the relevant multilateral instruments as well as concluding complementary or other bilateral agreements, if necessary, in order to improve arrangements for ensuring effective consular, legal and medical assistance for citizens of other participating States temporarily on their territory.

(24) They will take any necessary measures to ensure that citizens of other participating States temporarily on their territory for personal or professional reasons, *inter alia* for the purpose of participating in cultural, scientific and educational activities, are afforded appropriate personal safety, where this is not already the case.

(25) They will facilitate and encourage the establishment and maintenance of direct personal contacts between their citizens as well as between representatives of their institutions and organizations through travel between States and other means of communication.

(26) They will facilitate such contacts and co-operation among their peoples through such measures as direct sports exchanges on a local and regional level, the unimpeded establishment and implementation of town-twinning arrangements, as well as student and teacher exchanges.

(27) They will encourage the further development of direct contacts between young people, as well as between governmental and non-governmental youth and student organizations and institutions; the conclusion between such organizations and institutions of bilateral and multilateral arrangements and programmes; and the holding on a bilateral and multilateral basis of educational, cultural and other events and activities by and for young people.

(28) They will make further efforts to facilitate travel and tourism by young people, *inter alia* by recommending to those of their railway authorities which are members of the International Union of Railways (UIC) that they expand the Inter-Rail system to cover all their European networks and by recommending to those of their railway authorities which are not members of the UIC that they consider establishing similar facilities.

(29) In accordance with the Universal Postal Convention and the International Telecommunication Convention, they will

- guarantee the freedom of transit of postal communication;
- ensure the rapid and unhindered delivery of correspondence, including personal mail and parcels;

- respect the privacy and integrity of postal and telephone communications; and
- ensure the conditions necessary for rapid and uninterrupted telephone calls, including the use of international direct dialling systems, where they exist, and their development.

(30) They will encourage direct personal contacts between the citizens of their States, *inter alia* by facilitating individual travel within their countries and by allowing foreigners to meet their citizens as well as, when invited to do so, to stay in private homes.

(31) They will ensure that the status of persons belonging to national minorities or regional cultures on their territories is equal to that of other citizens with regard to human contacts under the Final Act and the other aforementioned CSCE documents and that these persons can establish and maintain such contacts through travel and other means of communication, including contacts with citizens of other States with whom they share a common national origin or cultural heritage.

(32) They will allow believers, religious faiths and their representatives, in groups or on an individual basis, to establish and maintain direct personal contacts and communication with each other, in their own and other countries, *inter alia* through travel, pilgrimages and participation in assemblies and other religious events. In this context and commensurate with such contacts and events, those concerned will be allowed to acquire, receive and carry with them religious publications and objects related to the practice of their religion or belief.

(33) They heard accounts of the Meeting of Experts on Human Contacts held in Bern from 15 April to 26 May 1986. Noting that no conclusions had been agreed upon at the Meeting, they regarded both the frankness of the discussion and the greater degree of openness in the exchanges as welcome developments. In this respect they noted the particular importance of the fact that proposals made at the Meeting had received further consideration at the Vienna Follow-up Meeting.

Information

(34) They will continue efforts to contribute to an ever wider knowledge and understanding of life in their States, thus promoting confidence between peoples.

They will make further efforts to facilitate the freer and wider dissemination of information of all kinds, to encourage co-operation in the field of information and to improve the working conditions for journalists.

In this connection and in accordance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and their relevant international commitments concerning seeking, receiving and imparting information of all kinds, they will ensure that individuals can freely choose their sources of information.

In this context they will

- ensure that radio services operating in accordance with the ITU Radio Regulations can be directly and normally received in their States; and
- allow individuals, institutions and organizations, while respecting intellectual property rights, including copyright, to obtain, possess, reproduce and distribute information material of all kinds.

To these ends they will remove any restrictions inconsistent with the above-mentioned obligations and commitments.

(35) They will take every opportunity offered by modern means of communication, including cable and satellites, to increase the freer and wider dissemination of information of all kinds. They will also encourage co-operation and exchanges between their relevant institutions, organizations and technical experts, and work towards the harmonization of technical standards and norms. They will bear in mind the effects of these modern means of communication on their mass media.

(36) They will ensure in practice that official information bulletins can be freely distributed on their territory by the diplomatic and other official missions and consular posts of the other participating States.

(37) They will encourage radio and television organizations, on the basis of arrangements between them, to broadcast live, especially in the organizing countries, programmes and discussions with participants from different States and to broadcast statements of and interviews with political and other personalities from the participating States.

(38) They will encourage radio and television organizations to report on different aspects of life in other participating States and to increase the number of telebridges between their countries.

(39) Recalling that the legitimate pursuit of journalists' professional activity will neither render them liable to expulsion nor otherwise penalize them, they will refrain from taking restrictive measures such as withdrawing a journalist's accreditation or expelling him because of the content of the reporting of the journalist or of his information media.

(40) They will ensure that, in pursuing this activity, journalists, including those representing media from other participating States, are free to seek access to and maintain contacts with public and private sources of information and that their need for professional confidentiality is respected.

(41) They will respect the copyright of journalists.

(42) On the basis of arrangements between them, where necessary, and for the purpose of regular reporting, they will grant accreditation, where it is required, and multiple entry visas to journalists from other participating States, regardless of their domicile. On this basis they will reduce to a maximum of two months the period for issuing both accreditation and multiple entry visas to journalists.

(43) They will facilitate the work of foreign journalists by providing relevant information, on request, on matters of practical concern, such as import regulations, taxation and accommodation.

(44) They will ensure that official press conferences and, as appropriate, other similar official press events are also open to foreign journalists, upon accreditation, where this is required.

(45) They will ensure in practice that persons belonging to national minorities or regional cultures on their territories can disseminate, have access to, and exchange information in their mother tongue.

(...)

Co-operation and exchanges in the field of culture

(47) They will promote and give full effect to their cultural co-operation, *inter alia* through the implementation of any relevant bilateral and multilateral agreements concluded among them in the various fields of culture.

(48) They will encourage non-governmental organizations interested in the field of culture to participate, together with State institutions, in the elaboration and implementation of these agreements and specific projects, as well as in the elaboration of practical measures concerning cultural exchange and co-operation.

(49) They will favour the establishment, by mutual agreement, of cultural institutes or centres of other participating States on their territory. Unhindered access by the public to such institutes or centres as well as their normal functioning will be assured.

(50) They will assure unhindered access by the public to cultural events organized on their territory by persons or institutions from other participating States and ensure that the organizers can use all means available in the host country to publicize such events.

(51) They will facilitate and encourage direct personal contacts in the field of culture, on both an individual and a collective basis, as well as contacts between cultural institutions, associations of creative and performing artists and other organizations in order to increase the opportunities for their citizens to acquaint themselves directly with the creative work in and from other participating States.

(52) They will ensure the unimpeded circulation of works of art and other cultural objects, subject only to those restrictions which are aimed at preserving their cultural heritage, are based on respect for intellectual and artistic property rights or derive from their international commitments on the circulation of cultural property.

(53) They will encourage co-operation between and joint artistic endeavours of persons from different participating States who are engaged in cultural activities; as appropriate, facilitate specific initiatives to this end by such persons, institutions and organizations and encourage the participation of young people in such initiatives. In this context they will encourage meetings and symposia, exhibitions, festivals and tours by ensembles or companies, and research and training programmes in which persons from the other participating States may also freely take part and make their contribution.

(54) The replacement of persons or groups invited to participate in a cultural activity will be exceptional and subject to prior agreement by the inviting party.

(55) They will encourage the holding of film weeks including, as appropriate, meetings of artists and experts as well as lectures on cinematographic art; facilitate and encourage direct contacts between film directors and producers with a view to co-producing films; and encourage co-operation in the protection of film material and the exchange of technical information and publications about the cinema.

(56) They will explore the scope for computerizing bibliographies and catalogues of cultural works and productions in a standard form and disseminating them.

(57) They will encourage museums and art galleries to develop direct contacts, *inter alia* with a view to organizing exhibitions, including loans of works of art, and exchanging catalogues.

(58) They will renew their efforts to give effect to the provisions of the Final Act and the

Madrid Concluding Document relating to less widely spoken languages. They will also encourage initiatives aimed at increasing the number of translations of literature from and into these

languages and improving their quality, in particular by the holding of workshops involving translators, authors and publishers, by the publication of dictionaries and, where appropriate, by the exchange of translators through scholarships.

(59) They will ensure that persons belonging to national minorities or regional cultures on their territories can maintain and develop their own culture in all its aspects, including language, literature and religion; and that they can preserve their cultural and historical monuments and objects.

(...)

(61) Taking duly into account the originality and diversity of their respective cultures, they will encourage efforts to explore common features and to foster greater awareness of their cultural heritage. Accordingly they will encourage initiatives which may contribute to a better knowledge of the cultural heritage of the other participating States in all its forms, including regional aspects and folk art.

(...)

Co-operation and exchanges in the field of education

(63) They will ensure access by all to the various types and levels of education without discrimination as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

(64) In order to encourage wider co-operation in science and education, they will facilitate unimpeded communication between universities and other institutions of higher education and research. They will also facilitate direct personal contacts, including contacts through travel, between scholars, scientists and other persons active in these fields.

(65) They will also ensure unimpeded access by scholars, teachers and students from the other participating States to open information material available in public archives, libraries, research institutes and similar bodies.

(66) They will facilitate exchanges of schoolchildren between their countries on the basis of bilateral arrangements, where necessary, including meeting and staying with families of the host country in their homes, with the aim of acquainting schoolchildren with life, traditions and education in other participating States.

(67) They will encourage their relevant government agencies or educational institutions to include, as appropriate, the Final Act as a whole in the curricula of schools and universities.

(68) They will ensure that persons belonging to national minorities or regional cultures on their territories can give and receive instruction on their own culture, including instruction through parental transmission of language, religion and cultural identity to their children.

(69) They will encourage their radio and television organizations to inform each other of the educational programmes they produce and to consider exchanging such programmes.

(70) They will encourage direct contacts and co-operation between relevant governmental institutions or organizations in the field of education and science.

(71) They will encourage further co-operation and contacts between specialized institutions and experts in the field of education and rehabilitation of handicapped children.

Human Dimension of the CSCE

The participating States,

Recalling the undertakings entered into in the Final Act and in other CSCE documents concerning respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, human contacts and other issues of a related humanitarian character,

Recognizing the need to improve the implementation of their CSCE commitments and their co-operation in these areas which are hereafter referred to as the human dimension of the CSCE,

Have, on the basis of the principles and provisions of the Final Act and of other relevant CSCE documents, decided:

1. to exchange information and respond to requests for information and to representations made to them by other participating States on questions relating to the human dimension of the CSCE. Such communications may be forwarded through diplomatic channels or be addressed to any agency designated for these purposes;
2. to hold bilateral meetings with other participating States that so request, in order to examine questions relating to the human dimension of the CSCE, including situations and specific cases, with a view to resolving them. The date and place of such meetings will be arranged by mutual agreement through diplomatic channels;
3. that any participating State which deems it necessary may bring situations and cases in the human dimension of the CSCE, including those which have been raised at the bilateral meetings described in paragraph 2, to the attention of other participating States through diplomatic channels;
4. that any participating State which deems it necessary may provide information on the exchanges of information and the responses to its requests for information and to representations (paragraph 1) and on the results of the bilateral meetings (paragraph 2), including information concerning situations and specific cases, at the meetings of the Conference on the Human Dimension as well as at the main CSCE Follow-up Meeting.

(...)

Report on the Meeting on the Protection of the Environment

Sofia 1989 (adopted Vienna 1990)

(...)

The participating States reaffirm their respect for the right of individuals, groups and organizations concerned with environmental issues to express freely their views, to associate with others, to peacefully assemble, as well as to obtain, publish and distribute information on these issues, without legal and administrative impediments inconsistent with the CSCE provisions. These individuals, groups and organizations have the right to participate in public debates on environmental issues, as well as to establish and maintain direct and independent contacts at national and international level.

Document of the Bonn Conference on Economic Co-operation in Europe

Bonn 1990

(...) the participating States,

Recognizing the relationship between political pluralism and market economies, and being committed to the principles concerning:

- Multiparty democracy based on free, periodic and genuine elections;
- The rule of law and equal protection under the law for all, based on respect for human rights and effective, accessible and just legal systems;
- Economic activity that accordingly upholds human dignity and is free from forced labour, discrimination against workers on grounds of race, sex, language, political opinion or religion, or denial of the rights of workers freely to establish or join independent trade unions,

Will endeavour to achieve or maintain the following:

(...)

- Policies that promote social justice and improve living and working conditions;
(...)
- Full recognition and protection of all types of property including private property, and the right of citizens to own and use them, as well as intellectual property rights;
- The right to prompt, just and effective compensation in the event private property is taken for public use;

Document of the Copenhagen Meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension of the CSCE

Copenhagen 1990

(...)

The participating States welcome with great satisfaction the fundamental political changes that have occurred in Europe since the first Meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension of the CSCE in Paris in 1989. They note that the CSCE process has contributed significantly to bringing about these changes and that these developments in turn have greatly advanced the implementation of the provisions of the Final Act and other CSCE documents.

They recognize that pluralistic democracy and the rule of law are essential for ensuring respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, the development of human contacts and the resolution of other issues of a related humanitarian character. They therefore welcome the commitment expressed by all participating States to the ideals of democracy and political pluralism as well as their common determination to build democratic societies based on free elections and the rule of law.

At the Copenhagen Meeting the participating States held a review of the implementation of their commitments in the field of the human dimension. They considered that the degree of compliance with the commitments contained in the relevant provisions of the CSCE documents had shown a fundamental improvement since the Paris Meeting. They also expressed the view, however, that further steps are required for the full realization of their commitments relating to the human dimension.

The participating States express their conviction that full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and the development of societies based on pluralistic democracy and the rule of law are prerequisites for progress in setting up the lasting order of peace, security, justice and co-operation that they seek to establish in Europe. They therefore reaffirm their commitment to implement fully all provisions of the Final Act and of the other CSCE documents relating to the human dimension and undertake to build on the progress they have made.

They recognize that co-operation among themselves, as well as the active involvement of persons, groups, organizations and institutions, will be essential to ensure continuing progress towards their shared objectives.

In order to strengthen respect for, and enjoyment of, human rights and fundamental freedoms, to develop human contacts and to resolve issues of a related humanitarian character, the participating States agree on the following:

I

(1) The participating States express their conviction that the protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms is one of the basic purposes of government, and reaffirm that the recognition of these rights and freedoms constitutes the foundation of freedom, justice and peace.

(2) They are determined to support and advance those principles of justice which form the basis of the rule of law. They consider that the rule of law does not mean merely a formal legality which assures regularity and consistency in the achievement and enforcement of democratic order, but justice based on the recognition and full acceptance of the supreme value of the human personality and guaranteed by institutions providing a framework for its fullest expression.

(3) They reaffirm that democracy is an inherent element of the rule of law. They recognize the importance of pluralism with regard to political organizations.

(4) They confirm that they will respect each other's right freely to choose and develop, in accordance with international human rights standards, their political, social, economic and cultural systems. In exercising this right, they will ensure that their laws, regulations, practices and policies conform with their obligations under international law and are brought into harmony with the provisions of the Declaration on Principles and other CSCE commitments.

(5) They solemnly declare that among those elements of justice which are essential to the full expression of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all human beings are the following:

(5.1) – free elections that will be held at reasonable intervals by secret ballot or by equivalent free voting procedure, under conditions which ensure in practice the free expression of the opinion of the electors in the choice of their representatives;

(5.2) – a form of government that is representative in character, in which the executive is accountable to the elected legislature or the electorate;

(5.3) – the duty of the government and public authorities to comply with the constitution and to act in a manner consistent with law;

(5.4) – a clear separation between the State and political parties; in particular, political parties will not be merged with the State;

(5.5) – the activity of the government and the administration as well as that of the judiciary will be exercised in accordance with the system established by law. Respect for that system must be ensured;

(5.6) – military forces and the police will be under the control of, and accountable to, the civil authorities;

(5.7) – human rights and fundamental freedoms will be guaranteed by law and in accordance with their obligations under international law;

(5.8) – legislation, adopted at the end of a public procedure, and regulations will be published, that being the condition for their applicability. Those texts will be accessible to everyone;

(5.9) – all persons are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to the equal protection of the law. In this respect, the law will prohibit any discrimination and guarantee to all persons equal and effective protection against discrimination on any ground;

(5.10) – everyone will have an effective means of redress against administrative decisions, so as to guarantee respect for fundamental rights and ensure legal integrity;

(5.11) – administrative decisions against a person must be fully justifiable and must as a rule indicate the usual remedies available;

(5.12) – the independence of judges and the impartial operation of the public judicial service will be ensured;

(5.13) – the independence of legal practitioners will be recognized and protected, in particular as regards conditions for recruitment and practice;

(5.14) – the rules relating to criminal procedure will contain a clear definition of powers in relation to prosecution and the measures preceding and accompanying prosecution;

(5.15) – any person arrested or detained on a criminal charge will have the right, so that the lawfulness of his arrest or detention can be decided, to be brought promptly before a judge or other officer authorized by law to exercise this function;

(5.16) – in the determination of any criminal charge against him, or of his rights and obligations in a suit at law, everyone will be entitled to a fair and public hearing by a competent, independent and impartial tribunal established by law;

(5.17) – any person prosecuted will have the right to defend himself in person or through prompt legal assistance of his own choosing or, if he does not have sufficient means to pay for legal assistance, to be given it free when the interests of justice so require;

(5.18) – no one will be charged with, tried for or convicted of any criminal offence unless the offence is provided for by a law which defines the elements of the offence with clarity and precision;

(5.19) – everyone will be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law;

(5.20) – considering the important contribution of international instruments in the field of human rights to the rule of law at a national level, the participating States reaffirm that they will consider acceding to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and other relevant international instruments, if they have not yet done so;

(5.21) – in order to supplement domestic remedies and better to ensure that the participating States respect the international obligations they have undertaken, the participating States will consider acceding to a regional or global international convention concerning the protection of human rights, such as the European Convention on Human Rights or the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which provide for procedures of individual recourse to international bodies.

(6) The participating States declare that the will of the people, freely and fairly expressed through periodic and genuine elections, is the basis of the authority and legitimacy of all government. The participating States will accordingly respect the right of their citizens to take part in the governing of their country, either directly or through representatives freely chosen by them through fair electoral processes. They recognize their responsibility to defend and protect, in accordance with their laws, their international human rights obligations and their international commitments, the democratic order freely established through the will of the people against the activities of persons, groups or organizations that engage in or refuse to renounce terrorism or violence aimed at the overthrow of that order or of that of another participating State.

(7) To ensure that the will of the people serves as the basis of the authority of government, the participating States will

(7.1) – hold free elections at reasonable intervals, as established by law;

(7.2) – permit all seats in at least one chamber of the national legislature to be freely contested in a popular vote;

(7.3) – guarantee universal and equal suffrage to adult citizens;

(7.4) – ensure that votes are cast by secret ballot or by equivalent free voting procedure, and that they are counted and reported honestly with the official results made public;

(7.5) – respect the right of citizens to seek political or public office, individually or as representatives of political parties or organizations, without discrimination;

(7.6) – respect the right of individuals and groups to establish, in full freedom, their own political parties or other political organizations and provide such political parties and organizations with the necessary legal guarantees to enable them to compete with each other on a basis of equal treatment before the law and by the authorities;

(7.7) – ensure that law and public policy work to permit political campaigning to be conducted in a fair and free atmosphere in which neither administrative action, violence nor intimidation bars the parties and the candidates from freely presenting their views and qualifications, or prevents the voters from learning and discussing them or from casting their vote free of fear of retribution;

(7.8) – provide that no legal or administrative obstacle stands in the way of unimpeded access to the media on a non-discriminatory basis for all political groupings and individuals wishing to participate in the electoral process;

(7.9) – ensure that candidates who obtain the necessary number of votes required by law are duly installed in office and are permitted to remain in office until their term expires or is otherwise brought to an end in a manner that is regulated by law in conformity with democratic parliamentary and constitutional procedures.

(8) The participating States consider that the presence of observers, both foreign and domestic, can enhance the electoral process for States in which elections are taking place. They therefore invite observers from any other CSCE participating States and any appropriate private institutions and organizations who may wish to do so to observe the course of their national election proceedings, to the extent permitted by law. They will also endeavour to facilitate similar access for election proceedings held below the national level. Such observers will undertake not to interfere in the electoral proceedings.

II

(9) The participating States reaffirm that

(9.1) – everyone will have the right to freedom of expression including the right to communication. This right will include freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas without interference by public authority and regardless of frontiers. The exercise of this right may be subject only to such restrictions as are prescribed by law and are consistent with international standards. In particular, no limitation will be imposed on access to, and use of, means of reproducing documents of any kind, while respecting, however, rights relating to intellectual property, including copyright;

(9.2) – everyone will have the right of peaceful assembly and demonstration. Any restrictions which may be placed on the exercise of these rights will be prescribed by law and consistent with international standards;

(9.3) – the right of association will be guaranteed. The right to form and – subject to the general right of a trade union to determine its own membership – freely to join a trade union will be guaranteed. These rights will exclude any prior control. Freedom of association for workers, including

the freedom to strike, will be guaranteed, subject to limitations prescribed by law and consistent with international standards;

(9.4) – everyone will have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. This right includes freedom to change one's religion or belief and freedom to manifest one's religion or belief, either alone or in community with others, in public or in private, through worship, teaching, practice and observance. The exercise of these rights may be subject only to such restrictions as are prescribed by law and are consistent with international standards;

(9.5) – they will respect the right of everyone to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country, consistent with a State's international obligations and CSCE commitments. Restrictions on this right will have the character of very rare exceptions, will be considered necessary only if they respond to a specific public need, pursue a legitimate aim and are proportionate to that aim, and will not be abused or applied in an arbitrary manner;

(9.6) – everyone has the right peacefully to enjoy his property either on his own or in common with others. No one may be deprived of his property except in the public interest and subject to the conditions provided for by law and consistent with international commitments and obligations.

(10) In reaffirming their commitment to ensure effectively the rights of the individual to know and act upon human rights and fundamental freedoms, and to contribute actively, individually or in association with others, to their promotion and protection, the participating States express their commitment to

(10.1) – respect the right of everyone, individually or in association with others, to seek, receive and impart freely views and information on human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the rights to disseminate and publish such views and information;

(10.2) – respect the rights of everyone, individually or in association with others, to study and discuss the observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms and to develop and discuss ideas for improved protection of human rights and better means for ensuring compliance with international human rights standards;

(10.3) – ensure that individuals are permitted to exercise the right to association, including the right to form, join and participate effectively in non-governmental organizations which seek the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including trade unions and human rights monitoring groups;

(10.4) – allow members of such groups and organizations to have unhindered access to and communication with similar bodies within and outside their countries and with international organizations, to engage in exchanges, contacts and co-operation with such groups and organizations and to solicit, receive and utilize for the purpose of promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms voluntary financial contributions from national and international sources as provided for by law.

(11) The participating States further affirm that, where violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms are alleged to have occurred, the effective remedies available include

(11.1) – the right of the individual to seek and receive adequate legal assistance;

(11.2) – the right of the individual to seek and receive assistance from others in defending human rights and fundamental freedoms, and to assist others in defending human rights and fundamental freedoms;

(11.3) – the right of individuals or groups acting on their behalf to communicate with international bodies with competence to receive and consider information concerning allegations of human rights abuses.

(12) The participating States, wishing to ensure greater transparency in the implementation of the commitments undertaken in the Vienna Concluding Document under the heading of the human dimension of the CSCE, decide to accept as a confidence-building measure the presence of observers sent by participating States and representatives of non-governmental organizations and other interested persons at proceedings before courts as provided for in national legislation and international law; it is understood that proceedings may only be held in camera in the circumstances prescribed by law and consistent with obligations under international law and international commitments.

(13) The participating States decide to accord particular attention to the recognition of the rights of the child, his civil rights and his individual freedoms, his economic, social and cultural rights, and his right to special protection against all forms of violence and exploitation. They will consider acceding to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, if they have not yet done so, which was opened for signature by States on 26 January 1990. They will recognize in their domestic legislation the rights of the child as affirmed in the international agreements to which they are Parties.

(14) The participating States agree to encourage the creation, within their countries, of conditions for the training of students and trainees from other participating States, including persons taking vocational and technical courses. They also agree to promote travel by young people from their countries for the purpose of obtaining education in other participating States and to that end to encourage the conclusion, where appropriate, of bilateral and multilateral agreements between their relevant governmental institutions, organizations and educational establishments.

(15) The participating States will act in such a way as to facilitate the transfer of sentenced persons and encourage those participating States which are not Parties to the Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons, signed at Strasbourg on 21 November 1983, to consider acceding to the Convention.

(16) The participating States

(16.1) – reaffirm their commitment to prohibit torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, to take effective legislative, administrative, judicial and other measures to prevent and punish such practices, to protect individuals from any psychiatric or other medical practices that violate human rights and fundamental freedoms and to take effective measures to prevent and punish such practices;

(16.2) – intend, as a matter of urgency, to consider acceding to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, if they have not yet done so, and recognizing the competences of the Committee against Torture under articles 21 and 22 of the Convention and withdrawing reservations regarding the competence of the Committee under article 20;

(16.3) – stress that no exceptional circumstances whatsoever, whether a state of war or a threat of war, internal political instability or any other public emergency, may be invoked as a justification of torture;

(16.4) – will ensure that education and information regarding the prohibition against torture are fully included in the training of law enforcement personnel, civil or military, medical personnel, public officials and other persons who may be involved in the custody, interrogation or treatment of any individual subjected to any form of arrest, detention or imprisonment;

(16.5) – will keep under systematic review interrogation rules, instructions, methods and practices as well as arrangements for the custody and treatment of persons subjected to any form of arrest, detention or imprisonment in any territory under their jurisdiction, with a view to preventing any cases of torture;

(16.6) – will take up with priority for consideration and for appropriate action, in accordance with the agreed measures and procedures for the effective implementation of the commitments relating to the human dimension of the CSCE, any cases of torture and other inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment made known to them through official channels or coming from any other reliable source of information;

(16.7) – will act upon the understanding that preserving and guaranteeing the life and security of any individual subjected to any form of torture and other inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment will be the sole criterion in determining the urgency and priorities to be accorded in taking appropriate remedial action; and, therefore, the consideration of any cases of torture and other inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment within the framework of any other international body or mechanism may not be invoked as a reason for refraining from consideration and appropriate action in accordance with the agreed measures and procedures for the effective implementation of the commitments relating to the human dimension of the CSCE.

(17) The participating States

(17.1) – recall the commitment undertaken in the Vienna Concluding Document to keep the question of capital punishment under consideration and to co-operate within relevant international organizations;

(17.2) – recall, in this context, the adoption by the General Assembly of the United Nations, on 15 December 1989, of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty;

(17.3) – note the restrictions and safeguards regarding the use of the death penalty which have been adopted by the international community, in particular article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

(17.4) – note the provisions of the Sixth Protocol to the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, concerning the abolition of the death penalty;

(17.5) – note recent measures taken by a number of participating States towards the abolition of capital punishment;

(17.6) – note the activities of several non-governmental organizations on the question of the death penalty;

(17.7) – will exchange information within the framework of the Conference on the Human Dimension on the question of the abolition of the death penalty and keep that question under consideration;

(17.8) – will make available to the public information regarding the use of the death penalty.

(18) The participating States

(18.1) – note that the United Nations Commission on Human Rights has recognized the right of everyone to have conscientious objections to military service;

(18.2) – note recent measures taken by a number of participating States to permit exemption from compulsory military service on the basis of conscientious objections;

(18.3) – note the activities of several non-governmental organizations on the question of conscientious objections to compulsory military service;

(18.4) – agree to consider introducing, where this has not yet been done, various forms of alternative service, which are compatible with the reasons for conscientious objection, such forms of alternative service being in principle of a non-combatant or civilian nature, in the public interest and of a non-punitive nature;

(18.5) – will make available to the public information on this issue;

(18.6) – will keep under consideration, within the framework of the Conference on the Human Dimension, the relevant questions related to the exemption from compulsory military service, where it exists, of individuals on the basis of conscientious objections to armed service, and will exchange information on these questions.

(19) The participating States affirm that freer movement and contacts among their citizens are important in the context of the protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms. They will ensure that their policies concerning entry into their territories are fully consistent with the aims set out in the relevant provisions of the Final Act, the Madrid Concluding Document and the Vienna Concluding Document. While reaffirming their determination not to recede from the commitments contained in CSCE documents, they undertake to implement fully and improve present commitments in the field of human contacts, including on a bilateral and multilateral basis. In this context they will

(19.1) – strive to implement the procedures for entry into their territories, including the issuing of visas and passport and customs control, in good faith and without unjustified delay. Where necessary, they will shorten the waiting time for visa decisions, as well as simplify practices and reduce administrative requirements for visa applications;

(19.2) – ensure, in dealing with visa applications, that these are processed as expeditiously as possible in order, *inter alia*, to take due account of important family, personal or professional considerations, especially in cases of an urgent, humanitarian nature;

(19.3) – endeavour, where necessary, to reduce fees charged in connection with visa applications to the lowest possible level.

(20) The participating States concerned will consult and, where appropriate, cooperate in dealing with problems that might emerge as a result of the increased movement of persons.

(...)

(22) The participating States reaffirm that the protection and promotion of the rights of migrant workers have their human dimension. In this context, they

(22.1) – agree that the protection and promotion of the rights of migrant workers are the concern of all participating States and that as such they should be addressed within the CSCE process;

(22.2) – reaffirm their commitment to implement fully in their domestic legislation the rights of migrant workers provided for in international agreements to which they are parties;

(22.3) – consider that, in future international instruments concerning the rights of migrant workers, they should take into account the fact that this issue is of importance for all of them;

(22.4) – express their readiness to examine, at future CSCE meetings, the relevant aspects of the further promotion of the rights of migrant workers and their families.

(23) The participating States reaffirm their conviction expressed in the Vienna Concluding Document that the promotion of economic, social and cultural rights as well as of civil and political rights is of paramount importance for human dignity and for the attainment of the legitimate aspirations of every individual. They also reaffirm their commitment taken in the Document of the Bonn Conference on Economic Co-operation in Europe to the promotion of social justice and the improvement of living and working conditions. In the context of continuing their efforts with a view to achieving progressively the full realization of economic, social and cultural rights by all appropriate means, they will pay special attention to problems in the areas of employment, housing, social security, health, education and culture.

(24) The participating States will ensure that the exercise of all the human rights and fundamental freedoms set out above will not be subject to any restrictions except those which are provided by law and are consistent with their obligations under international law, in particular the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and with their international commitments, in particular the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. These restrictions have the character of exceptions. The participating States will ensure that these restrictions are not abused and are not applied in an arbitrary manner, but in such a way that the effective exercise of these rights is ensured. Any restriction on rights and freedoms must, in a democratic society, relate to one of the objectives of the applicable law and be strictly proportionate to the aim of that law.

(25) The participating States confirm that any derogations from obligations relating to human rights and fundamental freedoms during a state of public emergency must remain strictly within the limits provided for by international law, in particular the relevant international instruments by which they are bound, especially with respect to rights from which there can be no derogation. They also reaffirm that

(25.1) – measures derogating from such obligations must be taken in strict conformity with the procedural requirements laid down in those instruments;

(25.2) – the imposition of a state of public emergency must be proclaimed officially, publicly, and in accordance with the provisions laid down by law;

(25.3) – measures derogating from obligations will be limited to the extent strictly required by the exigencies of the situation;

(25.4) – such measures will not discriminate solely on the grounds of race, colour, sex, language, religion, social origin or of belonging to a minority.

III

(26) The participating States recognize that vigorous democracy depends on the existence as an integral part of national life of democratic values and practices as well as an extensive range of democratic institutions. They will therefore encourage, facilitate and, where appropriate, support practical co-operative endeavours and the sharing of information, ideas and expertise among themselves and by direct contacts and co-operation between individuals, groups and organizations in areas including the following:

- constitutional law, reform and development,
- electoral legislation, administration and observation,
- establishment and management of courts and legal systems,
- the development of an impartial and effective public service where recruitment and advancement are based on a merit system,
- law enforcement,
- local government and decentralization,
- access to information and protection of privacy,
- developing political parties and their role in pluralistic societies,
- free and independent trade unions,
- co-operative movements,
- developing other forms of free associations and public interest groups,
- journalism, independent media, and intellectual and cultural life,

- the teaching of democratic values, institutions and practices in educational institutions and the fostering of an atmosphere of free enquiry.

Such endeavours may cover the range of co-operation encompassed in the human dimension of the CSCE, including training, exchange of information, books and instructional materials, co-operative programmes and projects, academic and professional exchanges and conferences, scholarships, research grants, provision of expertise and advice, business and scientific contacts and programmes.

(27) The participating States will also facilitate the establishment and strengthening of independent national institutions in the area of human rights and the rule of law, which may also serve as focal points for co-ordination and collaboration between such institutions in the participating States. They propose that co-operation be encouraged between parliamentarians from participating States, including through existing inter-parliamentary associations and, *inter alia*, through joint commissions, television debates involving parliamentarians, meetings and round-table discussions. They will also encourage existing institutions, such as organizations within the United Nations system and the Council of Europe, to continue and expand the work they have begun in this area.

(28) The participating States recognize the important expertise of the Council of Europe in the field of human rights and fundamental freedoms and agree to consider further ways and means to enable the Council of Europe to make a contribution to the human dimension of the CSCE. They agree that the nature of this contribution could be examined further in a future CSCE forum.

(...)

IV

(30) The participating States recognize that the questions relating to national minorities can only be satisfactorily resolved in a democratic political framework based on the rule of law, with a functioning independent judiciary. This framework guarantees full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, equal rights and status for all citizens, the free expression of all their legitimate interests and aspirations, political pluralism, social tolerance and the implementation of legal rules that place effective restraints on the abuse of governmental power.

They also recognize the important role of non-governmental organizations, including political parties, trade unions, human rights organizations and religious groups, in the promotion of tolerance, cultural diversity and the resolution of questions relating to national minorities.

They further reaffirm that respect for the rights of persons belonging to national minorities as part of universally recognized human rights is an essential factor for peace, justice, stability and democracy in the participating States.

(31) Persons belonging to national minorities have the right to exercise fully and effectively their human rights and fundamental freedoms without any discrimination and in full equality before the law.

The participating States will adopt, where necessary, special measures for the purpose of ensuring to persons belonging to national minorities full equality with the other citizens in the exercise and enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

(32) To belong to a national minority is a matter of a person's individual choice and no disadvantage may arise from the exercise of such choice. Persons belonging to national minorities have the right freely to express, preserve and develop their ethnic, cultural, linguistic or religious identity

and to maintain and develop their culture in all its aspects, free of any attempts at assimilation against their will. In particular, they have the right

(32.1) – to use freely their mother tongue in private as well as in public;

(32.2) – to establish and maintain their own educational, cultural and religious institutions, organizations or associations, which can seek voluntary financial and other contributions as well as public assistance, in conformity with national legislation;

(32.3) – to profess and practise their religion, including the acquisition, possession and use of religious materials, and to conduct religious educational activities in their mother tongue;

(32.4) – to establish and maintain unimpeded contacts among themselves within their country as well as contacts across frontiers with citizens of other States with whom they share a common ethnic or national origin, cultural heritage or religious beliefs;

(32.5) – to disseminate, have access to and exchange information in their mother tongue;

(32.6) – to establish and maintain organizations or associations within their country and to participate in international non-governmental organizations.

Persons belonging to national minorities can exercise and enjoy their rights individually as well as in community with other members of their group. No disadvantage may arise for a person belonging to a national minority on account of the exercise or non-exercise of any such rights.

(33) The participating States will protect the ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious identity of national minorities on their territory and create conditions for the promotion of that identity. They will take the necessary measures to that effect after due consultations, including contacts with organizations or associations of such minorities, in accordance with the decision-making procedures of each State.

Any such measures will be in conformity with the principles of equality and non discrimination with respect to the other citizens of the participating State concerned.

(34) The participating States will endeavour to ensure that persons belonging to national minorities, notwithstanding the need to learn the official language or languages of the State concerned, have adequate opportunities for instruction of their mother tongue or in their mother tongue, as well as, wherever possible and necessary, for its use before public authorities, in conformity with applicable national legislation.

In the context of the teaching of history and culture in educational establishments, they will also take account of the history and culture of national minorities.

(35) The participating States will respect the right of persons belonging to national minorities to effective participation in public affairs, including participation in the affairs relating to the protection and promotion of the identity of such minorities.

The participating States note the efforts undertaken to protect and create conditions for the promotion of the ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious identity of certain national minorities by establishing, as one of the possible means to achieve these aims, appropriate local or autonomous administrations corresponding to the specific historical and territorial circumstances of such minorities and in accordance with the policies of the State concerned.

(36) The participating States recognize the particular importance of increasing constructive co-operation among themselves on questions relating to national minorities. Such co-operation seeks to

promote mutual understanding and confidence, friendly and good-neighbourly relations, international peace, security and justice.

Every participating State will promote a climate of mutual respect, understanding, cooperation and solidarity among all persons living on its territory, without distinction as to ethnic or national origin or religion, and will encourage the solution of problems through dialogue based on the principles of the rule of law.

(37) None of these commitments may be interpreted as implying any right to engage in any activity or perform any action in contravention of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, other obligations under international law or the provisions of the Final Act, including the principle of territorial integrity of States.

(38) The participating States, in their efforts to protect and promote the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, will fully respect their undertakings under existing human rights conventions and other relevant international instruments and consider adhering to the relevant conventions, if they have not yet done so, including those providing for a right of complaint by individuals.

(39) The participating States will co-operate closely in the competent international organizations to which they belong, including the United Nations and, as appropriate, the Council of Europe, bearing in mind their on-going work with respect to questions relating to national minorities.

They will consider convening a meeting of experts for a thorough discussion of the issue of national minorities.

(40) The participating States clearly and unequivocally condemn totalitarianism, racial and ethnic hatred, anti-semitism, xenophobia and discrimination against anyone as well as persecution on religious and ideological grounds. In this context, they also recognize the particular problems of Roma (gypsies).

They declare their firm intention to intensify the efforts to combat these phenomena in all their forms and therefore will

(40.1) – take effective measures, including the adoption, in conformity with their constitutional systems and their international obligations, of such laws as may be necessary, to provide protection against any acts that constitute incitement to violence against persons or groups based on national, racial, ethnic or religious discrimination, hostility or hatred, including anti-semitism;

(40.2) – commit themselves to take appropriate and proportionate measures to protect persons or groups who may be subject to threats or acts of discrimination, hostility or violence as a result of their racial, ethnic, cultural, linguistic or religious identity, and to protect their property;

(40.3) – take effective measures, in conformity with their constitutional systems, at the national, regional and local levels to promote understanding and tolerance, particularly in the fields of education, culture and information;

(40.4) – endeavour to ensure that the objectives of education include special attention to the problem of racial prejudice and hatred and to the development of respect for different civilizations and cultures;

(40.5) – recognize the right of the individual to effective remedies and endeavour to recognize, in conformity with national legislation, the right of interested persons and groups to initiate and support complaints against acts of discrimination, including racist and xenophobic acts;

(40.6) – consider adhering, if they have not yet done so, to the international instruments which address the problem of discrimination and ensure full compliance with the obligations therein, including those relating to the submission of periodic reports;

(40.7) – consider, also, accepting those international mechanisms which allow States and individuals to bring communications relating to discrimination before international bodies.

V

(41) The participating States reaffirm their commitment to the human dimension of the CSCE and emphasize its importance as an integral part of a balanced approach to security and co-operation in Europe. They agree that the Conference on the Human Dimension of the CSCE and the human dimension mechanism described in the section on the human dimension of the CSCE of the Vienna Concluding Document have demonstrated their value as methods of furthering their dialogue and co-operation and assisting in the resolution of relevant specific questions. They express their conviction that these should be continued and developed as part of an expanding CSCE process.

(42) The participating States recognize the need to enhance further the effectiveness of the procedures described in paragraphs 1 to 4 of the section on the human dimension of the CSCE of the Vienna Concluding Document and with this aim decide

(42.1) – to provide in as short a time as possible, but no later than four weeks, a written response to requests for information and to representations made to them in writing by other participating States under paragraph 1;

(42.2) – that the bilateral meetings, as contained in paragraph 2, will take place as soon as possible, as a rule within three weeks of the date of the request;

(42.3) – to refrain, in the course of a bilateral meeting held under paragraph 2, from raising situations and cases not connected with the subject of the meeting, unless both sides have agreed to do so.

(43) The participating States examined practical proposals for new measures aimed at improving the implementation of the commitments relating to the human dimension of the CSCE. In this regard, they considered proposals related to the sending of observers to examine situations and specific cases, the appointment of rapporteurs to investigate and suggest appropriate solutions, the setting up of a Committee on the Human Dimension of the CSCE, greater involvement of persons, organizations and institutions in the human dimension mechanism and further bilateral and multilateral efforts to promote the resolution of relevant issues.

They decide to continue to discuss thoroughly in subsequent relevant CSCE fora these and other proposals designed to strengthen the human dimension mechanism, and to consider adopting, in the context of the further development of the CSCE process, appropriate new measures. They agree that these measures should contribute to achieving further effective progress, enhance conflict prevention and confidence in the field of the human dimension of the CSCE.

(...)

Charter of Paris for a New Europe

Paris 1990

(...)

A New Era of Democracy, Peace and Unity

We, the Heads of State or Government of the States participating in the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, have assembled in Paris at a time of profound change and historic expectations. The era of confrontation and division of Europe has ended. We declare that henceforth our relations will be founded on respect and cooperation.

Europe is liberating itself from the legacy of the past. The courage of men and women, the strength of the will of the peoples and the power of the ideas of the Helsinki Final Act have opened a new era of democracy, peace and unity in Europe.

Ours is a time for fulfilling the hopes and expectations our peoples have cherished for decades: steadfast commitment to democracy based on human rights and fundamental freedoms; prosperity through economic liberty and social justice; and equal security for all our countries.

The Ten Principles of the Final Act will guide us towards this ambitious future, just as they have lighted our way towards better relations for the past fifteen years. Full implementation of all CSCE commitments must form the basis for the initiatives we are now taking to enable our nations to live in accordance with their aspirations.

Human Rights, Democracy and Rule of Law

We undertake to build, consolidate and strengthen democracy as the only system of government of our nations. In this endeavour, we will abide by the following:

Human rights and fundamental freedoms are the birthright of all human beings, are inalienable and are guaranteed by law. Their protection and promotion is the first responsibility of government. Respect for them is an essential safeguard against an over-mighty State. Their observance and full exercise are the foundation of freedom, justice and peace.

Democratic government is based on the will of the people, expressed regularly through free and fair elections. Democracy has as its foundation respect for the human person and the rule of law. Democracy is the best safeguard of freedom of expression, tolerance of all groups of society, and equality of opportunity for each person.

Democracy, with its representative and pluralist character, entails accountability to the electorate, the obligation of public authorities to comply with the law and justice administered impartially. No one will be above the law.

We affirm that, without discrimination,

- every individual has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief, freedom of expression, freedom of association and peaceful assembly, freedom of movement; no one will be:
 - subject to arbitrary arrest or detention, subject to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;
- everyone also has the right:
 - to know and act upon his rights,
 - to participate in free and fair elections,
 - to fair and public trial if charged with an offence,
 - to own property alone or in association and to exercise individual enterprise,
 - to enjoy his economic, social and cultural rights.

We affirm that the ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious identity of national minorities will be protected and that persons belonging to national minorities have the right freely to express, preserve and develop that identity without any discrimination and in full equality before the law.

We will ensure that everyone will enjoy recourse to effective remedies, national or international, against any violation of his rights.

Full respect for these precepts is the bedrock on which we will seek to construct the new Europe.

Our States will co-operate and support each other with the aim of making democratic gains irreversible.

Economic Liberty and Responsibility

Economic liberty, social justice and environmental responsibility are indispensable for prosperity.

The free will of the individual, exercised in democracy and protected by the rule of law, forms the necessary basis for successful economic and social development. We will promote economic activity which respects and upholds human dignity.

Freedom and political pluralism are necessary elements in our common objective of developing market economies towards sustainable economic growth, prosperity, social justice, expanding employment and efficient use of economic resources. The success of the transition to market economy by countries making efforts to this effect is important and in the interest of us all. It will enable us to share a higher level of prosperity which is our common objective. We will co-operate to this end.

Preservation of the environment is a shared responsibility of all our nations. While supporting national and regional efforts in this field, we must also look to the pressing need for joint action on a wider scale.

Friendly Relations among Participating States

(...)

To uphold and promote democracy, peace and unity in Europe, we solemnly pledge our full commitment to the Ten Principles of the Helsinki Final Act. We affirm the continuing validity of the

ten Principals and our determination to put them into practice. All the principles apply equally and unreservedly, each of them being interpreted taking into account the others. They form the basis for our relations.

(...)

Our relations will rest on our common adherence to democratic values and to human rights and fundamental freedoms. We are convinced that in order to strengthen peace and security among our States, the advancement of democracy, and respect for and effective exercise of human rights, are indispensable. We reaffirm the equal rights of peoples and their right to self-determination in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and with the relevant norms of international law, including those relating to territorial integrity of States.

(...)

Guidelines for the future

Proceeding from our firm commitment to the full implementation of all CSCE principles and provisions, we now resolve to give a new impetus to a balanced and comprehensive development of our co-operation in order to address the needs and aspirations of our peoples.

Human Dimension

We declare our respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms to be irrevocable. We will fully implement and build upon the provisions relating to the human dimension of the CSCE.

Proceeding from the Document of the Copenhagen Meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension, we will cooperate to strengthen democratic institutions and to promote the application of the rule of law. To that end, we decide to convene a seminar of experts in Oslo from 4 to 15 November 1991.

Determined to foster the rich contribution of national minorities to the life of our societies, we undertake further to improve their situation. We reaffirm our deep conviction that friendly relations among our peoples, as well as peace, justice, stability and democracy, require that the ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious identity of national minorities be protected and conditions for the promotion of that identity be created. We declare that questions related to national minorities can only be satisfactorily resolved in a democratic political framework. We further acknowledge that the rights of persons belonging to national minorities must be fully respected as part of universal human rights. Being aware of the urgent need for increased cooperation on, as well as better protection of, national minorities, we decide to convene a meeting of experts on national minorities to be held in Geneva from 1 to 19 July 1991.

We express our determination to combat all forms of racial and ethnic hatred, antisemitism, xenophobia and discrimination against anyone as well as persecution on religious and ideological grounds.

In accordance with our CSCE commitments, we stress that free movement and contacts among our citizens as well as the free flow of information and ideas are crucial for the maintenance and development of free societies and flourishing cultures. We welcome increased tourism and visits among our countries.

The human dimension mechanism has proved its usefulness, and we are consequently determined to expand it to include new procedures involving, *inter alia*, the services of experts or a roster of eminent persons experienced in human rights issues which could be raised under the mechanism. We shall provide, in the context of the mechanism, for individuals to be involved in the protection of their rights. Therefore, we undertake to develop further our commitments in this respect, in particular at the Moscow Meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension, without prejudice to obligations under existing international instruments to which our States may be parties.

We recognize the important contribution of the Council of Europe to the promotion of human rights and the principles of democracy and the rule of law as well as to the development of cultural co-operation. We welcome moves by several participating States to join the Council of Europe and adhere to its European Convention on Human Rights. We welcome as well the readiness of the Council of Europe to make its experience available to the CSCE.

Security

(...)

We unreservedly condemn, as criminal, all acts, methods and practices of terrorism and express our determination to work for its eradication both bilaterally and through multilateral co-operation. We will also join together in combating illicit trafficking in drugs.

(...)

Culture

We recognize the essential contribution of our common European culture and our shared values in overcoming the division of the continent. Therefore, we underline our attachment to creative freedom and to the protection and promotion of our cultural and spiritual heritage, in all its richness and diversity.

In view of the recent changes in Europe, we stress the increased importance of the Cracow Symposium and we look forward to its consideration of guidelines for intensified co-operation in the field of culture. We invite the Council of Europe to contribute to this Symposium.

In order to promote greater familiarity amongst our peoples, we favour the establishment of cultural centres in cities of other participating States as well as increased cooperation in the audio-visual field and wider exchange in music, theatre, literature and the arts.

We resolve to make special efforts in our national policies to promote better understanding, in particular among young people, through cultural exchanges, co-operation in all fields of education and, more specifically, through teaching and training in the languages of other participating States. We intend to consider first results of this action at the Helsinki Follow-up Meeting in 1992.

Migrant Workers

We recognize that the issues of migrant workers and their families legally residing in host countries have economic, cultural and social aspects as well as their human dimension. We reaffirm that the protection and promotion of their rights, as well as the implementation of relevant international obligations, is our common concern.

(...)

Non-governmental Organizations

We recall the major role that non-governmental organizations, religious and other groups and individuals have played in the achievement of the objectives of the CSCE and will further facilitate their activities for the implementation of the CSCE commitments by the participating States. These organizations, groups and individuals must be involved in an appropriate way in the activities and new structures of the CSCE in order to fulfil their important tasks.

New structures and institutions of the CSCE Process

(...)

We decide to establish an Office for Free Elections in Warsaw to facilitate contacts and the exchange of information on elections within participating States.

(...)

Supplementary document to give effect to certain provisions contained in the Charter of Paris for a New Europe

Procedures and organizational modalities relating to certain provisions contained in the Charter of Paris for a New Europe, signed in Paris on 21 November 1990, are set out below.

I.

Institutional arrangements

(...)

G. The office for free elections

1. The function of the Office for Free Elections will be to facilitate contacts and the exchange of information on elections within participating States. The Office will thus foster the implementation of paragraphs 6, 7 and 8 of the Document of the Copenhagen meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension of the CSCE (...)

2. To this end, the Office will

- compile information, including information provided by the competent authorities of the participating States, on the dates, procedures and official results of scheduled national elections within participating States, as well as reports of election observations, and provide these on request to governments, parliaments and interested private organizations;
- serve to facilitate contact among governments, parliaments or private organizations wishing to observe elections and competent authorities of the States in which elections are to take place;
- organize and serve as the venue for seminars or other meetings related to election procedures and democratic institutions at the request of the participating States.

3. The Office will take into account the work of and co-operate with other institutions active in this field.

4. The Office will carry out other tasks assigned to it by the Council.

5. The Office's personnel will be composed of

- a Director, who will be responsible to the Council through the Committee of Senior Officials;
- an Officer;
- administrative and technical personnel, recruited by the Director of the Office.

Document of the Cracow Symposium on the Cultural Heritage of the CSCE Participating States

Cracow 1991

(...)

The participating States express their deeply held conviction that they share common values forged by history and based, *inter alia*, on respect for the individual, freedom of conscience, religion or belief, freedom of expression, recognition of the importance of spiritual and cultural values, commitment to the rule of law, tolerance and openness to dialogue with other cultures.

They take note of the interrelationship between cultural life and the well-being of their peoples, and the special importance that this has for democratic countries in transition towards a market economy. They encourage support, as already undertaken, and the ongoing assistance to those countries in preserving and protecting their cultural heritage.

The participating States respect the irreplaceable uniqueness of all their cultures and will endeavour to promote continued cultural dialogue among themselves and with the rest of the world. They reaffirm their belief that respect for cultural diversity promotes understanding and tolerance among individuals and groups.

They consider that the regional aspects of culture should in themselves constitute a factor in the understanding between peoples.

Regional cultural diversity is an expression of the richness of the common cultural identity of the participating States. Its preservation and protection contribute to building a democratic, peaceful and united Europe.

Reaffirming their commitment to the full implementation of the provisions relating to the cultural dimension in the Helsinki Final Act and other CSCE documents, the participating States agree on the following:

I. Culture and Freedom

1. The participating States emphasize that respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms is essential to the full development of cultural creativity.
2. The State and the public authorities will refrain from infringing upon the freedom of artistic creation.

3. The participating States undertake to promote and protect the free and unhindered development of artistic creativity; they recognize the important role of the individual artist in society and will respect and protect the integrity of creative work.
4. They recognize the need for governments to strike a balance between their dual responsibility of acting in support of, and ensuring the freedom of, cultural activity.
5. They further acknowledge that, given the variety of cultural activity in the participating States, there are many ways in which governments might choose to respond effectively to concerns relating to the cultural heritage.
6. The participating States recall their respect for freedom of expression and, in connection with the exercise of that freedom in the artistic and cultural fields, state as follows:
 - 6.1 The publication of written works, the performance and broadcasting of musical, theatrical and audiovisual works, and the exhibition of pictorial or sculptural works will not be subject to restriction or interference by the State save such restrictions as are prescribed by domestic legislation and are fully consistent with international standards.
 - 6.2 They express their conviction that the existence, in the artistic and cultural fields, of a diversity of means of dissemination independent of the State, such as publishing houses, radio broadcasting, cinema and television enterprises, theatres and galleries, helps to ensure pluralism and the freedom of artistic and cultural expression.
7. The participating States recall their commitments to unhindered access to culture, and agree as follows:
 - 7.1 While duly respecting intellectual property rights, any person or independent organization has the right to own privately, use and reproduce all kinds of cultural materials, such as books, publications and audiovisual recordings, and the means of reproducing them.
8. The participating States are resolved to promote the mutual knowledge of their respective cultures. Accordingly, they will encourage co-operation and exchanges in all fields of culture and creative work.
9. The participating States are convinced of the enrichment which regional and local cultures, including those connected with national minorities, bring to cultural life.

II. Culture and Heritage

10. The participating States express their deeply-held conviction that the cultural heritage of each one of them constitutes an inalienable part of their civilization, their memory and their common history, to be transmitted to future generations.
11. The participating States take note of the definitions of archaeological property, of the cultural heritage and of the architectural heritage in the relevant international documents of the Council of Europe and UNESCO.
12. The complete and lasting documentation of sites, structures, cultural landscapes, objects and cultural systems, including historical, religious and cultural monuments, as they presently exist, is one of the most important legacies to the cultural heritage that can be provided for future generations.

13. The participating States also recognize as vital elements of their common cultural heritage, the heritage of those cultures which, because of language barriers, climate and geographical distance, limited population or turns of history and political circumstances, have not been widely accessible.

14. The participating states will endeavour to protect the cultural heritage, in compliance with relevant international agreements and with their domestic legislation.

15. The participating States will pay heed to the preservation, enhancement and restoration of the cultural heritage when drawing up cultural, environmental and regional and urban planning policies. They further note the importance of relating individual conservation projects to their authentic urban or rural environment, where appropriate and whenever possible.

16. The participating States recognize the importance of making their cultural heritage as widely accessible as possible. In doing so, they will pay particular attention to the needs of the handicapped.

16.1 They will endeavour to safeguard the heritage from damage which may be caused by management of and public access to it.

16.2 They will promote public awareness of the value of the heritage and the need to protect it.

16.3 They will seek, wherever possible, to facilitate access for researchers and scholars to relevant primary documents and archive materials.

17. The participating States note favourably the role of non-governmental associations in promoting awareness of the heritage and the need for its protection.

18. Partnerships among diverse groups at the local, regional and national level, from both the private and the public sector, are valuable for ensuring the effective and representative preservation of the cultural heritage. The preservation and interpretation of the values and the cultural heritage of diverse groups will be enhanced with the involvement of those groups, which is conducive to the tolerance and respect for different cultures which are of paramount importance.

19. The participating States recognize the usefulness and importance of exchanging information on preserving the cultural heritage and acknowledge that the use of data banks, on a national and multilateral level, could make a useful contribution to this work.

III. Principal Areas of Preservation and Co-operation

20. The participating States will encourage training, at the initial and advanced levels, for the various professions and crafts involved in preserving and restoring the cultural heritage, as well as in administering it. They agree to keep one another informed of any important developments in this field and to co-operate with one another.

20.1 The dissemination of knowledge and skills, especially vanishing skills related to the cultural heritage, through training, the exchange of personnel, research and technical publication, is necessary to ensure continuity in cultural preservation. They therefore reaffirm their commitments to encourage bilateral and multilateral exchanges of trainees and specialists.

20.2 The participating States should invite the appropriate professional organizations to set up a national register of skilled craftspersons competent in the field of the protection and preservation of the cultural heritage, in order to facilitate contacts between such persons and the users of their services both nationally and internationally.

21. The participating States will exchange data on their cultural heritage policies, particularly regarding the methods, means and possibilities provided by new technologies.
22. The participating States will strive to share their knowledge and experience in the area of publishing and distribution of printed and audiovisual material.
 - 22.1 With a view to increasing public awareness regarding the preservation of the cultural heritage, the participating States will make information available that will assist radio and television stations, as well as the print media, to promote information in this area.
23. They will endeavour to improve storage conditions for perishable cultural goods such as paper, film tapes and recorded sound materials, to establish national programmes for the preservation of the perishable cultural heritage and to set commonly accepted standards for all types of carriers of cultural products in order to safeguard the permanence of such items of culture.
24. The participating States will encourage the establishment of links between resource centres and data banks in cultural fields so as to facilitate the exchange of information between them.
25. With a view to a better understanding of the cultural values of the countries whose languages are less widely spoken, the participating States welcome the dissemination of knowledge about and of such languages, in particular through the translation and publication of literary works from these countries. The organization of international training courses for media and cultural personnel involved in promoting the understanding of less-spoken languages and less widely-known cultures should also be considered.
26. Acknowledging the important contribution of religious faiths, institutions and organizations to the cultural heritage, the participating States will co-operate closely with them regarding the preservation of the cultural heritage and pay due attention to monuments and objects of religious origin whose original communities no longer use them or no longer exist in the particular region.
27. Bearing in mind the important role that regional aspects of culture may play in linking people across national borders, the participating States will favour regional co-operation at the level of local and national authorities as well as non-governmental organizations with a view to fostering good-neighbourly relations.
28. The participating States will accord due attention to strengthening the heritage of popular culture of the past, including indigenous and vernacular cultures, and to encouraging a contemporary popular culture within the framework of their overall efforts for the preservation, study, protection and promotion of mutual awareness of their cultural heritage. The participating States note the importance of research into various forms of expression of past and present cultures – symbolic practices, technical objects and knowledge, folk art, languages – and the importance of doing what is necessary to highlight them.
29. The participating States will also pay attention to more recent contributions to the cultural heritage (art, including architectural works, of the 20th century).
30. The participating States will co-operate in preventing the illegal circulation of cultural objects, for example by considering adhering to the relevant international instruments.
31. The participating States will strive to preserve and protect those monuments and sites of remembrance, including most notably extermination camps, and the related archives, which are themselves testimonials to tragic experiences in their common past. Such steps need to be taken in order

that those experiences may be remembered, may help to teach present and future generations of these events, and thus ensure that they are never repeated.

32. The interpretation of sensitive sites of remembrance can serve as a valuable means of promoting tolerance and understanding among people and will take into account social and cultural diversity.

33. The participating States recognize that, in defining priorities for preservation, it is important to take into account both the intrinsic value of the cultural heritage, its relative state of deterioration and its historic cultural content. To this effect they will, as appropriate, endeavour to promote the use of risk charts, the exchange of information and the organization of on-site workshops, ideal also for the involvement of younger generations.

34. The participating States bear in mind that the preservation of the status of monuments and sites related to their history and culture, wherever they are located, constitutes an integral part of the overall efforts within the CSCE for the preservation and protection of the common cultural heritage.

35. The participating States believe that taking concerted measures to protect the common cultural heritage from environmental damage is necessary. To this end they will consider establishing or joining networks for the collection of data and co-ordination of research. They will endeavour to co-ordinate policy decisions and undertake direct measures to reduce the impact of air pollution and other degradation on the common cultural heritage.

36. With a view to protecting cultural sites in urban environments, measures will be taken by the participating States to counteract the effects of pollution on the architectural complexes of threatened cities; to restore, preserve and revitalize historical urban centres; and to safeguard sites and protect them from damage due to the increasing flow of tourists.

37. The participating States note the importance of protecting the cultural landscape, particularly in villages and rural areas, from the danger inherent in changes in the pattern of economic activities and in the impact of pollution, with a special view to protecting dwellings and coherent ensembles of the everyday living environment.

38. In view of the contribution which natural history can make to our understanding of the world of today and its evolution in the future, the participating States will endeavour to foster the preservation and interpretation of natural history sites and collections.

39. The participating States note the importance of safeguarding public and private parks and historical gardens, as works of humanity and nature, due to their historical, botanical and social interest, including their decorative and architectural elements.

40. The participating States will endeavour to safeguard and protect the archaeological sites located on their territories, including sites located under water. They will bear this aspect in mind during regional development operations which are likely to be a threat to sites which have not yet been scientifically surveyed, excavated or restored.

41. They stress the need for co-ordination of the activities of international organizations and institutions, such as the Council of Europe and UNESCO, in order to contribute to the full development of cultural co-operation among the participating States. Bearing in mind the need to avoid duplication of effort, the participating States will co-operate closely within the competent international organizations to which they belong.

(...)

Report of the CSCE Meeting of Experts on National Minorities

Geneva 1991

(...)

In accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter of Paris, the representatives of the participating States had a thorough discussion on the issues of national minorities and of the rights of persons belonging to them that reflected the diversity of situations and of the legal, historical, political and economic backgrounds. They had an exchange of views on practical experience with national minorities, in particular on national legislation, democratic institutions, international instruments and other possible forms of co-operation. Views were expressed on the implementation of the relevant CSCE commitments, and the representatives of the participating States also considered the scope for the improvement of relevant standards. They also considered new measures aimed at improving the implementation of the aforementioned commitments.

A number of proposals were submitted for consideration by the Meeting and, following their deliberations, the representatives of the participating States adopted this Report.

The text of the Report of the Geneva Meeting of Experts on National Minorities will be published in each participating State, which will disseminate it and make it known as widely as possible.

The representatives of the participating States note that the Council will take into account the summing up of the Meeting, in accordance with the Charter of Paris for a New Europe.

I.

Recognizing that their observance and full exercise of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including those of persons belonging to national minorities, are the foundation of the New Europe,

Reaffirming their deep conviction that friendly relations among their peoples, as well as peace, justice, stability and democracy, require that the ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious identity of national minorities be protected, and conditions for the promotion of that identity be created,

Convinced that, in States with national minorities, democracy requires that all persons, including those belonging to national minorities, enjoy full and effective equality of rights and fundamental freedoms and benefit from the rule of law and democratic institutions,

Aware of the diversity of situations and constitutional systems in their countries, and therefore recognizing that various approaches to the implementation of CSCE commitments regarding national minorities are appropriate,

Mindful of the importance of exerting efforts to address national minorities issues, particularly in areas where democratic institutions are being consolidated and questions relating to national minorities are of special concern,

Aware that national minorities form an integral part of the society of the States in which they live and that they are a factor of enrichment of each respective State and society,

Confirming the need to respect and implement fully and fairly their undertakings in the field of human rights and fundamental freedoms as set forth in the international instruments by which they may be bound,

Reaffirming their strong determination to respect and apply, to their full extent, all their commitments relating to national minorities and persons belonging to them in the Helsinki Final Act, the Madrid Concluding Document and the Vienna Concluding Document, the Document of the Copenhagen Meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension of the CSCE, the Document of the Cracow Symposium on the Cultural Heritage as well as the Charter of Paris for a New Europe, the participating States present below the summary of their conclusions.

The representatives of the participating States took as the fundamental basis of their work the commitments undertaken by them with respect to national minorities as contained in the relevant adopted CSCE documents, in particular those in the Charter of Paris for a New Europe and the Document of the Copenhagen Meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension of the CSCE, which they fully reaffirmed.

II.

The participating States stress the continued importance of a thorough review of implementation of their CSCE commitments relating to persons belonging to national minorities.

They emphasize that human rights and fundamental freedoms are the basis for the protection and promotion of rights of persons belonging to national minorities. They further recognize that questions relating to national minorities can only be satisfactorily resolved in a democratic political framework based on the rule of law, with a functioning independent judiciary. This framework guarantees full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, equal rights and status for all citizens, including persons belonging to national minorities, the free expression of all their legitimate interests and aspirations, political pluralism, social tolerance and the implementation of legal rules that place effective restraints on the abuse of governmental power.

Issues concerning national minorities, as well as compliance with international obligations and commitments concerning the rights of persons belonging to them, are matters of legitimate international concern and consequently do not constitute exclusively an internal affair of the respective State.

They note that not all ethnic, cultural, linguistic or religious differences necessarily lead to the creation of national minorities.

III.

Respecting the right of persons belonging to national minorities to effective participation in public affairs, the participating States consider that when issues relating to the situation of national minorities are discussed within their countries, they themselves should have the effective opportunity to be involved, in accordance with the decision – making procedures of each State. They further consider that appropriate democratic participation of persons belonging to national minorities or their representatives in decision-making or consultative bodies constitutes an important element of effective participation in public affairs.

They consider that special efforts must be made to resolve specific problems in a constructive manner and through dialogue by means of negotiations and consultations with a view to improving the situation of persons belonging to national minorities. They recognize that the promotion of dialogue between States, and between States and persons belonging to national minorities, will be most successful when there is a free flow of information and ideas between all parties. They encourage unilateral, bilateral and multilateral efforts by governments to explore avenues for enhancing the effectiveness of their implementation of CSCE commitments relating to national minorities.

The participating States further consider that respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms must be accorded on a non-discriminatory basis throughout society. In areas inhabited mainly by persons belonging to a national minority, the human rights and fundamental freedoms of persons belonging to that minority, of persons belonging to the majority population of the respective State, and of persons belonging to other national minorities residing in these areas will be equally protected.

They reconfirm that persons belonging to national minorities have the right freely to express, preserve and develop their ethnic, cultural, linguistic or religious identity and to maintain and develop their culture in all its aspects, free of any attempts at assimilation against their will.

They will permit the competent authorities to inform the Office for Free Elections of all scheduled public elections on their territories, including those held below national level. The participating States will consider favourably, to the extent permitted by law, the presence of observers at elections held below the national level, including in areas inhabited by national minorities, and will endeavour to facilitate their access.

IV.

The participating States will create conditions for persons belonging to national minorities to have equal opportunity to be effectively involved in the public life, economic activities, and building of their societies.

In accordance with paragraph 31 of the Copenhagen Document, the participating States will take the necessary measures to prevent discrimination against individuals, particularly in respect of employment, housing and education, on the grounds of belonging or not belonging to a national minority. In that context, they will make provision, if they have not yet done so, for effective recourse to redress for individuals who have experienced discriminatory treatment on the grounds of their belonging or not belonging to a national minority, including by making available to individual victims of discrimination a broad array of administrative and judicial remedies.

The participating States are convinced that the preservation of the values and of the cultural heritage of national minorities requires the involvement of persons belonging to such minorities and that tolerance and respect for different cultures are of paramount importance in this regard. Accordingly, they confirm the importance of refraining from hindering the production of cultural materials concerning national minorities, including by persons belonging to them.

The participating States affirm that persons belonging to a national minority will enjoy the same rights and have the same duties of citizenship as the rest of the population.

The participating States reconfirm the importance of adopting, where necessary, special measures for the purpose of ensuring to persons belonging to national minorities full equality with the other citizens in the exercise and enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms. They further

recall the need to take the necessary measures to protect the ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious identity of national minorities on their territory and create conditions for the promotion of that identity; any such measures will be in conformity with the principles of equality and non-discrimination with respect to the other citizens of the participating State concerned.

They recognize that such measures, which take into account, *inter alia*, historical and territorial circumstances of national minorities, are particularly important in areas where democratic institutions are being consolidated and national minorities issues are of special concern.

Aware of the diversity and varying constitutional systems among them, which make no single approach necessarily generally applicable, the participating States note with interest that positive results have been obtained by some of them in an appropriate democratic manner by, *inter alia*:

- advisory and decision-making bodies in which minorities are represented, in particular with regard to education, culture and religion;
- elected bodies and assemblies of national minority affairs;
- local and autonomous administration, as well as autonomy on a territorial basis, including the existence of consultative, legislative and executive bodies chosen through free and periodic elections;
- self-administration by a national minority of aspects concerning its identity in situations where autonomy on a territorial basis does not apply;
- decentralized or local forms of government;
- bilateral and multilateral agreements and other arrangements regarding national minorities;
- for persons belonging to national minorities, provision of adequate types and levels of education in their mother tongue with due regard to the number, geographic settlement patterns and cultural traditions of national minorities;
- funding the teaching of minority languages to the general public, as well as the inclusion of minority languages in teacher-training institutions, in particular in regions inhabited by persons belonging to national minorities;
- in cases where instruction in a particular subject is not provided in their territory in the minority language at all levels, taking the necessary measures to find means of recognizing diplomas issued abroad for a course of study completed in that language;
- creation of government research agencies to review legislation and disseminate information related to equal rights and non-discrimination;
- provision of financial and technical assistance to persons belonging to national minorities who so wish to exercise their right to establish and maintain their own educational, cultural and religious institutions, organizations and associations;
- governmental assistance for addressing local difficulties relating to discriminatory practices (e.g. a citizens relations service);
- encouragement of grassroots community relations efforts between minority communities, between majority and minority communities, and between neighbouring communities sharing borders, aimed at helping to prevent local tensions from arising and address conflicts peacefully should they arise; and
- encouragement of the establishment of permanent mixed commissions, either inter-State or regional, to facilitate continuing dialogue between the border regions concerned.

The participating States are of the view that these or other approaches, individually or in combination, could be helpful in improving the situation of national minorities on their territories.

V.

The participating States respect the right of persons belonging to national minorities to exercise and enjoy their rights alone or in community with others, to establish and maintain organizations and associations within their country, and to participate in international non-governmental organizations.

The participating States reaffirm, and will not hinder the exercise of, the right of persons belonging to national minorities to establish and maintain their own educational, cultural and religious institutions, organizations and associations.

In this regard, they recognize the major and vital role that individuals, non-governmental organizations, and religious and other groups play in fostering cross-cultural understanding and improving relations at all levels of society, as well as across international frontiers.

They believe that the first-hand observations and experience of such organizations, groups, and individuals can be of great value in promoting the implementation of CSCE commitments relating to persons belonging to national minorities. They therefore will encourage and not hinder the work of such organizations, groups and individuals and welcome their contributions in this area.

VI.

The participating States, concerned by the proliferation of acts of racial, ethnic and religious hatred, anti-semitism, xenophobia and discrimination, stress their determination to condemn, on a continuing basis, such acts against anyone.

In this context, they reaffirm their recognition of the particular problems of Roma (gypsies). They are ready to undertake effective measures in order to achieve full equality of opportunity between persons belonging to Roma ordinarily resident in their State and the rest of the resident population. They will also encourage research and studies regarding Roma and the particular problems they face.

They will take effective measures to promote tolerance, understanding, equality of opportunity and good relations between individuals of different origins within their country.

Further, the participating States will take effective measures, including the adoption, in conformity with their constitutional law and their international obligations, if they have not already done so, of laws that would prohibit acts that constitute incitement to violence based on national, racial, ethnic or religious discrimination, hostility or hatred, including anti-semitism, and policies to enforce such laws.

Moreover, in order to heighten public awareness of prejudice and hatred, to improve enforcement of laws against hate-related crime and otherwise to further efforts to address hatred and prejudice in society, they will make efforts to collect, publish on a regular basis, and make available to the public, data about crimes on their respective territories that are based on prejudice as to race, ethnic identity or religion, including the guidelines used for the collection of such data. These data should not contain any personal information.

They will consult and exchange views and information at the international level, including at future meetings of the CSCE, on crimes that manifest evidence of prejudice and hate.

VII.

Convinced that the protection of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities necessitates free flow of information and exchange of ideas, the participating States emphasize the importance of communication between persons belonging to national minorities without interference by public authorities and regardless of frontiers. The exercise of such rights may be subject only to such restrictions as are prescribed by law and are consistent with international standards. They reaffirm that no one belonging to a national minority, simply by virtue of belonging to such a minority, will be subject to penal or administrative sanctions for having had contacts within or outside his/her own country.

In access to the media, they will not discriminate against anyone based on ethnic, cultural, linguistic or religious grounds. They will make information available that will assist the electronic mass media in taking into account, in their programmes, the ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious identity of national minorities.

They reaffirm that establishment and maintenance of unimpeded contacts among persons belonging to a national minority, as well as contacts across frontiers by persons belonging to a national minority with persons with whom they share a common ethnic or national origin, cultural heritage or religious belief, contributes to mutual understanding and promotes good-neighbourly relations.

They therefore encourage transfrontier co-operation arrangements on a national, regional and local level, *inter alia*, on local border crossings, the preservation of and visits to cultural and historical monuments and sites, tourism, the improvement of traffic, the economy, youth exchange, the protection of the environment and the establishment of regional commissions.

They will also encourage the creation of informal working arrangements (e.g. workshops, committees both within and between the participating States) where national minorities live, to discuss issues of, exchange experience on, and present proposals on, issues related to national minorities.

With a view to improving their information about the actual situation of national minorities, the participating States will, on a voluntary basis distribute, through the CSCE Secretariat, information to other participating States about the situation of national minorities in their respective territories, as well as statements of national policy in that respect.

The participating States will deposit with the CSCE Secretariat copies of the contributions made in the Plenary of the CSCE Meeting of Experts on National Minorities which they wish to be available to the public.

VIII.

The participating States welcome the positive contribution made by the representatives of the United Nations and the Council of Europe to the proceedings of the Geneva Meeting of Experts on National Minorities. They note that the work and activities of these organizations will be of continuing relevance to the CSCE's consideration of national minorities issues.

The participating States note that appropriate CSCE mechanisms may be of relevance in addressing questions relating to national minorities. Further, they recommend that the third Meeting of

the Conference on the Human Dimension of the CSCE consider expanding the Human Dimension Mechanism. They will promote the involvement of individuals in the protection of their rights, including the rights of persons belonging to national minorities.

Finally, the representatives of the participating States request the Executive Secretary of the Meeting to transmit this Report to the third Meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension of the CSCE.

Document of the Moscow Meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension of the CSCE

Moscow 1991

(...)

The participating States renew their commitment to implement fully all the principles and provisions of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, of the Charter of Paris for a New Europe and of the other CSCE documents relating to the human dimension, including, in particular, the Document of the Copenhagen Meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension of the CSCE, and are determined to achieve still further progress in the implementation of these provisions, as full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and the development of societies based on pluralistic democracy and the rule of law are prerequisites for a lasting order of peace, security, justice and co-operation in Europe.

In this context, the participating States underlined that, in accordance with the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe and the Charter of Paris for a New Europe, the equal rights of peoples and their right to self-determination are to be respected in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant norms of international law, including those relating to territorial integrity of States.

At the Moscow Meeting views were expressed by the participating States on the implementation of their commitments in the field of the human dimension. They considered that the degree of compliance with the commitments contained in the relevant provisions of the CSCE documents had shown further substantial improvement since the Copenhagen Meeting. They also considered that, in spite of the significant progress made, serious threats to and violations of CSCE principles and provisions continue to exist and have a sobering effect on the assessment of the overall situation in Europe. In particular, they deplored acts of discrimination, hostility and violence against persons or groups on national, ethnic or religious grounds. The participating States therefore expressed the view that, for the full realization of their commitments relating to the human dimension, continued efforts are still required which should benefit substantially from the profound political changes that have occurred.

The participating States emphasize that issues relating to human rights, fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law are of international concern, as respect for these rights and freedoms constitutes one of the foundations of the international order. They categorically and irrevocably declare that the commitments undertaken in the field of the human dimension of the CSCE are matters of direct and legitimate concern to all participating States and do not belong exclusively to the internal affairs of the State concerned. They express their determination to fulfil all of their human dimension commitments and to resolve by peaceful means any related issue, individually and collectively, on the basis of mutual respect and co-operation. In this context they recognize that the active involvement of persons, groups, organizations and institutions is essential to ensure continuing progress in this direction.

The participating States express their collective determination to further safeguard human rights and fundamental freedoms and to consolidate democratic advances in their territories. They also recognize a compelling need to increase the CSCE's effectiveness in addressing human rights concerns that arise in their territories at this time of profound change in Europe.

In order to strengthen and expand the human dimension mechanism described in the section on the human dimension of the CSCE in the Concluding Document of the Vienna Meeting and to build upon and deepen the commitments set forth in the Document of the Copenhagen Meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension of the CSCE, the participating States adopt the following:

I

(1) The participating States emphasize that the human dimension mechanism described in paragraphs 1 to 4 of the section on the human dimension of the CSCE in the Vienna Concluding Document constitutes an essential achievement of the CSCE process, having demonstrated its value as a method of furthering respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law through dialogue and co-operation and assisting in the resolution of specific relevant questions. In order to improve further the implementation of the CSCE commitments in the human dimension, they decide to enhance the effectiveness of this mechanism and to strengthen and expand it as outlined in the following paragraphs.

(2) The participating States amend paragraphs 42.1 and 42.2 of the Document of the Copenhagen Meeting to the effect that they will provide in the shortest possible time, but no later than ten days, a written response to requests for information and to representations made to them in writing by other participating States under paragraph 1 of the human dimension mechanism. Bilateral meetings, as referred to in paragraph 2 of the human dimension mechanism, will take place as soon as possible, and as a rule within one week of the date of the request.

(3) A resource list comprising up to three experts appointed by each participating State will be established without delay at the CSCE Institution.* The experts will be eminent persons, preferably experienced in the field of the human dimension, from whom an impartial performance of their functions may be expected.

The experts will be appointed for a period of three to six years at the discretion of the appointing State, no expert serving more than two consecutive terms. Within four weeks after notification by the CSCE Institution of the appointment, any participating State may make reservations regarding no more than two experts to be appointed by another participating state. In such case, the appointing State may, within four weeks of being notified of such reservations, reconsider its decision and appoint another expert or experts; if it confirms the appointment originally intended, the expert concerned cannot take part in any procedure with respect to the State having made the reservation without the latter's express consent

The resource list will become operational as soon as 45 experts have been appointed.

(4) A participating State may invite the assistance of a CSCE mission, consisting of up to three experts, to address or contribute to the resolution of questions in its territory relating to the human dimension of the CSCE. In such case, the State will select the person or persons concerned from the resource list. The mission of experts will not include the participating State's own nationals or

* The Council will take the decision on the institution.

residents or any of the persons it appointed to the resource list or more than one national or resident of any particular State.

The inviting State will inform without delay the CSCE Institution when a mission of experts is established, which in turn will notify all participating States. The CSCE institutions will also, whenever necessary, provide appropriate support to such a mission.

(5) The purpose of a mission of experts is to facilitate resolution of a particular question or problem relating to the human dimension of the CSCE. Such mission may gather the information necessary for carrying out its tasks and, as appropriate, use its good offices and mediation services to promote dialogue and co-operation among interested parties. The State concerned will agree with the mission on the precise terms of reference and may thus assign any further functions to the mission of experts, *inter alia*, fact-finding and advisory services, in order to suggest ways and means of facilitating the observance of CSCE commitments.

(6) The inviting State will co-operate fully with the mission of experts and facilitate its work. It will grant the mission all the facilities necessary for the independent exercise of its functions. It will, *inter alia*, allow the mission, for the purpose of carrying out its tasks, to enter its territory without delay, to hold discussions and to travel freely therein, to meet freely with officials, non-governmental organizations and any group or person from whom it wishes to receive information. The mission may also receive information in confidence from any individual, group or organization on questions it is addressing. The members of such missions will respect the confidential nature of their task.

The participating States will refrain from any action against persons, organizations or institutions on account of their contact with the mission of experts or of any publicly available information transmitted to it. The inviting State will comply with any request from a mission of experts to be accompanied by officials of that State if the mission considers this to be necessary to facilitate its work or guarantee its safety.

(7) The mission of experts will submit its observations to the inviting State as soon as possible, preferably within three weeks after the mission has been established. The inviting State will transmit the observations of the mission, together with a description of any action it has taken or intends to take upon it, to the other participating States via the CSCE Institution no later than three weeks after the submission of the observations.

These observations and any comments by the inviting State may be discussed by the Committee of Senior Officials, which may consider any possible follow-up action. The observations and comments will remain confidential until brought to the attention of the Senior Officials. Before the circulation of the observations and any comments, no other mission of experts may be appointed for the same issue.

(8) Furthermore, one or more participating States, having put into effect paragraphs 1 or 2 of the human dimension mechanism, may request that the CSCE Institution inquire of another participating State whether it would agree to invite a mission of experts to address a particular, clearly defined question on its territory relating to the human dimension of the CSCE. If the other participating State agrees to invite a mission of experts for the purpose indicated, the procedure set forth in paragraphs 4 to 7 will apply.

(9) If a participating State (a) has directed an enquiry under paragraph 8 to another participating State and that State has not established a mission of experts within a period of ten days after the

enquiry has been made, or (b) judges that the issue in question has not been resolved as a result of a mission of experts, it may, with the support of at least five other participating States, initiate the establishment of a mission of up to three CSCE rapporteurs. Such a decision will be addressed to the CSCE Institution, which will notify without delay the State concerned as well as all the other participating States.

(10) The requesting State or States may appoint one person from the resource list to serve as a CSCE rapporteur. The requested State may, if it so chooses, appoint a further rapporteur from the resource list within six days after notification by the CSCE Institution of the appointment of the rapporteur. In such case the two designated rapporteurs, who will not be nationals or residents of, or persons appointed to the resource list by any of the States concerned, will by common agreement and without delay appoint a third rapporteur from the resource list. In case they fail to reach agreement within eight days, a third rapporteur who will not be a national or resident of, or a person appointed to the resource list by any of the States concerned, will be appointed from the resource list by the ranking official of the CSCE body designated by the Council. The provisions of the second part of paragraph 4 and the whole of paragraph 6 also apply to a mission of rapporteurs.

(11) The CSCE rapporteur(s) will establish the facts, report on them and may give advice on possible solutions to the question raised. The report of the rapporteur(s), containing observations of facts, proposals or advice, will be submitted to the participating State or States concerned and, unless all the States concerned agree otherwise, to the CSCE Institution no later than three weeks after the last rapporteur has been appointed. The requested State will submit any observations on the report to the CSCE Institution, unless all the States concerned agree otherwise, no later than three weeks after the submission of the report.

The CSCE Institution will transmit the report, as well as any observations by the requested State or any other participating State, to all participating States without delay. The report may be placed on the agenda of the next regular meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials, which may decide on any possible follow-up action. The report will remain confidential until after that meeting of the Committee. Before the circulation of the report no other rapporteur may be appointed for the same issue.

(12) If a participating State considers that a particularly serious threat to the fulfilment of the provisions of the CSCE human dimension has arisen in another participating State, it may, with the support of at least nine other participating States, engage the procedure set forth in paragraph 10. The provisions of paragraph 11 will apply.

(13) Upon the request of any participating State the Committee of Senior Officials may decide to establish a mission of experts or of CSCE rapporteurs. In such case the Committee will also determine whether to apply the appropriate provisions of the preceding paragraphs.

(14) The participating State or States that have requested the establishment of a mission of experts or rapporteurs will cover the expenses of that mission. In case of the appointment of experts or rapporteurs pursuant to a decision of the Committee of Senior Officials, the expenses will be covered by the participating States in accordance with the usual scale of distribution of expenses. These procedures will be reviewed by the Helsinki Follow-up Meeting of the CSCE.

(15) Nothing in the foregoing will in any way affect the right of participating States to raise within the CSCE process any issue relating to the implementation of any CSCE commitment, including any commitment relating to the human dimension of the CSCE.

(16) In considering whether to invoke the procedures in paragraphs 9 and 10 or 12 regarding the case of an individual, participating States should pay due regard to whether that individual's case is already *sub judice* in an international judicial procedure.

Any reference to the Committee of Senior Officials in this document is subject to the decision of that Committee and the Council.

II

(17) The participating States

(17.1) – condemn unreservedly forces which seek to take power from a representative government of a participating State against the will of the people as expressed in free and fair elections and contrary to the justly established constitutional order;

(17.2) – will support vigorously, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, in case of overthrow or attempted overthrow of a legitimately elected government of a participating State by undemocratic means, the legitimate organs of that State upholding human rights, democracy and the rule of law, recognizing their common commitment to countering any attempt to curb these basic values;

(17.3) – recognize the need to make further peaceful efforts concerning human rights, democracy and the rule of law within the context of security and co-operation in Europe, individually and collectively, to make democratic advances irreversible and prevent any falling below the standards laid down in the principles and provisions of the Final Act, the Vienna Concluding Document, the Document of the Copenhagen Meeting, the Charter of Paris for a New Europe and the present document.

(18) The participating States recall their commitment to the rule of law in the Document of the Copenhagen Meeting and affirm their dedication to supporting and advancing those principles of justice which form the basis of the rule of law. In particular, they again reaffirm that democracy is an inherent element in the rule of law and that pluralism is important in regard to political organizations.

(18.1) Legislation will be formulated and adopted as the result of an open process reflecting the will of the people, either directly or through their elected representatives.

(18.2) Everyone will have an effective means of redress against administrative decisions, so as to guarantee respect for fundamental rights and ensure legal integrity.

(18.3) To the same end, there will be effective means of redress against administrative regulations for individuals affected thereby.

(18.4) The participating States will endeavour to provide for judicial review of such regulations and decisions.

(19) The participating States

(19.1) – will respect the internationally recognized standards that relate to the independence of judges and legal practitioners and the impartial operation of the public judicial service including, *inter alia*, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

(19.2) – will, in implementing the relevant standards and commitments, ensure that the independence of the judiciary is guaranteed and enshrined in the constitution or the law of the country and is respected in practice, paying particular attention to the Basic Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary, which, *inter alia*, provide for

- (i) prohibiting improper influence on judges;
- (ii) preventing revision of judicial decisions by administrative authorities, except for the rights of the competent authorities to mitigate or commute sentences imposed by judges, in conformity with the law;
- (iii) protecting the judiciary's freedom of expression and association, subject only to such restrictions as are consistent with its functions;
- (iv) ensuring that judges are properly qualified, trained and selected on a non-discriminatory basis;
- (v) guaranteeing tenure and appropriate conditions of service, including on the matter of promotion of judges, where applicable;
- (vi) respecting conditions of immunity;
- (vii) ensuring that the disciplining, suspension and removal of judges are determined according to law.

(20) For the promotion of the independence of the judiciary, the participating States will

(20.1) – recognize the important function national and international associations of judges and lawyers can perform in strengthening respect for the independence of their members and in providing education and training on the role of the judiciary and the legal profession in society;

(20.2) – promote and facilitate dialogue, exchanges and co-operation among national associations and other groups interested in ensuring respect for the independence of the judiciary and the protection of lawyers;

(20.3) – co-operate among themselves through, *inter alia*, dialogue, contacts and exchanges in order to identify where problem areas exist concerning the protection of the independence of judges and legal practitioners and to develop ways and means to address and resolve such problems;

(20.4) – co-operate on an ongoing basis in such areas as the education and training of judges and legal practitioners, as well as the preparation and enactment of legislation intended to strengthen respect for their independence and the impartial operation of the public judicial service.

(21) The participating States will

(21.1) – take all necessary measures to ensure that law enforcement personnel, when enforcing public order, will act in the public interest, respond to a specific need and pursue a legitimate aim, as well as use ways and means commensurate with the circumstances, which will not exceed the needs of enforcement;

(21.2) – ensure that law enforcement acts are subject to judicial control, that law enforcement personnel are held accountable for such acts, and that due compensation may be sought, according to domestic law, by the victims of acts found to be in violation of the above commitments.

(22) The participating States will take appropriate measures to ensure that education and information regarding the prohibition of excess force by law enforcement personnel as well as relevant international and domestic codes of conduct are included in the training of such personnel.

(23) The participating States will treat all persons deprived of their liberty with humanity and with respect for the inherent dignity of the human person and will respect the internationally recognized standards that relate to the administration of justice and the human rights of detainees.

(23.1) The participating States will ensure that

- (i) no one will be deprived of his liberty except on such grounds and in accordance with such procedures as are established by law;
- (ii) anyone who is arrested will be informed promptly in a language which he understands of the reason for his arrest, and will be informed of any charges against him;
- (iii) any person who has been deprived of his liberty will be promptly informed about his rights according to domestic law;
- (iv) any person arrested or detained will have the right to be brought promptly before a judge or other officer authorized by law to determine the lawfulness of his arrest or detention, and will be released without delay if it is unlawful;
- (v) anyone charged with a criminal offence will have the right to defend himself in person or through legal assistance of his own choosing or, if he has not sufficient means to pay for legal assistance, to be given it free when the interests of justice so require;
- (vi) any person arrested or detained will have the right, without undue delay, to notify or to require the competent authority to notify appropriate persons of his choice of his arrest, detention, imprisonment and whereabouts; any restriction in the exercise of this right will be prescribed by law and in accordance with international standards;
- (vii) effective measures will be adopted, if this has not already been done, to provide that law enforcement bodies do not take undue advantage of the situation of a detained or imprisoned person for the purpose of compelling him to confess, or otherwise to incriminate himself, or to force him to testify against any other person;
- (viii) the duration of any interrogation and the intervals between them will be recorded and certified, consistent with domestic law;
- (ix) a detained person or his counsel will have the right to make a request or complaint regarding his treatment, in particular when torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment has been applied, to the authorities responsible for the administration of the place of detention and to higher authorities, and when necessary, to appropriate authorities vested with reviewing or remedial power;
- (x) such request or complaint will be promptly dealt with and replied to without undue delay; if the request or complaint is rejected or in case of inordinate delay, the complainant will be entitled to bring it before a judicial or other authority; neither the detained or imprisoned person nor any complainant will suffer prejudice for making a request or complaint;
- (xi) anyone who has been the victim of an unlawful arrest or detention will have a legally enforceable right to seek compensation.

(23.2) The participating States will

- (i) endeavour to take measures, as necessary, to improve the conditions of individuals in detention or imprisonment;
- (ii) pay particular attention to the question of alternatives to imprisonment.

(24) The participating States reconfirm the right to the protection of private and family life, domicile, correspondence and electronic communications. In order to avoid any improper or arbitrary intrusion by the State in the realm of the individual, which would be harmful to any democratic society, the exercise of this right will be subject only to such restrictions as are prescribed by law and are consistent with internationally recognized human rights standards. In particular, the participating States will ensure that searches and seizures of persons and private premises and property will take place only in accordance with standards that are judicially enforceable.

(25) The participating States will

(25.1) – ensure that their military and paramilitary forces, internal security and intelligence services, and the police are subject to the effective direction and control of the appropriate civil authorities;

(25.2) – maintain and, where necessary, strengthen executive control over the use of military and paramilitary forces as well as the activities of the internal security and intelligence services and the police;

(25.3) – take appropriate steps to create, wherever they do not already exist, and maintain effective arrangements for legislative supervision of all such forces, services and activities.

(26) The participating States reaffirm the right to freedom of expression, including the right to communication and the right of the media to collect, report and disseminate information, news and opinions. Any restriction in the exercise of this right will be prescribed by law and in accordance with international standards. They further recognize that independent media are essential to a free and open society and accountable systems of government and are of particular importance in safeguarding human rights and fundamental freedoms.

(26.1) They consider that the print and broadcast media in their territory should enjoy unrestricted access to foreign news and information services. The public will enjoy similar freedom to receive and impart information and ideas without interference by public authority regardless of frontiers, including through foreign publications and foreign broadcasts. Any restriction in the exercise of this right will be prescribed by law and in accordance with international standards.

(26.2) The participating States will not discriminate against independent media with respect to affording access to information, material and facilities.

(27) The participating States

(27.1) – express their intention to co-operate in the field of constitutional, administrative, commercial, civil and social welfare laws and their relevant areas, in order to develop, particularly in States where they do not yet exist, legal systems based on respect for human rights, the rule of law and democracy;

(27.2) – to this end, envisage the continuation and enhancement of bilateral and multilateral legal and administrative co-operation, *inter alia*, in the following fields:

- development of an efficient administrative system;
- assistance in formulating law and regulations;
- training of administrative and legal staff;
- exchange of legal works and periodicals.

(28) The participating States consider it important to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms during a state of public emergency, to take into account the relevant provisions of the Document of the Copenhagen Meeting, and to observe the international conventions to which they are parties.

(28.1) The participating States reaffirm that a state of public emergency is justified only by the most exceptional and grave circumstances, consistent with the State's international obligations and CSCE commitments. A state of public emergency may not be used to subvert the democratic constitutional order, nor aim at the destruction of internationally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms. If recourse to force cannot be avoided, its use must be reasonable and limited as far as possible.

(28.2) A state of public emergency may be proclaimed only by a constitutionally lawful body, duly empowered to do so. In cases where the decision to impose a state of public emergency may be lawfully taken by the executive authorities, that decision should be subject to approval in the shortest possible time or to control by the legislature.

(28.3) The decision to impose a state of public emergency will be proclaimed officially, publicly, and in accordance with provisions laid down by law. The decision will, where possible, lay down territorial limits of a state of public emergency. The State concerned will make available to its citizens information, without delay, about which measures have been taken. The state of public emergency will be lifted as soon as possible and will not remain in force longer than strictly required by the exigencies of the situation.

(28.4) A *de facto* imposition or continuation of a state of public emergency not in accordance with provisions laid down by law is not permissible.

(28.5) The participating States will endeavour to ensure that the normal functioning of the legislative bodies will be guaranteed to the highest possible extent during a state of public emergency.

(28.6) The participating States confirm that any derogation from obligations relating to human rights and fundamental freedoms during a state of public emergency must remain strictly within the limits provided for by international law, in particular the relevant international instruments by which they are bound, especially with respect to rights from which there can be no derogation.

(28.7) The participating States will endeavour to refrain from making derogations from those obligations from which, according to international conventions to which they are parties, derogation is possible under a state of public emergency. Measures derogating from such obligations must be taken in strict conformity with the procedural requirements laid down in those instruments. Such measures will neither go further nor remain in force longer than strictly required by the exigencies of the situation; they are by nature exceptional and should be interpreted and applied with restraint. Such measures will not discriminate solely on the grounds of race, colour, sex, language, religion, social origin or of belonging to a minority.

(28.8) The participating States will endeavour to ensure that the legal guarantees necessary to uphold the rule of law will remain in force during a state of public emergency. They will endeavour to provide in their law for control over the regulations related to the state of public emergency, as well as the implementation of such regulations.

(28.9) The participating States will endeavour to maintain freedom of expression and freedom of information, consistent with their international obligations and commitments, with a view to enabling public discussion on the observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms as well as on the lifting of the state of public emergency. They will, in conformity with international standards regarding the freedom of expression, take no measures aimed at barring journalists from the legitimate exercise of their profession other than those strictly required by the exigencies of the situation.

(28.10) When a state of public emergency is declared or lifted in a participating State, the State concerned will immediately inform the CSCE Institution* of this decision, as well as of any derogation made from the State's international human rights obligations. The Institution will inform the other participating States without delay.

(29) The participating States, recognizing their common interest in promoting contacts and the exchange of information amongst Ombudsmen and other institutions entrusted with similar functions of investigating individual complaints of citizens against public authorities, note with appreciation an offer by Spain to host a meeting of Ombudsmen.

* The Council will take the decision on the institution.

(30) The participating States suggest that the appropriate CSCE fora consider expanding the functions of the Office for Free Elections to enable it to assist in strengthening democratic institutions within the participating States.

(31) The participating States acknowledge the extensive experience and expertise of the Council of Europe in the field of human rights. They welcome its contribution to strengthening democracy in Europe, including its readiness to make its experience available to the CSCE.

III

(32) The participating States reaffirm their enduring commitment to the principles and provisions of the Final Act, the Vienna Concluding Document, and other relevant CSCE documents in which they undertook, *inter alia*, to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms and to ensure that they are guaranteed for all without distinction of any kind.

(33) The participating States will remove all legal and other restrictions with respect to travel within their territories for their own nationals and foreigners, and with respect to residence for those entitled to permanent residence, except those restrictions which may be necessary and officially declared for military, safety, ecological or other legitimate government interests, in accordance with their national laws, consistent with CSCE commitments and international human rights obligations. The participating States undertake to keep such restrictions to a minimum.

(34) The participating States will adopt, where appropriate, all feasible measures to protect journalists engaged in dangerous professional missions, particularly in cases of armed conflict, and will co-operate to that effect. These measures will include tracing mission journalists, ascertaining their fate, providing appropriate assistance and facilitating their return to their families.

(35) The participating States reaffirm that guaranteeing the freedom of artistic creation and preserving the cultural heritage form part of the human dimension of the CSCE. They consider that independent intellectual and cultural life is crucial for the maintenance of free societies and democratic institutions. They will implement their commitments in the cultural field, as laid down in the Document of the Cracow Symposium on the Cultural Heritage, and express the view that cultural issues, including cultural freedom, creativity and co-operation, should be further considered in the CSCE.

(36) The participating States recall their commitment in the Vienna Concluding Document to keep the question of capital punishment under consideration and reaffirm their undertakings in the Document of the Copenhagen Meeting to exchange information on the question of the abolition of the death penalty and to make available to the public information regarding the use of the death penalty.

(36.1) They note

(i) that the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aiming at the abolition of the death penalty entered into force on 11 July 1991;

(ii) that a number of participating States have recently taken steps towards the abolition of capital punishment;

(iii) the activities of several non-governmental organizations concerning the question of the death penalty.

(37) The participating States confirm the provisions and commitments of all CSCE documents, in particular the Document of the Copenhagen Meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension

of the CSCE, concerning questions relating to national minorities and the rights of persons belonging to them, and the Report of the Geneva CSCE Meeting of Experts on National Minorities, and call for their full and early implementation. They believe that, in particular, the use of the new and expanded CSCE mechanisms and procedures will contribute to further protection and promotion of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities.

(38) The participating States recognize the need to ensure that the rights of migrant workers and their families lawfully residing in the participating States are respected and underline their right to express freely their ethnic, cultural, religious and linguistic characteristics. The exercise of such rights may be subject to such restrictions as are prescribed by law and are consistent with international standards.

(38.1) They condemn all acts of discrimination on the ground of race, colour and ethnic origin, intolerance and xenophobia against migrant workers. They will, in conformity with domestic law and international obligations, take effective measures to promote tolerance, understanding, equality of opportunity and respect for the fundamental human rights of migrant workers and adopt, if they have not already done so, measures that would prohibit acts that constitute incitement to violence based on national, racial, ethnic or religious discrimination, hostility or hatred.

(38.2) They will adopt appropriate measures that would enable migrant workers to participate in the life of the society of the participating States.

(38.3) They note that issues which concern the human dimension of migrant workers residing on their territory could, as any other issue of the human dimension, be raised under the human dimension mechanism.

(38.4) They recommend that the CSCE in its future work on the human dimension consider appropriate means to hold focused discussions on all issues regarding migrant workers, including, *inter alia*, familiarization with the language and social life of the country concerned.

(39) The participating States will

(39.1) – increase their preparedness and co-operate fully to enable humanitarian relief operations to be undertaken speedily and effectively;

(39.2) – take all necessary steps to facilitate speedy and unhindered access to the affected areas for such relief operations;

(39.3) – make the necessary arrangements for those relief operations to be carried out.

(40) The participating States recognize that full and true equality between men and women is a fundamental aspect of a just and democratic society based on the rule of law. They recognize that the full development of society and the welfare of all its members require equal opportunity for full and equal participation of men and women#. In this context they will

(40.1) – ensure that all CSCE commitments relating to the protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms are applied fully and without discrimination with regard to sex;

(40.2) – comply with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), if they are parties, and, if they have not already done so, consider ratifying or acceding to this Convention; States that have ratified or acceded to this Convention with reservations will consider withdrawing them;

(40.3) – effectively implement the obligations in international instruments to which they are parties and take appropriate measures to implement the United Nations Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women (FLS);

(40.4) – affirm that it is their goal to achieve not only *de jure* but *de facto* equality of opportunity between men and women and to promote effective measures to that end;

(40.5) – establish or strengthen national machinery, as appropriate, for the advancement of women in order to ensure that programmes and policies are assessed for their impact on women;

(40.6) – encourage measures effectively to ensure full economic opportunity for women, including non-discriminatory employment policies and practices, equal access to education and training, and measures to facilitate combining employment with family responsibilities for female and male workers; and will seek to ensure that any structural adjustment policies or programmes do not have an adversely discriminatory effect on women;

(40.7) – seek to eliminate all forms of violence against women, and all forms of traffic in women and exploitation of prostitution of women including by ensuring adequate legal prohibitions against such acts and other appropriate measures;

(40.8) – encourage and promote equal opportunity for full participation by women in all aspects of political and public life, in decision-making processes and in international co-operation in general;

(40.9) – recognize the vital role women and women's organizations play in national and international efforts to promote and enhance women's rights by providing, *inter alia*, direct services and support to women and encouraging a meaningful partnership between governments and these organizations for the purpose of advancing equality for women;

(40.10) – recognize the rich contribution of women to all aspects of political, cultural, social and economic life and promote a broad understanding of these contributions, including those made in the informal and unpaid sectors;

(40.11) – take measures to encourage that information regarding women and women's rights under international and domestic law is easily accessible;

(40.12) – develop educational policies, consistent with their constitutional systems, to support the participation of women in all areas of study and work, including non-traditional areas, and encourage and promote a greater understanding of issues relating to equality between men and women;

(40.13) – ensure the collection and analysis of data to assess adequately, monitor and improve the situation of women; these data should not contain any personal information.

(41) The participating States decide

(41.1) – to ensure protection of the human rights of persons with disabilities;

(41.2) – to take steps to ensure the equal opportunity of such persons to participate fully in the life of their society;

(41.3) – to promote the appropriate participation of such persons in decision-making in fields concerning them;

(41.4) – to encourage services and training of social workers for the vocational and social rehabilitation of persons with disabilities;

(41.5) – to encourage favourable conditions for the access of persons with disabilities to public buildings and services, housing, transport, and cultural and recreational activities.

(42) The participating States

(42.1) – affirm that human rights education is fundamental and that it is therefore essential that their citizens are educated on human rights and fundamental freedoms and the commitment to respect such rights and freedoms in domestic legislation and international instruments to which they may be parties;

(42.2) – recognize that effective human rights education contributes to combating intolerance, religious, racial and ethnic prejudice and hatred, including against Roma, xenophobia and anti-semitism;

(42.3) – will encourage their competent authorities responsible for education programmes to design effective human rights related curricula and courses for students at all levels, particularly students of law, administration and social sciences as well as those attending military, police and public service schools;

(42.4) – will make information on all CSCE human dimension provisions available to their educators;

(42.5) – will encourage organizations and educational establishments to co-operate in drawing up and exchanging human rights programmes at the national as well as the international level;

(42.6) – will seek to ensure that activities undertaken with a view to promoting human rights education in the broader sense take into account experience, programmes and forms of co-operation within existing international governmental and non-governmental bodies, such as the United Nations and the Council of Europe.

(43) The participating States will recognize as NGOs those which declare themselves as such, according to existing national procedures, and will facilitate the ability of such organizations to conduct their national activities freely on their territories; to that effect they will

(43.1) – endeavour to seek ways of further strengthening modalities for contacts and exchanges of views between NGOs and relevant national authorities and governmental institutions;

(43.2) – endeavour to facilitate visits to their countries by NGOs from within any of the participating States in order to observe human dimension conditions;

(43.3) – welcome NGO activities, including, *inter alia*, observing compliance with CSCE commitments in the field of the human dimension;

(43.4) – allow NGOs, in view of their important function within the human dimension of the CSCE, to convey their views to their own governments and the governments of all the other participating States during the future work of the CSCE on the human dimension.

(43.5) During the future work of the CSCE on the human dimension, NGOs will have the opportunity to distribute written contributions on specific issues of the human dimension of the CSCE to all delegations.

(43.6) The CSCE Secretariat will, within the framework of the resources at its disposal, respond favourably to requests by NGOs for non-restricted documents of the CSCE.

(43.7) Guidelines for the participation of NGOs in the future work of the CSCE on the human dimension might, *inter alia*, include the following:

(i) NGOs should be allotted common space at such meeting sites or in their immediate vicinity for their use as well as reasonable access, at their own expense, to technical facilities, including photocopying machines, telephones and fax machines;

(ii) NGOs should be informed and briefed on openness and access procedures in a timely manner;

(iii) delegations to CSCE meetings should be further encouraged to include or invite NGO members.

The participating States recommend that the Helsinki Follow-up Meeting consider establishing such guidelines.

(...)

Prague Document on Further Development of CSCE Institutions and Structures

(Second Meeting of the Council of Ministers)

Prague 1992

(...)

III

Human dimension

6. The Ministers agreed that monitoring and promoting progress in the human dimension remains a key function of the CSCE.

7. Issues related to the human dimension will therefore be considered by the Council or the Committee of Senior Officials whenever necessary.

8. In addition, meetings of a short duration may also be decided upon by the Committee of Senior Officials to address clearly defined issues. Results of such meetings will be submitted to the Council through the Committee of Senior Officials for consideration or decisions as required.

9. In order to extend practical co-operation among participating States in the human dimension, the Ministers decided to give additional functions to the Office for Free Elections which will henceforth be called the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights.

10. Under the general guidance of the CSO, the Office should, *inter alia*:

- organize a short CSCE meeting at the seat of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights to address implementation of CSCE human dimension commitments every year in which a follow-up meeting does not take place. The Helsinki Follow – up Meeting will work out the organizational modalities for such meetings;
- serve as an institutional framework for sharing and exchanging information on available technical assistance, expertise, and national and international programmes aimed at assisting the new democracies in their institution-building;
- facilitate contacts between those offering such resources and those wishing to make use of them;
- develop co-operation with the Council of Europe in order to make use of its database of such resources and services;
- establish contacts with non-governmental organizations active in the field of democratic institution-building, with a view to enabling interested participating States to make use of their extensive resources and expertise;

- facilitate co-operation in training and education in disciplines relevant to democratic institutions;
- organize meetings and seminars among all participating States on subjects related to the building and revitalization of democratic institutions, such as a short seminar on free media and, at an appropriate time, one on migration. These meetings and seminars will be held in Warsaw unless otherwise decided.

11. In order to avoid duplication of work specially in the fields enumerated above, the Ministers directed the Office to work closely with other institutions active in the field of democratic institution-building and human rights, particularly the Council of Europe and the European Commission for Democracy through Law.

12. The CSO will on an annual basis examine the need for meetings and seminars on the human dimension and democratic institutions and will establish a work programme.

13. The Ministers requested the Helsinki Follow-up Meeting to further specify the task of the Warsaw Office and to decide how the human dimension activities of the CSCE may be further carried forward.

14. The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights is designated as the CSCE institution charged with the tasks in connection with expert and rapporteur missions according to the Document of the Moscow Meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension of the CSCE.

15. The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights will be connected to the CSCE communications network.

IV

Safeguarding human rights, democracy and the rule of law

16. The Council decided, in order to develop further the CSCE's capability to safeguard human rights, democracy and the rule of law through peaceful means, that appropriate action may be taken by the Council or the Committee of Senior Officials, if necessary in the absence of the consent of the State concerned, in cases of clear, gross and uncorrected violations of relevant CSCE commitments. Such actions would consist of political declarations or other political steps to apply outside the territory of the State concerned. This decision is without prejudice to existing CSCE mechanisms.

17. The Council requested the Helsinki Follow-up Meeting to consider further modalities in applying this decision.

VIII

Non-Governmental Organizations

42. The Council requests the Helsinki Follow-up Meeting to strengthen relations between the CSCE and non-governmental organizations, in order to increase the role of non-governmental organizations in implementing CSCE goals and commitments. In particular, the Follow-up Meeting will develop opportunities and procedures for meaningful nongovernmental organization involvement in the CSCE and possibilities for non-governmental organizations to communicate with CSCE structures and institutions, recalling *inter alia* the texts on non-governmental organizations agreed by the Sofia and Moscow Meetings and by the Oslo Seminar.

(...)

Helsinki Document: The Challenges of Change

(Summit of Heads of State or Government)

Helsinki 1992

Helsinki Summit Declaration

Promises and Problems of Change

(...)

6. We welcome the commitment of all participating States to our shared values. Respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, democracy, the rule of law, economic liberty, social justice and environmental responsibility are our common aims. They are immutable. Adherence to our commitments provides the basis for participation and co-operation in the CSCE and a cornerstone for further development of our societies.

7. We reaffirm the validity of the guiding principles and common values of the Helsinki Final Act and the Charter of Paris, embodying responsibilities of States towards each other and of governments towards their people. These are the collective conscience of our community. We recognize our accountability to each other for complying with them. We underline the democratic rights of citizens to demand from their governments respect for these values and standards.

8. We emphasize that the commitments undertaken in the field of the human dimension of the CSCE are matters of direct and legitimate concern to all participating States and do not belong exclusively to the internal affairs of the State concerned. The protection and promotion of the human rights and fundamental freedoms and the strengthening of democratic institutions continue to be a vital basis for our comprehensive security.

(...)

12. This is a time of promise but also a time of instability and insecurity. Economic decline, social tension, aggressive nationalism, intolerance, xenophobia and ethnic conflicts threaten stability in the CSCE area. Gross violations of CSCE commitments in the field of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including those related to national minorities, pose a special threat to the peaceful development of society, in particular in new democracies.

There is still much work to be done in building democratic and pluralistic societies, where diversity is fully protected and respected in practice. Consequently, we reject racial, ethnic and religious discrimination in any form. Freedom and tolerance must be taught and practised.

(...)

14. In times of conflict the fulfilment of basic human needs is most at risk. We will exert every effort to ensure that they are met and that humanitarian commitments are respected. We will strive to relieve suffering by humanitarian cease-fires and to facilitate the delivery of assistance under international supervision, including its safe passage. We recognize that the refugee problems resulting from these conflicts require the co-operation of all of us. We express our support for and solidarity with those countries which bear the brunt of the refugee problems resulting from these conflicts. In this context we recognize the need for co-operation and concerted action.

(...)

We are further developing our possibilities for peaceful settlement of disputes.

21. Our approach is based on our comprehensive concept of security as initiated in the Final Act. This concept relates the maintenance of peace to the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It links economic and environmental solidarity and cooperation with peaceful inter-State relations. This is equally valid in managing change as it was necessary in mitigating confrontation.

(...)

26. We restate our unreserved condemnation of all acts, methods and practices of terrorism. We are determined to enhance our co-operation to eliminate this threat to security, democracy and human rights. To this end, we will take measures to prevent in our territories criminal activities that support acts of terrorism in other States. We will encourage exchange of information concerning terrorist activities. We will seek further effective avenues for co-operation as appropriate. We will also take the necessary steps at a national level to fulfil our international obligations in this field.

27. Illicit trafficking in drugs represents a danger to the stability of our societies and democratic institutions. We will act together to strengthen all forms of bilateral and multilateral co-operation in the fight against illicit trafficking in drugs and other forms of international organized crime.

Helsinki Decisions

I. Strengthening CSCE Institutions and Structures

(...)

Assistance to the Chairman-in-Office

(...)

Personal representatives

(22) When dealing with a crisis or a conflict, the Chairman-in-Office may, on his/her own responsibility, designate a personal representative with a clear and precise mandate in order to provide support. The Chairman-in-Office will inform the CSO of the intention to appoint a personal representative and of the mandate. In reports to the Council/ CSO, the Chairman-in-Office will include information on the activities of the personal representative as well as any observations or advice submitted by the latter.

High Commissioner on National Minorities

(23) The Council will appoint a High Commissioner on National Minorities. The High Commissioner provides “early warning” and, as appropriate, “early action” at the earliest possible stage in regard to tensions involving national minority issues that have the potential to develop into a conflict within the CSCE area, affecting peace, stability, or relations between participating States. The High Commissioner will draw upon the facilities of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) in Warsaw.

(...)

Implementation reviews

(26) Thorough review of the implementation of CSCE commitments will continue to play a prominent role in CSCE activities, thus enhancing co-operation among participating States.

(27) Reviews of implementation will be held regularly at review conferences as well as at special meetings convened for this purpose at the ODIHR and the CPC, and when the CSO convenes as the Economic Forum as provided for in the relevant CSCE documents.

(28) These reviews of implementation will be of a co-operative nature, comprehensive in scope and at the same time able to address specific issues.

(29) The participating States will be invited to offer contributions on their implementation experience, with particular reference to difficulties encountered, and to provide their views of implementation throughout the CSCE area. Participating States are encouraged to circulate descriptions of contributions in advance of the meeting.

(30) Reviews should offer the opportunity to identify action which may be required to address problems. Meetings at which reviews of implementation take place may draw to the attention of the CSO any suggestions for measures to improve implementation which they deem advisable.

(...)

II. CSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities

(1) The participating States decide to establish a High Commissioner on National Minorities.

Mandate

(2) The High Commissioner will act under the aegis of the CSO and will thus be an instrument of conflict prevention at the earliest possible stage.

(3) The High Commissioner will provide “early warning” and, as appropriate, “early action” at the earliest possible stage in regard to tensions involving national minority issues which have not yet developed beyond an early warning stage, but, in the judgement of the High Commissioner, have the potential to develop into a conflict within the CSCE area, affecting peace, stability or relations between participating States, requiring the attention of and action by the Council or the CSO.

(4) Within the mandate, based on CSCE principles and commitments, the High Commissioner will work in confidence and will act independently of all parties directly involved in the tensions.

(5a) The High Commissioner will consider national minority issues occurring in the State of which the High Commissioner is a national or a resident, or involving a national minority to which the High Commissioner belongs, only if all parties directly involved agree, including the State concerned.

(5b) The High Commissioner will not consider national minority issues in situations involving organized acts of terrorism.

(5c) Nor will the High Commissioner consider violations of CSCE commitments with regard to an individual person belonging to a national minority.

(6) In considering a situation, the High Commissioner will take fully into account the availability of democratic means and international instruments to respond to it, and their utilization by the parties involved.

(7) When a particular national minority issue has been brought to the attention of the CSO, the involvement of the High Commissioner will require a request and a specific mandate from the CSO.

Profile, appointment, support

(8) The High Commissioner will be an eminent international personality with longstanding relevant experience from whom an impartial performance of the function may be expected.

(9) The High Commissioner will be appointed by the Council by consensus upon the recommendation of the CSO for a period of three years, which may be extended for one further term of three years only.

(10) The High Commissioner will draw upon the facilities of the ODIHR in Warsaw, and in particular upon the information relevant to all aspects of national minority questions available at the ODIHR.

Early warning

(11) The High Commissioner will:

(11a) collect and receive information regarding national minority issues from sources described below (see Supplement paragraphs (23)-(25));

(11b) assess at the earliest possible stage the role of the parties directly concerned, the nature of the tensions and recent developments therein and, where possible, the potential consequences for peace and stability within the CSCE area;

(11c) to this end, be able to pay a visit, in accordance with paragraph (17) and Supplement paragraphs (27)-(30), to any participating State and communicate in person, subject to the provisions of paragraph (25), with parties directly concerned to obtain firsthand information about the situation of national minorities.

(12) The High Commissioner may during a visit to a participating State, while obtaining first-hand information from all parties directly involved, discuss the questions with the parties, and where appropriate promote dialogue, confidence and co-operation between them.

Provision of early warning

(13) If, on the basis of exchanges of communications and contacts with relevant parties, the High Commissioner concludes that there is a *prima facie* risk of potential conflict (as set out in paragraph (3)) he/she may issue an early warning, which will be communicated promptly by the Chairman-in-Office to the CSO.

(14) The Chairman-in-Office will include this early warning in the agenda for the next meeting of the CSO. If a State believes that such an early warning merits prompt consultation, it may initiate the procedure set out in Annex 2 of the Summary of Conclusions of the Berlin Meeting of the Council ("Emergency Mechanism").

(15) The High Commissioner will explain to the CSO the reasons for issuing the early warning.

Early action

(16) The High Commissioner may recommend that he/she be authorized to enter into further contact and closer consultations with the parties concerned with a view to possible solutions, according to a mandate to be decided by the CSO. The CSO may decide accordingly.

Accountability

(17) The High Commissioner will consult the Chairman-in-Office prior to a departure for a participating State to address a tension involving national minorities. The Chairman – in-Office will consult, in confidence, the participating State(s) concerned and may consult more widely.

(18) After a visit to a participating State, the High Commissioner will provide strictly confidential reports to the Chairman-in-Office on the findings and progress of the High Commissioner's involvement in a particular question.

(19) After termination of the involvement of the High Commissioner in a particular issue, the High Commissioner will report to the Chairman-in-Office on the findings, results and conclusions. Within a period of one month, the Chairman-in-Office will consult, in confidence, on the findings, results and conclusions the participating State(s) concerned and may consult more widely. Thereafter the report, together with possible comments, will be transmitted to the CSO.

(20) Should the High Commissioner conclude that the situation is escalating into a conflict, or if the High Commissioner deems that the scope for action by the High Commissioner is exhausted, the High Commissioner shall, through the Chairman-in-Office, so inform the CSO.

(21) Should the CSO become involved in a particular issue, the High Commissioner will provide information and, on request, advice to the CSO, or to any other institution or organization which the CSO may invite, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter III of this document, to take action with regard to the tensions or conflict.

(22) The High Commissioner, if so requested by the CSO and with due regard to the requirement of confidentiality in his/her mandate, will provide information about his/ her activities at CSCE implementation meetings on Human Dimension issues.

Supplement

Sources of information about national minority issues

(23) The High Commissioner may:

(23a) collect and receive information regarding the situation of national minorities and the role of parties involved therein from any source, including the media and non-governmental organizations with the exception referred to in paragraph (25);

(23b) receive specific reports from parties directly involved regarding developments concerning national minority issues. These may include reports on violations of CSCE commitments with respect to national minorities as well as other violations in the context of national minority issues.

(24) Such specific reports to the High Commissioner should meet the following requirements:

- they should be in writing, addressed to the High Commissioner as such and signed with full names and addresses;
- they should contain a factual account of the developments which are relevant to the situation of persons belonging to national minorities and the role of the parties involved therein, and which have taken place recently, in principle not more than 12 months previously. The reports should contain information which can be sufficiently substantiated.

(25) The High Commissioner will not communicate with and will not acknowledge communications from any person or organization which practices or publicly condones terrorism or violence.

Parties directly concerned

(26) Parties directly concerned in tensions who can provide specific reports to the High Commissioner and with whom the High Commissioner will seek to communicate in person during a visit to a participating State are the following:

(26a) governments of participating States, including, if appropriate, regional and local authorities in areas in which national minorities reside;

(26b) representatives of associations, non-governmental organizations, religious and other groups of national minorities directly concerned and in the area of tension, which are authorized by the persons belonging to those national minorities to represent them. Conditions for travel by the High Commissioner

(27) Prior to an intended visit, the High Commissioner will submit to the participating State concerned specific information regarding the intended purpose of that visit. Within two weeks the State(s) concerned will consult with the High Commissioner on the objectives of the visit, which may include the promotion of dialogue, confidence and co-operation between the parties. After entry the State concerned will facilitate free travel and communication of the High Commissioner subject to the provisions of paragraph (25) above.

(28) If the State concerned does not allow the High Commissioner to enter the country and to travel and communicate freely, the High Commissioner will so inform the CSO.

(29) In the course of such a visit, subject to the provision of paragraph (25) the High Commissioner may consult the parties involved, and may receive information in confidence from any individual, group or organization directly concerned on questions the High Commissioner is addressing. The High Commissioner will respect the confidential nature of the information.

(30) The participating States will refrain from taking any action against persons, organizations or institutions on account of their contact with the High Commissioner.

High Commissioner and involvement of experts

(31) The High Commissioner may decide to request assistance from not more than three experts with relevant expertise in specific matters on which brief, specialized investigation and advice are required.

(32) If the High Commissioner decides to call on experts, the High Commissioner will set a clearly defined mandate and time-frame for the activities of the experts.

(33) Experts will only visit a participating State at the same time as the High Commissioner. Their mandate will be an integral part of the mandate of the High Commissioner and the same conditions for travel will apply.

(34) The advice and recommendations requested from the experts will be submitted in confidence to the High Commissioner, who will be responsible for the activities and for the reports of the experts and who will decide whether and in what form the advice and recommendations will be communicated to the parties concerned. They will be nonbinding. If the High Commissioner decides to make the advice and recommendations available, the State(s) concerned will be given the opportunity to comment.

(35) The experts will be selected by the High Commissioner with the assistance of the ODIHR from the resource list established at the ODIHR as laid down in the Document of the Moscow Meeting.

(36) The experts will not include nationals or residents of the participating State concerned, or any person appointed by the State concerned, or any expert against whom the participating State has previously entered reservations. The experts will not include the participating State's own nationals or residents or any of the persons it appointed to the resource list, or more than one national or resident of any particular State.

Budget

(37) A separate budget will be determined at the ODIHR, which will provide, as appropriate, logistical support for travel and communication. The budget will be funded by the participating States according to the established CSCE scale of distribution. Details will be worked out by the Financial Committee and approved by the CSO.

IV. Relations with International Organizations, Relations with Non-Participating States, Role of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

(1) The new tasks before the CSCE require clearer relations and closer contacts with international organizations, in particular with the United Nations, and non-participating States. The CSCE remains at the same time a process whose activities go far beyond formal relations among governments to involve citizens and societies of the participating States. Successful efforts to build a lasting peaceful and democratic order and to manage the process of change require more structured and substantive input from groups, individuals, States and organizations outside the CSCE process.

To this end, the participating States have decided as follows:

Relations with international organizations

(2) The participating States, reaffirming their commitments to the Charter of the United Nations as subscribed to by them, declare their understanding that the CSCE is a regional arrangement in the sense of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations and as such provides an important link between European and global security. The rights and responsibilities of the United Nations Security Council remain unaffected in their entirety.

(3) Recalling the relevant decisions of the Prague Document, the participating States will improve contact and practical co-operation with appropriate international organizations.

(4) They may accordingly agree to invite presentations by those international organizations and institutions mentioned in the Prague Document and others, as appropriate.

(5) Those organizations, institutions and others as agreed may be invited to attend CSCE meetings and seminars as guests of honour with appropriate name-plates.

(6) They will make full use of the information exchange under paragraph 44 of the Prague Document.

Relations with non-participating Mediterranean States

(7) Recalling the provisions of the Final Act and other CSCE relevant documents and consistent with established practice, the non-participating Mediterranean States will continue to be invited to contribute to CSCE activities.

(8) Measures to widen the scope of co-operation with non-participating Mediterranean States are set forth in Chapter X.

Relations with non-participating States

(9) In accordance with paragraph 45 of the Prague Document, the participating States intend to deepen their co-operation and develop a substantial relationship with nonparticipating States, such as Japan, which display an interest in the CSCE, share its principles and objectives, and are actively engaged in European co-operation through relevant organizations.

(10) To this end, Japan will be invited to attend CSCE meetings, including those of Heads of State and Government, the CSCE Council, the Committee of Senior Officials and other appropriate CSCE bodies which consider specific topics of expanded consultation and co-operation.

(11) Representatives of Japan may contribute to such meetings, without participating in the preparation and adoption of decisions, on subjects in which Japan has a direct interest and/or wishes to co-operate actively with the CSCE.

Increasing openness of CSCE activities, promoting understanding of the CSCE, expanding the role of NGOs

(12) The participating States will increase the openness of the CSCE institutions and structures and ensure wide dissemination of information on the CSCE.

(13) To this end:

- the Chairman-in-Office assisted by the CSCE Secretariat will arrange briefings on the political consultation process;
- the CSCE institutions will, within existing budgets, provide information to the public and organize public briefings on their activities;
- the Secretariat will facilitate the flow of information to and contacts with the media, bearing in mind that CSCE policy issues remain the responsibility of participating States.

(14) The participating States will provide opportunities for the increased involvement of non-governmental organizations in CSCE activities.

(15) They will, accordingly:

- apply to all CSCE meetings the guidelines previously agreed for NGO access to certain CSCE meetings;
- make open to NGOs all plenary meetings of review conferences, ODIHR seminars, workshops and meetings, the CSO when meeting as the Economic Forum, and human rights implementation meetings, as well as other expert meetings. In addition each meeting may decide to open some other sessions to attendance by NGOs;
- instruct Directors of CSCE institutions and Executive Secretaries of CSCE meetings to designate an “NGO liaison person” from among their staff;
- designate, as appropriate, one member of their Foreign Ministries and a member of their delegations to CSCE meetings to be responsible for NGO liaison;
- promote contacts and exchanges of views between NGOs and relevant national authorities and governmental institutions between CSCE meetings;
- facilitate during CSCE meetings informal discussion meetings between representatives of participating States and of NGOs;
- encourage written presentations by NGOs to CSCE institutions and meetings, titles of which may be kept and provided to the participating States upon request;
- provide encouragement to NGOs organizing seminars on CSCE-related issues;
- notify NGOs through the CSCE institutions of the dates of future CSCE meetings, together with an indication, when possible, of the subjects to be addressed, as well as, upon request, the activations of CSCE mechanisms which have been made known to all participating States.

(16) The above provisions will not be applied to persons or organizations which resort to the use of violence or publicly condone terrorism or the use of violence.

(17) The participating States will use all appropriate means to disseminate as widely as possible within their societies knowledge of the CSCE, its principles, commitments and activities.

(18) The concept of a CSCE Prize will be considered.

VI. The Human Dimension

(1) The participating States conducted a useful review of implementation of CSCE commitments in the Human Dimension. They based their discussion on the new community of values established among them, as set forth by the Charter of Paris for a New Europe and developed by the new standards created within the CSCE in recent years. They noted major progress in complying

with Human Dimension commitments, but recognized developments of serious concern and thus the need for further improvement.

(2) The participating States express their strong determination to ensure full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, to abide by the rule of law, to promote the principles of democracy and, in this regard, to build, strengthen and protect democratic institutions, as well as to promote tolerance throughout society. To these ends, they will broaden the operational framework of the CSCE, including by further enhancing the ODIHR, so that information, ideas, and concerns can be exchanged in a more concrete and meaningful way, including as an early warning of tension and potential conflict. In doing so, they will focus their attention on topics in the Human Dimension of particular importance. They will therefore keep the strengthening of the Human Dimension under constant consideration, especially in a time of change.

(3) In this regard, the participating States adopt the following:

Framework for monitoring compliance with CSCE commitments and for promoting co-operation in the human dimension

(4) In order to strengthen and monitor compliance with CSCE commitments as well as to promote progress in the Human Dimension, the participating States agree to enhance the framework of their co-operation and to this end decide the following:

Enhanced role of the ODIHR

(5) Under the general guidance of the CSO and in addition to its existing tasks as set out in the Charter of Paris for a New Europe and in the Prague Document on Further Development of CSCE Institutions and Structures, the ODIHR will, as the main institution of the Human Dimension:

(5a) assist the monitoring of implementation of commitments in the Human Dimension by:

- serving as a venue for bilateral meetings under paragraph 2 and as a channel for information under paragraph 3 of the Human Dimension Mechanism as set out in the Vienna Concluding Document;
- receiving any comments from States visited by CSCE missions of relevance to the Human Dimension other than those under the Human Dimension Mechanism; it will transmit the report of those missions as well as eventual comments to all participating States with a view to discussion at the next implementation meeting or review conference;
- participating in or undertaking missions when instructed by the Council or the CSO; (5b) act as a clearing-house for information on:
 - a state of public emergency according to paragraph 28.10 of the Document of the Moscow Meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension;
 - resource lists, and assistance, e.g. in the field of censuses or on democracy at a local and regional level, and the holding of national seminars on such issues;

(5c) assist other activities in the field of the Human Dimension, including the building of democratic institutions by:

- fulfilling the tasks as defined in the “Programme of co-ordinated support to recently admitted participating States”;

- arranging “Seminars on the democratic process” at the request of participating States. The same procedural provisions as set out in the “Programme of co-ordinated support for recently admitted participating States” will also apply to these seminars;
- contributing, within the resources at its disposal, to the preparation of seminars at the request of one or more participating States;
- providing, as appropriate, facilities to the High Commissioner on National Minorities;
- communicating, as appropriate, with relevant international and non-governmental organizations;
- consulting and co-operating with relevant bodies of the Council of Europe and those associated with it, and examining how they can contribute, as appropriate, to the ODIHR’s activities. The ODIHR will also, at the request of participating States, supply them with information about programmes within the framework of the Council of Europe which are open to all participating States.

(6) The activities on Human Dimension issues undertaken by the ODIHR may, *inter alia*, contribute to early warning in the prevention of conflicts.

Human Dimension Mechanism

(7) In order to align the Human Dimension Mechanism with present CSCE structures and institutions the participating States decide that:

Any participating State which deems it necessary may provide information on situations and cases which have been the subject of requests under paragraphs 1 or 2 of the chapter entitled the “Human Dimension of the CSCE” of the Vienna Concluding Document or on the results of those procedures, to the participating States through the ODIHR – which can equally serve as a venue for bilateral meetings under paragraph 2 – or diplomatic channels. Such information may be discussed at Meetings of the CSO, at implementation meetings on Human Dimension issues and review conferences.

(8) Procedures concerning the covering of expenses of expert and rapporteur missions of the Human Dimension Mechanism may be considered by the next review conference in the light of experience gained.

Implementation

Implementation meetings on Human Dimension Issues

(9) Every year in which a review conference does not take place, the ODIHR will organize a three-week meeting at expert-level of all participating States at its seat to review implementation of CSCE Human Dimension commitments. The meeting will perform the following tasks:

(9a) a thorough exchange of views on the implementation of Human Dimension commitments, including discussion on the information provided in accordance with paragraph 4 of the Human Dimension Mechanism and on the Human Dimension aspects of the reports of CSCE missions, as well as the consideration of ways and means of improving implementation;

(9b) an evaluation of the procedures for monitoring compliance with commitments.

(10) The implementation meeting may draw to the attention of the CSO measures to improve implementation which it deems necessary.

(11) The implementation meeting will not produce a negotiated document.

(12) Written contributions and information material will be of a non-restricted or restricted character as indicated by the submitting State.

(13) Implementation meetings will be organized to meet in formal and informal sessions. All formal sessions will be open. In addition, the participating States may decide, on a case-by-case basis, to open informal sessions.

(14) The Council of Europe, the European Commission for Democracy through Law and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), as well as other relevant international organizations and institutions will be encouraged by the implementation meeting to attend and make contributions.

(15) Non-governmental organizations having relevant experience in the field of the Human Dimension are invited to make written presentations to the implementation meeting, e.g. through the ODIHR, and may be invited by the implementation meeting, on the basis of their written presentations, to address specific questions orally as appropriate.

(16) During two half days in the course of the implementation meeting no formal session will be scheduled in order to provide better opportunities for possible contacts with NGOs. To this purpose, a hall at the meeting site will be placed at the disposal of NGOs.

CSCE Human Dimension seminars

(17) Under the general guidance of the CSO, the ODIHR will organize CSCE Human Dimension seminars which will address specific questions of particular relevance to the Human Dimension and of current political concern. The CSO will establish an annual work programme including the titles and dates of such seminars. The agenda and modalities of each seminar will be approved by the CSO at the latest three months before the seminar. In doing so, the CSO will take into account views expressed by the ODIHR. Unless otherwise decided, seminars will be held at the seat of the ODIHR and will not exceed one week. The work programme will take into account work by relevant international organizations and institutions.

(18) These seminars will be organized in an open and flexible manner. Relevant international organizations and institutions may be invited to attend and to make contributions. So may NGOs with relevant experience. Independent experts attending the seminar as members of national delegations will also be free to speak in their own capacity.

(19) CSCE seminars will be organized to meet in formal and informal sessions. All formal sessions will be open. In addition, the participating States may decide, on a case-by-case basis, to open informal sessions.

(20) CSCE seminars will not produce a negotiated document or follow-up programmes.

(21) Contributions by independent experts will be of a non-restricted character.

(...)

Enhanced commitments and co-operation in the Human Dimension

National minorities

The participating States

(23) Reaffirm in the strongest terms their determination to implement in a prompt and faithful manner all their CSCE commitments, including those contained in the Vienna Concluding Document, the Copenhagen Document and the Geneva Report, regarding questions relating to national minorities and rights of persons belonging to them;

(24) Will intensify in this context their efforts to ensure the free exercise by persons belonging to national minorities, individually or in community with others, of their human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to participate fully, in accordance with the democratic decision-making procedures of each State, in the political, economic, social and cultural life of their countries including through democratic participation in decision-making and consultative bodies at the national, regional and local level, *inter alia*, through political parties and associations;

(25) Will continue through unilateral, bilateral and multilateral efforts to explore further avenues for more effective implementation of their relevant CSCE commitments, including those related to the protection and the creation of conditions for the promotion of the ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious identity of national minorities;

(26) Will address national minority issues in a constructive manner, by peaceful means and through dialogue among all parties concerned on the basis of CSCE principles and commitments;

(27) Will refrain from resettling and condemn all attempts, by the threat or use of force, to resettle persons with the aim of changing the ethnic composition of areas within their territories;

Indigenous populations

The participating States

(29) Noting that persons belonging to indigenous populations may have special problems in exercising their rights, agree that their CSCE commitments regarding human rights and fundamental freedoms apply fully and without discrimination to such persons.

Tolerance and non-discrimination

The participating States

(30) Express their concern over recent and flagrant manifestations of intolerance, discrimination, aggressive nationalism, xenophobia, anti-semitism and racism and stress the vital role of tolerance, understanding and co-operation in the achievement and preservation of stable democratic societies;

(...)

(32) Will consider adhering to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, if they have not already done so;

(33) Will consider taking appropriate measures within their constitutional framework and in conformity with their international obligations to assure to everyone on their territory protection against discrimination on racial, ethnic and religious grounds, as well as to protect all individuals, including foreigners, against acts of violence, including on any of these grounds. Moreover, they will make full use of their domestic legal processes, including enforcement of existing laws in this regard;

(34) Will consider developing programmes to create the conditions for promoting nondiscrimination and cross-cultural understanding which will focus on human rights education, grass-roots action, cross-cultural training and research;

(35) Reaffirm, in this context, the need to develop appropriate programmes addressing problems of their respective nationals belonging to Roma and other groups traditionally identified as Gypsies and to create conditions for them to have equal opportunities to participate fully in the life of society, and will consider how to co-operate to this end.

Migrant workers

The participating States

(36) Restate that human rights and fundamental freedoms are universal, that they are also enjoyed by migrant workers wherever they live and stress the importance of implementing all CSCE commitments on migrant workers and their families lawfully residing in the participating States;

(37) Will encourage the creation of conditions to foster greater harmony in relations between migrant workers and the rest of the society of the participating State in which they lawfully reside. To this end, they will seek to offer, *inter alia*, measures to facilitate the familiarization of migrant workers and their families with the languages and social life of the respective participating State in which they lawfully reside so as to enable them to participate in the life of the society of the host country;

(38) Will, in accordance with their domestic policies, laws and international obligations seek, as appropriate, to create the conditions for promoting equality of opportunity in respect of working conditions, education, social security and health services, housing, access to trade unions as well as cultural rights for lawfully residing and working migrant workers.

Refugees and displaced persons

The participating States

(39) Express their concern over the problem of refugees and displaced persons;

(40) Emphasize the importance of preventing situations that may result in mass flows of refugees and displaced persons and stress the need to identify and address the root causes of displacement and involuntary migration;

(41) Recognize the need for international co-operation in dealing with mass flows of refugees and displaced persons;

(42) Recognize that displacement is often a result of violations of CSCE commitments, including those relating to the Human Dimension;

(43) Reaffirm the importance of existing international standards and instruments related to the protection of and assistance to refugees and will consider acceding to the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the Protocol, if they have not already done so;

(44) Recognize the importance of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Committee of the Red Cross, as well as of non-governmental organizations involved in relief work, for the protection of and assistance to refugees and displaced persons;

(45) Welcome and support unilateral, bilateral and multilateral efforts to ensure protection of and assistance to refugees and displaced persons with the aim of finding durable solutions;

(...)

International humanitarian law

The participating States

(47) Recall that international humanitarian law is based upon the inherent dignity of the human person;

(48) Will in all circumstances respect and ensure respect for international humanitarian law including the protection of the civilian population;

(49) Recall that those who violate international humanitarian law are held personally accountable;

(50) Acknowledge the essential role of the International Committee of the Red Cross in promoting the implementation and development of international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Conventions and their relevant Protocols;

(51) Reaffirm their commitment to extend full support to the International Committee of the Red Cross, as well as to the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and to the United Nations organizations, particularly in times of armed conflict, respect their protective emblems, prevent the misuse of these emblems and, as appropriate, exert all efforts to ensure access to the areas concerned;

(52) Commit themselves to fulfilling their obligation to teach and disseminate information about their obligations under international humanitarian law.

Democracy at a local and regional level

The participating States

(53) Will endeavour, in order to strengthen democratic participation and institution building and in developing co-operation among them, to share their respective experience on the functioning of democracy at a local and regional level, and welcome against this background the Council of Europe information and education network in this field;

(54) Will facilitate contacts and encourage various forms of co-operation between bodies at a local and regional level.

Nationality

The participating States

(55) Recognize that everyone has the right to a nationality and that no one should be deprived of his/her nationality arbitrarily;

(56) Underline that all aspects of nationality will be governed by the process of law. They will, as appropriate, take measures, consistent with their constitutional framework not to increase statelessness;

(57) Will continue within the CSCE the discussion on these issues.

Capital punishment

The participating States

(58) Confirm their commitments in the Copenhagen and Moscow Documents concerning the question of capital punishment.

Free media

The participating States

(59) Direct the ODIHR to organize a CSCE Human Dimension Seminar on Free Media, to be held in 1993. The goal of the Seminar will be to encourage the discussion, demonstration, establishment of contacts and exchange of information between governmental representatives and media practitioners.

Education

The participating States

(60) Would welcome, in view of the importance of education as to the dissemination of the ideas of democracy, human rights and democratic institutions, especially in a period of change, the organization to this end of a seminar entitled "Education: Structures, Policies and Strategies" by the Council of Europe, open to all participating States.

Compilation of Human Dimension commitments

The participating States

(61) Welcome the drawing up of compilations of existing CSCE Human Dimension commitments in order to promote greater understanding for the implementation of these commitments.

Domestic implementation guidelines

The participating States

(62) Will promote, where appropriate, the drawing up of guidelines to assist the effective implementation of domestic legislation on human rights issues related to CSCE commitments.

(...)

Document of the Third Meeting of the CSCE Council of Ministers

Stockholm 1992

Summary of Conclusions of the Stockholm Council Meeting

Shaping a New Europe – the Role of the CSCE

(...)

The Ministers expressed their continuing commitment to use the CSCE to consolidate human rights, democracy, the rule of law and economic freedom as the foundation for peace, security and stability and to prevent, manage and solve conflicts in the CSCE area.

The Ministers condemned the extended use of force in Europe which has bred ever more violence and hatred. They strongly rejected continuing flagrant violations of human rights. They committed themselves to act to counter the growing manifestations of racism, anti-semitism and all forms of intolerance in the CSCE area.

(...)

Important aspects of the CSCE strategy include:

(...)

- Emphasizing the CSCE's ability to provide early warning through the appointment of a High Commissioner on National Minorities who will enjoy the full political support of all participating States;
- Active use of missions and representatives as part of preventive diplomacy to promote dialogue, stability and provide for early warning;
- Effective use of missions and representatives in crisis areas as part of a strategy of consultation, negotiation and concerted action to limit conflicts before they become violent;
- Co-operating, as appropriate, with international organizations and with individual participating States to ensure that the broad spectrum of CSCE mechanisms and procedures, including peacekeeping, can be applied;
- Increased efforts at treating the root causes of conflicts by applying all aspects of the human dimension of the CSCE and by involving non-governmental organizations and individual citizens more directly in the work of the CSCE;
- Making all governments accountable to each other for their behaviour towards their citizens and towards neighbouring States and holding individuals personally accountable for war crimes and acts in violation of international humanitarian law;

(...)

Decisions

(...)

2. The CSCE as a Community of Values

The CSCE's comprehensive concept of security relates peace, security and prosperity directly to the observance of human rights and democratic freedoms. Many of the present problems are linked to the failure to observe CSCE commitments and principles.

The human dimension mechanisms of the CSCE are being used increasingly as a major foundation for the CSCE's efforts at early warning and conflict prevention. Their further elaboration and utilization will strengthen considerably the CSCE's ability to pursue the root causes of tensions and to refine its mechanisms for early warning on potentially dangerous situations.

The Ministers welcomed the strengthened role of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and the appointment of the High Commissioner on National Minorities as especially useful steps towards integrating the human dimension more fully into the political consultations and concerted action of the participating States (...). They expressed the hope that newly-admitted participating States would make particular use of the opportunities provided by these institutions.

Compliance with CSCE commitments is of fundamental importance. Monitoring of compliance provides governments of participating States with crucial information on which they can formulate policy (...)

The Ministers expressed their profound concern at the recent manifestations of aggressive nationalism, xenophobia, anti-semitism, racism and other violations of human rights. Violations of international humanitarian law and CSCE principles and commitments, such as "ethnic cleansing", or mass deportation, endangered the maintenance of peace, security and democracy and will not be tolerated. They were convinced that increased attention should be paid by the CSCE, and in particular by the Committee of Senior Officials and the High Commissioner on National Minorities, to these threats to human rights and fundamental freedoms. The CSO will report on this issue to the Council of Ministers at its next Meeting, when the Council will consider developments.

The Ministers also stressed the important role the Human Dimension of the CSCE should play in longer-term conflict prevention. They underlined the need for positive action aimed at fostering understanding, tolerance and national and local preventive action. They emphasized the importance of direct contact between experts, governmental and non-governmental, through the series of Human Dimension seminars successfully begun by the CSCE Seminar on Tolerance (...)

The increasing problem of refugees and displaced persons is an issue of major concern to all participating States, particularly in conflicts where the fulfilment of basic human needs is most at risk. The Ministers deplored the plight of civil populations most affected in such conflicts and called on all participating States to contribute to a concerted effort to share the common burden. All Governments are accountable to each other for their behaviour towards their citizens and towards their neighbours. Individuals are to be held personally accountable for war crimes and acts in violation of international humanitarian law.

(...)

3. High Commissioner on National Minorities

The Council appointed Mr. Max van der Stoep as CSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM) to strengthen the CSCE's capacity for early warning and preventive diplomacy. The High Commissioner will act within the mandate laid down in the Helsinki Document. The Ministers expressed their support for the High Commissioner and their readiness to co-operate with him in the execution of his complex but crucial task of identifying and containing at the earliest possible stage tensions involving national minority issues which have the potential to develop into a conflict within the CSCE area.

The Ministers encouraged the High Commissioner to analyse carefully potential areas of tension, to visit any participating State and to undertake wide-ranging discussions at all levels with parties directly involved in the issues. In this context, the High Commissioner may discuss the questions with the parties and, where appropriate, promote dialogue, confidence and co-operation between them at all levels, to enhance political solutions in line with CSCE principles and commitments.

The Ministers undertook to provide the High Commissioner with relevant information at their disposal on national minority issues, fully respecting the independence of the High Commissioner in accordance with the mandate.

(...)

Document of the Fourth Meeting of the CSCE Council of Ministers

Rome 1993

CSCE and the New Europe – Our Security is indivisible

(...)

The Ministers expressed deep concern that threats to peace and stability proliferate and that crises, widespread violence and open confrontations persist. They strongly condemned the increasing violations of human rights and humanitarian law and the attempt of countries to acquire territories by the use of force. The increasing flow of refugees and appalling human suffering caused by armed conflicts must be urgently alleviated. The Ministers reiterated the personal accountability of those responsible for crimes against humanity.

Despite these events, there is encouraging progress in human rights, democracy and the rule of law in several parts of the CSCE area. The Ministers expressed satisfaction with the spread of free elections and development of democratic institutions registered in many participating States. The Ministers intended to ensure that the CSCE provided appropriate support for these efforts.

(...)

The Ministers stressed the need to make wider use of CSCE capabilities in early warnings and preventive diplomacy and to further integrate the human dimension in this endeavour. They commended the contribution of the High Commissioner on National Minorities to the development of these capabilities.

They furthermore welcomed an increased role of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights in the human dimension, as well as the contributions of the CSCE missions in the field of conflict prevention and crisis management. The goal of further efforts should be to improve abilities to address potential crises at an early stage.

(...)

To give substance and direction to their commitments, the Ministers have agreed on an action programme to be implemented through the decisions which they have adopted today.

These decisions, *inter alia*, address the following issues:

(...)

(c) The role of the High Commissioner for National Minorities will be enhanced.

(d) The human dimension will be further integrated into the CSCE political consultation process: the ODIHR will be reinforced.

(...)

(j) The role of the CSCE in combating aggressive nationalism, racism, chauvinism, xenophobia and anti-semitism will be strengthened.

Decisions of the Rome Council Meeting

(...)

III. High Commissioner on National Minorities

Bearing in mind the close interrelationship between questions relating to national minorities and conflict prevention, the Ministers encouraged the High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM) to pursue his activities under his Mandate. They recognized the HCNM as an innovative and effective asset in early warning and preventive diplomacy. The Ministers stressed the importance of participating States co-operating fully with the High Commissioner and supporting follow-up and implementation of his recommendations. They welcomed the decision by the CSO to increase the resources available to the HCNM.

IV. The Human Dimension

1. The Ministers reiterated that human dimension issues are fundamental to the comprehensive security concept of the CSCE. They noted that adherence to human dimension commitments remains to be consolidated in large parts of the CSCE area, and expressed particular concern that civilians continue to be the victims of atrocities in ongoing conflicts in the CSCE area. Concerned by the root causes of tension stemming from historical prejudices, the Ministers called for efforts, *inter alia*, through education, to promote tolerance and consciousness of belonging to a system of common values. The Ministers stressed that implementation of human dimension commitments must be a focus of attention in the CSCE's conflict prevention efforts.

2. To this end the Ministers decided to strengthen the instruments of conflict prevention and early warning which are available within the human dimension of the CSCE. They emphasized the need in this context for enhanced co-operation and co-ordination with relevant international organizations such as the Council of Europe, as well as with non-governmental organizations.

The following decisions were taken:

3. The political consultation process and CSCE missions

- In order to further political consideration and action under the human dimension, the decision-making bodies of the CSCE will consider human dimension issues on a regular basis as an integral part of deliberations relating to European security. Resources and information will be made available by the ODIHR in support of such consideration.
- Further emphasis will be given to human dimension issues in mandates of CSCE missions as well as in the follow-up of mission reports. To this end the ODIHR will be given an enhanced role in the preparation of CSCE missions, *inter alia*, in providing information and advice to missions in accordance with its expertise.
- In the context of conflict prevention and crisis management, the issue of mass migration, namely displaced persons and refugees, will be addressed, as appropriate, by the CSO and the Permanent Committee of the CSCE, taking into account the role of other relevant international bodies.

4. Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

The Ministers decided to strengthen the ODIHR's functions and operations. *Inter alia*, the ODIHR will enhance its activities under its mandate in the following areas:

- the building of an expanded database of experts in fields relevant to the human dimension. Participating States and non-governmental organizations are requested to inform the ODIHR of experts available in fields relevant to the human dimension;
- enhancement of its role in comprehensive election monitoring;
- strengthened co-operation with relevant international organizations in order to coordinate activities and identify possible areas of joint endeavour;
- receiving information provided by NGOs having relevant experience in the human dimension field;
- serving as a point of contact for information provided by participating States in accordance with CSCE commitments;
- disseminating general information on the human dimension, and international humanitarian law.

The Ministers determined that in order to fulfil its new tasks, the ODIHR should be granted additional resources. They requested the CSO to consider the financial and administrative implications of strengthening the ODIHR as outlined above.

5. Streamlining the Moscow Mechanism

Recognizing the Moscow Mechanism as a significant inter-governmental instrument for follow-up within the human dimension, the Ministers agreed to develop its effectiveness and promote its use, by expanding the resource list and shortening time-frames under the mechanism. Also the Permanent Committee of the CSCE will be empowered to trigger the mechanism as well as to take follow-up action based on rapporteur's reports. To this end it was decided to modify the mechanism in accordance with annex A.

6. Building on the work of the Implementation Meeting on Human Dimension Issues and the Human Dimension Seminars

- The Ministers attached significance to the outcome of the first Implementation Meeting on Human Dimension Issues, as well as the human dimension seminars conducted. The results of the Implementation Meeting of Human Dimension Issues were welcomed and the CSO and the Permanent Committee of the CSCE were tasked to consider relevant follow-up to them.
- Enhanced follow-up by the political bodies of the CSCE based on summaries of meetings and seminars in the human dimension will be sought. The ODIHR, in consultation with interested participating States, is invited to present further proposals for appropriate follow-up action resulting from human dimension seminars to forthcoming CSO or Permanent Committee meetings.
- The Ministers expressed their appreciation of the work carried out at the Seminar on Free Media to stimulate editorially independent broadcast media and a free press. They reiterated their commitment to safeguard freedom of expression, a basic human right, and stressed the necessity of independent media for a free and open society. To this end the Ministers decided that better use should be made of the CSCE human dimension instruments to promote open and diverse media, including exploring the possibility of utilizing CSCE missions.

(...)

VIII. Integration of recently admitted Participating States

(...)

2. The Ministers underlined the importance of the Human Dimension in the further integration of the recently admitted participating States. While many of these States are in a difficult period of political and economic transition, the Ministers expressed their expectation that the recently admitted participating States would do their utmost to ensure the implementation in their countries of all CSCE principles and commitments, also in times of crisis. They commended the role played by the ODIHR in helping to build democratic institutions in the recently admitted participating States. They requested the ODIHR to intensify its efforts to identify and implement co-operation projects with these States within the framework of the Programme or Co-ordinated Support. They noted also the important contribution made by the Human Dimension seminars organized by the ODIHR to increased understanding of the problems arising from the process of integration. They agreed on the importance of making full use of the experience gained at these seminars.

(...)

X. Declaration on Aggressive Nationalism, Racism, Chauvinism, Xenophobia and Anti-Semitism

1. Recalling their decisions taken at the Stockholm Council Meeting, the Ministers noted with deep concern the growing manifestations of aggressive nationalism, such as territorial expansionism, as well as racism, chauvinism, xenophobia and anti-semitism. These run directly counter to the principles and commitments of the CSCE.

2. The Ministers also noted that these phenomena can lead to violence, secessionism by the use of force and ethnic strife, and in their worst instances to the barbaric practices of mass deportation, ethnic cleansing and violence against innocent civilians.

3. Aggressive nationalism, racism, chauvinism, xenophobia and anti-semitism create ethnic, political and social tensions within and between States. They also undermine international stability and worldwide efforts to place universal human rights on a firm foundation.

4. The Ministers focused attention on the need for urgent action to enforce the strict observance of the norms of international humanitarian law, including the prosecution and punishment of those guilty of war crimes and other crimes against humanity.

5. The Ministers agreed that the CSCE must play an important role in these efforts. The clear standards of behaviour reflected in CSCE commitments include active support for the equal rights of all individuals in accordance with international law and for the protection of national minorities.

6. The Ministers decided to keep this issue high on the agenda of the CSCE and therefore decided:

- to task the Permanent Committee to study possible follow-up actions;
- to invite the High Commissioner on National Minorities, in light of his mandate, to pay particular attention to all aspects of aggressive nationalism, racism, chauvinism, xenophobia and anti-semitism;
- to request the ODIHR to pay special attention to these phenomena and to apply resources as necessary on addressing these problems.

(...)

Annex A

The procedures in paragraphs 3, 7, 11, 13 and 14 of the 1991 Document of the Moscow Meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension of the CSCE are modified to read as follows (all changes have been underlined):

(3) A resource list comprising up to six experts appointed by each participating State will be established without delay at the CSCE Institution. The experts will be eminent persons, including where possible experts with experience related to national minority issues, preferably experienced in the field of the human dimension, from whom an impartial performance of their functions may be expected.

The experts will be appointed for a period of three to six years at the discretion of the appointing State, no expert serving more than two consecutive terms. Within four weeks after notification by the CSCE Institution of the appointment, any participating State may make reservations regarding no more than two experts to be appointed by another participating State. In such case, the appointing State may, within four weeks of being notified of such reservations, reconsider its decision and appoint another expert or experts; if it confirms the appointment originally intended, the expert concerned cannot take part in any procedure with respect to the State having made the reservation without the latter's express consent.

The resource list will become operational as soon as 45 experts have been appointed.

(7) The mission of experts will submit its observations to the inviting State as soon as possible, preferably within three weeks after the mission has been established. The inviting State will transmit the observations of the mission, together with a description of any action it has taken or intends to take upon it, to the other participating States via the CSCE Institution no later than two weeks after the submission of the observations.

These observations and any comments by the inviting State may be discussed by the Committee of Senior Officials, which may consider any possible follow-up action. The observations and comments will remain confidential until brought to the attention of the Senior Officials. Before the circulation of the observations and any comments, no other mission of experts may be appointed for the same issue.

(11) The CSCE rapporteur(s) will establish the facts, report on them and may give advice on possible solutions to the question raised. The report of the rapporteur(s), containing observations of facts, proposals or advice, will be submitted to the participating State or States concerned and, unless all the States concerned agree otherwise, to the CSCE Institution no later than two weeks after the last rapporteur has been appointed. The requested State will submit any observations on the report to the CSCE Institution, unless all the States concerned agree otherwise, no later than two weeks after the submission of the report.

The CSCE Institution will transmit the report, as well as any observations by the requested State or any other participating State, to all participating States without delay.

The report will be placed on the agenda of the next regular meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials or of the Permanent Committee of the CSCE, which may decide on any possible follow-up action. The report will remain confidential until after that meeting of the Committee. Before the circulation of the report no other rapporteur may be appointed for the same issue.

(13) Upon the request of any participating State the Committee of Senior Officials or the Permanent Committee of the CSCE may decide to establish a mission of experts or of CSCE rapporteurs. In such case the Committee will also determine whether to apply the appropriate provisions of the preceding paragraphs.

(14) The participating State or States that have requested the establishment of a mission of experts or rapporteurs will cover the expenses of that mission. In case of the appointment of experts or rapporteurs pursuant to a decision of the Committee of Senior Officials or of the Permanent Committee of the CSCE, the expenses will be covered by the participating States in accordance with the usual scale of distribution of expenses. These procedures will be reviewed by the Helsinki Follow-up Meeting of the CSCE.

Budapest Document: Towards a Genuine Partnership in a New Era

(Summit of Heads of State or Government)

Budapest 1994

Budapest Summit Declaration

(...)

7. (...) The CSCE's democratic values are fundamental to our goal of a community of nations with no divisions, old or new, in which the sovereign equality and the independence of all States are fully respected, there are no spheres of influence and the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all individuals, regardless of race, colour, sex, language, religion, social origin or of belonging to a minority, are vigorously protected.

(...)

14. We confirm the significance of the Human Dimension in all the activities of the CSCE. Respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law is an essential component of security and co-operation in the CSCE region. It must remain a primary goal of CSCE action. Periodic reviews of implementation of our commitments, fundamental throughout the CSCE, are critical in the Human Dimension. The enhanced capabilities of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights will continue to assist participating States, in particular those in transition. We underline the importance of human contacts in overcoming the legacy of old divisions.

(...)

Budapest Decisions

I. Strengthening the CSCE

1. The new era of security and co-operation in Europe has led to a fundamental change in the CSCE and to a dramatic growth in its role in shaping our common security area. To reflect this the CSCE will henceforth be known as the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). The change in name will be effective on 1 January 1995. As of this date, all references to the CSCE will henceforth be considered as references to the OSCE.

(...)

3. The Heads of State or Government have directed that the future role and functions of the CSCE will include the following:

(...)

5. – to ensure full implementation of all CSCE commitments;

(...)

11. – to develop further CSCE work in the field of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and other areas of the human dimension;

(...)

14. To accomplish these objectives, the CSCE will function as follows:

15. The next Meeting of Heads of State or Government will take place in 1996 in Lisbon preceded by a preparatory meeting. The Summit will decide on the frequency of future Summit meetings.

16. The Ministerial Council (formerly the CSCE Council) as the central decision-making and governing body of the CSCE will meet, as a rule, towards the end of every term of chairmanship at the level of Foreign Ministers.

17. The Senior Council (replacing the Committee of Senior Officials) will meet in Prague twice a year, at the minimum. An additional meeting will be held before the Ministerial Council Meeting. The Senior Council will discuss and set forth policy and broad budgetary guidelines. The participating States are encouraged to be represented at the level of political directors or at a corresponding level. The Senior Council will also be convened as the Economic Forum.

18. The Permanent Council (formerly the Permanent Committee) will be the regular body for political consultation and decision-making. It can also be convened for emergency purposes. It will meet in Vienna and be composed of the permanent representatives of the participating States.

19. Overall responsibility for executive action will remain with the Chairman-in-Office (CIO). The CIO will continue to take full advantage of his/her mandate, *inter alia*, by dispatching personal representatives. The CIO will be assisted by the Troika. The term of chairmanship will normally last one calendar year.

20. The Secretary General will continue to take full advantage of his/her mandate and in support of the CIO will be more actively involved in all aspects of the management of the CSCE. He/she participates in Troika ministerial meetings.

21. The continuation of the activities of the High Commissioner on National Minorities will be supported and his/her resources will be enhanced. The participating States will increase their efforts to implement his/her recommendations.

22. The work of CSCE missions will be given political support and follow-up from the Permanent Council. In order to ensure the fulfilment of their tasks, the necessary human and financial resources will be committed by the participating States.

23. The CSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights will be strengthened in playing an important role in CSCE activities.

24. The CIO will continue to maintain close contacts and an active dialogue with the Parliamentary Assembly (PA). The CIO will draw the recommendations of the PA to the attention of the Permanent Council and inform the PA on the activities of the CSCE.

25. The current mode of review of implementation of all CSCE commitments will be maintained. The review meeting before each Summit will be held in Vienna.

(...)

IV. Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security

Preamble

The participating States of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE),

Recognizing the need to enhance security co-operation, including through the further encouragement of norms of responsible and co-operative behaviour in the field of security,

Confirming that nothing in this Code diminishes the validity and applicability of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations or of other provisions of international law,

Reaffirming the undiminished validity of the guiding principles and common values of the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris and the Helsinki Document 1992, embodying responsibilities of States towards each other and of governments towards their people, as well as the validity of other CSCE commitments,

Have adopted the following Code of Conduct on politico-military aspects of security:

I

1. The participating States emphasize that the full respect for all CSCE principles embodied in the Helsinki Final Act and the implementation in good faith of all commitments undertaken in the CSCE are of fundamental importance for stability and security, and consequently constitute a matter of direct and legitimate concern to all of them.

2. The participating States confirm the continuing validity of their comprehensive concept of security, as initiated in the Final Act, which relates the maintenance of peace to the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It links economic and environmental co-operation with peaceful inter-State relations.

(...)

II

6. The participating States will not support terrorist acts in any way and will take appropriate measures to prevent and combat terrorism in all its forms. They will co-operate fully in combating the threat of terrorist activities through implementation of international instruments and commitments they agree upon in this respect. They will, in particular, take steps to fulfil the requirements of international agreements by which they are bound to *prosecute* or *extradite* terrorists.

(...)

VI

17. The participating States commit themselves to co-operate, including through development of sound economic and environmental conditions, to counter tensions that may lead to conflict. The

sources of such tensions include violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms and of other commitments in the human dimension; manifestations of aggressive nationalism, racism, chauvinism, xenophobia and anti-semitism also endanger peace and security.

18. The participating States stress the importance both of early identification of potential conflicts and of their joint efforts in the field of conflict prevention, crisis management and peaceful settlement of disputes.

19. In the event of armed conflict, they will seek to facilitate the effective cessation of hostilities and seek to create conditions favourable to the political solution of the conflict. They will co-operate in support of humanitarian assistance to alleviate suffering among the civilian population, including facilitating the movement of personnel and resources dedicated to such tasks.

VII

20. The participating States consider the democratic political control of military, paramilitary and internal security forces as well as of intelligence services and the police to be an indispensable element of stability and security. They will further the integration of their armed forces with civil society as an important expression of democracy.

21. Each participating State will at all times provide for and maintain effective guidance to and control of its military, paramilitary and security forces by constitutionally established authorities vested with democratic legitimacy. Each participating State will provide controls to ensure that such authorities fulfil their constitutional and legal responsibilities. They will clearly define the roles and missions of such forces and their obligation to act solely within the constitutional framework.

22. Each participating State will provide for its legislative approval of defence expenditures. Each participating State will, with due regard to national security requirements, exercise restraint in its military expenditures and provide for transparency and public access to information related to the armed forces.

23. Each participating State, while providing for the individual service member's exercise of his or her civil rights, will ensure that its armed forces as such are politically neutral.

24. Each participating State will provide and maintain measures to guard against accidental or unauthorized use of military means.

25. The participating States will not tolerate or support forces that are not accountable to or controlled by their constitutionally established authorities. If a participating State is unable to exercise its authority over such forces, it may seek consultations within the CSCE to consider steps to be taken.

26. Each participating State will ensure that in accordance with its international commitments its paramilitary forces refrain from the acquisition of combat mission capabilities in excess of those for which they were established.

27. Each participating State will ensure that the recruitment or call-up of personnel for service in its military, paramilitary and security forces is consistent with its obligations and commitments in respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

28. The participating States will reflect in their laws or other relevant documents the rights and duties of armed forces personnel. They will consider introducing exemptions from or alternatives to military service.

29. The participating States will make widely available in their respective countries the international humanitarian law of war. They will reflect, in accordance with national practice, their commitments in this field in their military training programmes and regulations.

30. Each participating State will instruct its armed forces personnel in international humanitarian law, rules, conventions and commitments governing armed conflict and will ensure that such personnel are aware that they are individually accountable under national and international law for their actions.

31. The participating States will ensure that armed forces personnel vested with command authority exercise it in accordance with relevant national as well as international law and are made aware that they can be held individually accountable under those laws for the unlawful exercise of such authority and that orders contrary to national and international law must not be given. The responsibility of superiors does not exempt subordinates from any of their individual responsibilities.

32. Each participating State will ensure that military, paramilitary and security forces personnel will be able to enjoy and exercise their human rights and fundamental freedoms as reflected in CSCE documents and international law, in conformity with relevant constitutional and legal provisions and with the requirements of service.

33. Each participating State will provide appropriate legal and administrative procedures to protect the rights of all its forces personnel.

VIII

34. Each participating State will ensure that its armed forces are, in peace and in war, commanded, manned, trained and equipped in ways that are consistent with the provisions of international law and its respective obligations and commitments related to the use of armed forces in armed conflict, including as applicable the Hague Conventions of 1907 and 1954, the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the 1977 Protocols Additional thereto, as well as the 1980 Convention on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons.

35. Each participating State will ensure that its defence policy and doctrine are consistent with international law related to the use of armed forces, including in armed conflict, and the relevant commitments of this Code.

36. Each participating State will ensure that any decision to assign its armed forces to internal security missions is arrived at in conformity with constitutional procedures. Such decisions will prescribe the armed forces' missions, ensuring that they will be performed under the effective control of constitutionally established authorities and subject to the rule of law. If recourse to force cannot be avoided in performing internal security missions, each participating State will ensure that its use must be commensurate with the needs for enforcement. The armed forces will take due care to avoid injury to civilians or their property.

37. The participating States will not use armed forces to limit the peaceful and lawful exercise of their human and civil rights by persons as individuals or as representatives of groups nor to deprive them of their national, religious, cultural, linguistic or ethnic identity.

IX

38. Each participating State is responsible for implementation of this Code. If requested, a participating State will provide appropriate clarification regarding its implementation of the Code. Appropriate CSCE bodies, mechanisms and procedures will be used to assess, review and improve if necessary the implementation of this Code.

X

39. The provisions adopted in this Code of Conduct are politically binding. Accordingly, this Code is not eligible for registration under Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations. This Code will come into effect on 1 January 1995.

40. Nothing in this Code alters the nature and content of the commitments undertaken in other CSCE documents.

41. The participating States will seek to ensure that their relevant internal documents and procedures or, where appropriate, legal instruments reflect the commitments made in this Code.

42. The text of the Code will be published in each participating State, which will disseminate it and make it known as widely as possible.

VIII. The Human Dimension

Introduction

1. In their review of implementation of CSCE commitments in the human dimension, the participating States based their discussion on the community of values established among them, which is reflected in the high standards created within the CSCE. During the discussion, it was noted that major progress had been made in compliance with human dimension commitments. The participating States acknowledged, however, that there was a serious deterioration in some areas and a need for action against the continuing violations of human rights and manifestations of aggressive nationalism, such as territorial expansionism, as well as racism, chauvinism, xenophobia and anti-semitism, which continue to cause human suffering.

2. Human rights and fundamental freedoms, the rule of law and democratic institutions are the foundations of peace and security, representing a crucial contribution to conflict prevention, within a comprehensive concept of security. The protection of human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, is an essential foundation of democratic civil society. Neglect of these rights has, in severe cases, contributed to extremism, regional instability and conflict. The participating States confirmed that issues of implementation of CSCE commitments are of legitimate and common concern to all participating States, and that the raising of these problems in the cooperative and result-oriented spirit of the CSCE was therefore a positive exercise. They undertook to encourage implementation of CSCE commitments through enhanced dialogue, implementation reviews and mechanisms. They will broaden the operational framework of the CSCE, in particular by enhancing the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), increasing its involvement in the work of the Permanent Council and mission activity, and furthering co-operation with international organizations and institutions active in human dimension areas.

3. The participation of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) was a welcome addition to the implementation review. In their statements, these organizations contributed ideas and raised issues

of concern for participating States to take into consideration. They also informed the participating States of their activities, such as in the area of conflict prevention and resolution. The experience of the Budapest Review Conference invites further consideration with regard to promoting within the CSCE the dialogue between governments and NGOs of the participating States, in addition to Stateto – State dialogue.

4. Reaffirming their commitments in the human dimension, the participating States, while considering it essential to concentrate their efforts on the implementation of existing CSCE commitments, decide to enhance the framework of their co-operation and to this end adopt the following:

Enhancing Compliance with CSCE Commitments and Promoting Co-operation and Dialogue in the Human Dimension

Enhancing implementation

5. Building on the implementation review structures in the Helsinki Document 1992 and to improve human dimension implementation, the participating States will use the Permanent Council for an enhanced dialogue on the human dimension and for possible action in cases of non-implementation. To this end, the participating States decide that human dimension issues will be regularly dealt with by the Permanent Council. They will draw more widely on the possibilities offered by the Moscow Mechanism for examining or promoting the solution of questions relating to the human dimension on their territory.

6. They encourage the Chairman-in-Office to inform the Permanent Council of serious cases of alleged non-implementation of human dimension commitments, including on the basis of information from the ODIHR, reports and recommendations of the High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM), or reports of the head of a CSCE mission and information from the State concerned.

7. The participating States reconfirm their appreciation for the HCNM, who has, fully in line with his mandate, been able to focus on, and to successfully address a number of national minority issues, taking also into account specific situations of participating States and of parties directly concerned. They encourage the HCNM to continue his present activities, and support him on taking up new and further ones, including those related to his recommendations. They will increase their efforts to implement these recommendations.

Role of the ODIHR

8. The ODIHR, as the main institution of the human dimension, in consultation with the Chairman-in-Office, will, acting in an advisory capacity, participate in discussions of the Senior Council and the Permanent Council, by reporting at regular intervals on its activities and providing information on implementation issues. It will provide supporting material for the annual review of implementation and, where necessary, clarify or supplement information received. Acting in close consultation with the Chairman-in-Office, the Director of the ODIHR may propose further action.

9. The participating States recognize the need for enhanced co-operation through the ODIHR with other international organizations and institutions active in the human dimension, including among others the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, for the exchange of information, including reports, and for further developing of future-oriented activities, such as outlined in the present document.

10. The participating States decide to

- enhance the CSCE's co-operation with other international organizations and institutions, in particular UNHCR and IOM, with a view to contributing to UNHCR's preparation of a regional conference to address the problems of refugees, displaced persons, other forms of involuntary displacement and returnees in the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and other interested neighbouring States, by establishing, after consultation in the informal Financial Committee, a temporary position, financed by voluntary contributions for a migration expert;
- task the ODIHR to act as a clearing-house for the exchange of information on media issues in the region, and encourage governments, journalists and NGOs to provide the ODIHR with information on the situation of the media.

11. The ODIHR will be consulted on a CSCE mission's mandate before adoption and will contribute to the follow-up of mission reports as decided by the Permanent Council. The ODIHR's knowledge of experts on the human dimension should be used to help to staff CSCE missions. These missions will also designate a mission member to liaise with the ODIHR and with NGOs on human dimension issues.

12. The ODIHR will play an enhanced role in election monitoring, before, during and after elections. In this context, the ODIHR should assess the conditions for the free and independent functioning of the media.

The participating States request that co-ordination between the various organizations monitoring elections be improved, and task the ODIHR to consult all relevant organizations in order to develop a framework for co-ordination in this field.

In order to enhance election monitoring preparations and procedures, the ODIHR will also devise a handbook for election monitors and set up a rolling calendar for upcoming elections.

13. The provisions mentioned in the human dimension chapter of this document do not in any way constitute a change in the mandate of either the ODIHR or the HCNM.

ODIHR seminars

14. The number of large-scale human dimension seminars will as a rule be reduced to two per year. They will focus on topics which are of the broadest interest. There will be more emphasis on regional seminars. Where appropriate they will form part of the Programme of Co-ordinated Support. These seminars should seek full participation from States in the region in which they are held. The ODIHR is requested to present to the Permanent Council a report on how to increase the effectiveness of human dimension seminars. Whilst these seminars will not produce a negotiated document, particular attention should be given to improving follow-up.

15. A large number of possible subjects for seminars, both large-scale and regional, was suggested during the Review Conference. The Executive Secretariat kept a list, which will be passed on to the Permanent Council. In conformity with the relevant provisions of the Helsinki Document 1992, the Permanent Council will establish an annual work programme including the titles, dates and venues of such seminars, taking into account the advice of the ODIHR and the HCNM.

16. The participating States welcomed the offer of Romania to host an International Seminar on Tolerance in Bucharest under the auspices of the ODIHR and the Council of Europe, in co-operation with UNESCO, in the context of the 1995 International Year of Tolerance.

Role of NGOs

17. The participating States and CSCE institutions will provide opportunities for increased involvement of NGOs in CSCE activities as foreseen in Chapter IV of the Helsinki Document 1992. They will search for ways in which the CSCE can best make use of the work and information provided by NGOs. The Secretary General is requested to make a study on how participation of NGOs can be further enhanced.

Commitments and Co-operation

Rule of law

18. The participating States emphasize that all action by public authorities must be consistent with the rule of law, thus guaranteeing legal security for the individual.

They also emphasize the need for protection of human rights defenders and look forward to the completion and adoption, in the framework of the United Nations, of the draft declaration on the “Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms”.

Capital punishment

19. The participating States reconfirm their commitments in the Copenhagen and Moscow Documents concerning the question of capital punishment.

Prevention of torture

20. The participating States strongly condemn all forms of torture as one of the most flagrant violations of human rights and human dignity. They commit themselves to strive for its elimination. They recognize the importance in this respect of international norms as laid down in international treaties on human rights, in particular the United Nations Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. They also recognize the importance of national legislation aimed at eradicating torture. They commit themselves to inquire into all alleged cases of torture and to prosecute offenders. They also commit themselves to include in their educational and training programmes for law enforcement and police forces specific provisions with a view to eradicating torture. They consider that an exchange of information on this problem is an essential prerequisite. The participating States should have the possibility to obtain such information. The CSCE should in this context also draw on the experience of the Special Rapporteur on Torture and other Cruel Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment established by the Commission on Human Rights of the United Nations and make use of information provided by NGOs.

National minorities

21. The participating States confirm their determination consistently to advance the implementation of the provisions of the Final Act and all other CSCE documents relating to the protection of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities. They commend the work of the HCNM in this field.

22. The participating States welcome the international efforts to improve protection of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities. They take note of the adoption, within the Council of Europe, of a Framework Convention on the Protection of National Minorities, which builds upon CSCE standards in this context. They stressed that the Convention is also open – by invitation – to signature by States which are not members of the Council of Europe and they may consider examining the possibility of becoming parties to this Convention.

Roma and Sinti

23. The participating States decide to appoint within the ODIHR a contact point for Roma and Sinti (Gypsies) issues. The ODIHR will be tasked to:

- act as a clearing-house for the exchange of information on Roma and Sinti (Gypsies) issues, including information on the implementation of commitments pertaining to Roma and Sinti (Gypsies);
- facilitate contacts on Roma and Sinti (Gypsies) issues between participating States, international organizations and institutions and NGOs;
- maintain and develop contacts on these issues between CSCE institutions and other international organizations and institutions.

To fulfil these tasks, the ODIHR will make full use of existing resources. In this context they welcome the announcement made by some Roma and Sinti (Gypsies) organizations of their intention to make voluntary contributions.

24. The participating States welcome the activities related to Roma and Sinti (Gypsies) issues in other international organizations and institutions, in particular those undertaken in the Council of Europe.

Tolerance and non-discrimination

25. The participating States condemn manifestations of intolerance, and especially of aggressive nationalism, racism, chauvinism, xenophobia and anti-semitism, and will continue to promote effective measures aimed at their eradication. They request the ODIHR to continue to pay special attention to these phenomena, collecting information on their various manifestations in participating States. They will seek to strengthen or adopt appropriate legislation to this end and take the necessary measures to ensure that existing legislation is effectively implemented, in a way that would deter manifestations of these phenomena. They also stress that action to combat these phenomena should be seen as an integral part of integration policy and education. They condemn all crimes committed in the pursuit of so-called “ethnic cleansing” and will continue to give their effective support to the International War Crimes Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague.

26. They commend the Council of Europe’s plan of action on racism, xenophobia, antisemitism and intolerance. In following up the Rome Council’s Declaration, CSCE institutions will explore possibilities for joint work with the Council of Europe, as well as the United Nations and other international organizations.

27. Reaffirming their commitment to ensure freedom of conscience and religion and to foster a climate of mutual tolerance and respect between believers of different communities as well as between believers and non-believers, they expressed their concern about the exploitation of religion for aggressive nationalist ends.

Migrant workers

28. The participating States reconfirm that human rights are universal and indivisible. They recognized that the protection and promotion of the rights of migrant workers have their human dimension. They underline the right of migrant workers to express freely their ethnic, cultural, religious and linguistic characteristics. The exercise of such rights may be subject to such restrictions as are prescribed by law and consistent with international standards.

29. They decided that appropriate measures should be taken to better prevent racist attacks and other manifestations of violent intolerance against migrant workers and their families.

30. They reconfirm their condemnation of all acts of discrimination on the ground of race, colour and ethnic origin, intolerance and xenophobia against migrant workers. They will, in conformity with domestic law and international obligations, continue to take effective measures to this end.

31. They will continue to promote the integration of migrant workers in the societies in which they are lawfully residing. They recognize that a successful process of integration also depends on its active pursuit by the migrants themselves and decided therefore to encourage them in this regard.

Migration

32. The participating States express their concern at mass migratory movements in the CSCE region, including millions of refugees and displaced persons, due mainly to war, armed conflict, civil strife and grave human rights violations. Taking into account the Rome Council Decisions 1993, they decide to expand their co-operation with appropriate international bodies in this respect.

They take note of efforts undertaken by UNHCR to prepare a regional conference to address the problems of refugees, displaced persons, other forms of involuntary displacement and returnees in the countries of the CIS and other interested neighbouring States.

International humanitarian law

33. The participating States deeply deplore the series of flagrant violations of international humanitarian law that occurred in the CSCE region in recent years and reaffirm their commitment to respect and ensure respect for general international humanitarian law and in particular for their obligations under the relevant international instruments, including the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their additional protocols, to which they are a party.

34. They emphasize the potential significance of a declaration on minimum humanitarian standards applicable in all situations and declare their willingness to actively participate in its preparation in the framework of the United Nations. They commit themselves to ensure adequate information and training within their military services with regard to the provisions of international humanitarian law and consider that relevant information should be made available.

35. They highly value the developing co-operation between the CSCE and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), in particular in the case of CSCE missions, and welcome the readiness of the ICRC to develop this co-operation and commit themselves to further extend support to the ICRC, in particular by strengthening contacts already established between CSCE missions and the ICRC's delegations in the field.

Freedom of expression/Free media

36. The participating States reaffirm that freedom of expression is a fundamental human right and a basic component of a democratic society. In this respect, independent and pluralistic media are essential to a free and open society and accountable systems of government. They take as their guiding principle that they will safeguard this right.

37. They condemn all attacks on and harassment of journalists and will endeavour to hold those directly responsible for such attacks and harassment accountable.

38. They further note that fomenting hatred and ethnic tension through the media, especially by governments, can serve as an early warning of conflict.

Freedom of movement/Human contacts/Cultural heritage

39. The participating States will further encourage and facilitate human contacts, cultural and educational exchanges and co-operate in accordance with CSCE provisions. They will continue to implement their commitments in the cultural field, as laid down in the Document of the Cracow Symposium on the Cultural Heritage of the CSCE Participating States and other relevant CSCE documents. They will encourage public and private efforts aimed at the preservation of the cultural heritage in their States.

40. They will encourage administrative authorities dealing with citizens of other States to fully implement the CSCE commitments concerning travel and will refrain from degrading treatment and other outrages against personal dignity. They will also consider the need for elaborating a document compiling relevant CSCE provisions.

41. The Permanent Council will explore the possibility of holding informal meetings on the issues mentioned in the two preceding paragraphs.

Programme of Co-ordinated Support

42. The participating States, taking into account the progress achieved through the implementation of the Programme of Co-ordinated Support during the past two years under the co-ordination of the ODIHR, have decided that this programme should continue. The ODIHR and the Secretary General will continue to arrange meetings and seminars on CSCE-related matters to enable interested States to fulfil their CSCE commitments more easily. The participating States will continue to include representatives of these States in government-sponsored internships, study and training programmes so that levels of experience, knowledge and expertise can be raised.

43. They agreed that the ability of the ODIHR to provide in-depth expertise on human dimension issues under the Programme of Co-ordinated Support should be further developed. In order to respond to requests for advice by newly independent States concerned on all aspects of democratization, they decided that using experts-at-large within the framework of the Programme of Co-ordinated Support would be a useful enhancement of the ODIHR's role.

Lisbon Document

(Summit of Heads of State or Government)

Lisbon 1996

Lisbon Summit Declaration

(...)

3. We reaffirm the OSCE principles as set forth in the Helsinki Final Act and other OSCE commitments. We believe that observance of all these principles and implementation of all commitments need to be improved and constantly reviewed. We recognize that serious risks and challenges, such as those to our security and sovereignty, continue to be of major concern. We are committed to address them.

4. Respect for human rights remains fundamental to our concept of democracy and to the democratization process enshrined in the Charter of Paris. We are determined to consolidate the democratic gains of the changes that have occurred since 1989 and peacefully manage their further development in the OSCE region. We will co-operate in strengthening democratic institutions.

9. The OSCE's comprehensive approach to security requires improvement in the implementation of all commitments in the human dimension, in particular with respect to human rights and fundamental freedoms. This will further anchor the common values of a free and democratic society in all participating States, which is an essential foundation for our common security. Among the acute problems within the human dimension, the continuing violations of human rights, such as involuntary migration, and the lack of full democratization, threats to independent media, electoral fraud, manifestations of aggressive nationalism, racism, chauvinism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism, continue to endanger stability in the OSCE region. We are committed to continuing to address these problems.

10. Against the background of recent refugee tragedies in the OSCE region and taking into account the issue of forced migration, we again condemn and pledge to refrain from any policy of "ethnic cleansing" or mass expulsion. Our States will facilitate the return, in safety and in dignity, of refugees and internally displaced persons, according to international standards. Their reintegration into their places of origin must be pursued without discrimination. We commend the work of the ODIHR Migration Advisor and express support for his continuing activities to follow up on the Programme of Action agreed at the May 1996 Regional Conference to address the problems of refugees, displaced persons, other forms of involuntary displacement and returnees in the relevant States.

11. Freedom of the press and media are among the basic prerequisites for truly democratic and civil societies. In the Helsinki Final Act, we have pledged ourselves to respect this principle. There is a need to strengthen the implementation of OSCE commitments in the field of the media, taking into account, as appropriate, the work of other international organizations. We therefore task the Permanent Council to consider ways to increase the focus on implementation of OSCE commitments in the field of the media, as well as to elaborate a mandate for the appointment of an OSCE representative on freedom of the media to be submitted not later than to the 1997 Ministerial Council.

(...)

Lisbon Declaration on a Common and Comprehensive Security

Model for Europe for the Twenty-First Century

1. We, the Heads of State or Government of the States participating in the OSCE and meeting in Lisbon, believe that history has offered us an unprecedented opportunity. Freedom, democracy and co-operation among our nations and peoples are now the foundation for our common security. We are determined to learn from the tragedies of the past and to translate our vision of a co-operative future into reality by creating a common security space free of dividing lines in which all States are equal partners.

2. We face serious challenges, but we face them together. They concern the security and sovereignty of States as well as the stability of our societies. Human rights are not fully respected in all OSCE States.

Ethnic tension, aggressive nationalism, violations of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, as well as serious difficulties of economic transition, can threaten stability and may also spread to other States. Terrorism, organized crime, drug and arms trafficking, uncontrolled migration and environmental damage are of increasing concern to the entire OSCE community.

3. Drawing strength from our diversity, we shall meet these challenges together, through the OSCE and in partnership with other international organizations. Our approach is one of co-operative security based on democracy, respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law, market economy and social justice. It excludes any quest for domination. It implies mutual confidence and the peaceful settlement of disputes.

(...)

5. We recognize that, within the OSCE, States are accountable to their citizens and responsible to each other for their implementation of OSCE commitments.

6. We jointly commit ourselves:

- to act in solidarity to promote full implementation of the principles and commitments of the OSCE enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris and other CSCE/OSCE documents;
- (...)

10. (...) our task now is to enhance our co-operation for the future. To this end:

- We encourage bilateral or regional initiatives aimed at developing relations of good neighbourliness and co-operation. In this context, the OSCE could explore a menu of confidence – and security-building measures in support of regional security processes. We shall continue to follow the implementation of the Pact on Stability in Europe. Regional round tables can be a useful means of preventive diplomacy.
- As an important contribution to security we reaffirm our determination to fully respect and implement all our commitments relating to the rights of persons belonging to national minorities. We reaffirm our will to co-operate fully with the High Commissioner on National Minorities. We are ready to respond to a request by any participating State seeking solutions to minority issues on its territory.

(...)

Document of the Sixth Meeting of the Ministerial Council

Copenhagen 1997

II. Decisions of the Copenhagen Ministerial Council Meeting

(...)

Decision on the Appointment of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media

The Ministerial Council,

In accordance with Permanent Council Decision No. 193, and taking into account the recommendation of the Chairman-in-Office,

– Decides to appoint Mr. Freimut Duve as OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media for a period of three years, with effect from 1 January 1998.

Annex

Permanent Council Decision No. 193

5 November 1997

Mandate of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media

1. The participating States reaffirm the principles and commitments they have adhered to in the field of free media. They recall in particular that freedom of expression is a fundamental and internationally recognized human right and a basic component of a democratic society and that free, independent and pluralistic media are essential to a free and open society and accountable systems of government. Bearing in mind the principles and commitments they have subscribed to within the OSCE, and fully committed to the implementation of paragraph 11 of the Lisbon Summit Declaration, the participating States decide to establish, under the aegis of the Permanent Council, an OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media. The objective is to strengthen the implementation of relevant OSCE principles and commitments as well as to improve the effectiveness of concerted action by the participating States based on their common values. The participating States confirm that they will co-operate fully with the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media. He or she will assist the participating States, in a spirit of co-operation, in their continuing commitment to the furthering of free, independent and pluralistic media.

2. Based on OSCE principles and commitments, the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media will observe relevant media developments in all participating States and will, on this basis, and in close co-ordination with the Chairman-in-Office, advocate and promote full compliance with OSCE principles and commitments regarding freedom of expression and free media. In this

respect he or she will assume an early-warning function. He or she will address serious problems caused by, *inter alia*, obstruction of media activities and unfavourable working conditions for journalists. He or she will closely co-operate with the participating States, the Permanent Council, the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), the High Commissioner on National Minorities and, where appropriate, other OSCE bodies, as well as with national and international media associations.

3. The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media will concentrate, as outlined in this paragraph, on rapid response to serious non-compliance with OSCE principles and commitments by participating States in respect of freedom of expression and free media. In the case of an allegation of serious non-compliance therewith, the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media will seek direct contacts, in an appropriate manner, with the participating State and with other parties concerned, assess the facts, assist the participating State, and contribute to the resolution of the issue. He or she will keep the Chairman-in-Office informed about his or her activities and report to the Permanent Council on their results, and on his or her observations and recommendations.

4. The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media does not exercise a juridical function, nor can his or her involvement in any way prejudge national or international legal proceedings concerning alleged human rights violations. Equally, national or international proceedings concerning alleged human rights violations will not necessarily preclude the performance of his or her tasks as outlined in this mandate.

5. The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media may collect and receive information on the situation of the media from all bona fide sources. He or she will in particular draw on information and assessments provided by the ODIHR. The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media will support the ODIHR in assessing conditions for the functioning of free, independent and pluralistic media before, during and after elections.

6. The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media may at all times collect and receive from participating States and other interested parties (e.g. from organizations or institutions, from media and their representatives, and from relevant NGOs) requests, suggestions and comments related to strengthening and further developing compliance with relevant OSCE principles and commitments, including alleged serious instances of intolerance by participating States which utilize media in violation of the principles referred to in the Budapest Document, Chapter VIII, paragraph 25, and in the Decisions of the Rome Council Meeting, Chapter X. He or she may forward requests, suggestions and comments to the Permanent Council, recommending further action where appropriate.

7. The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media will also routinely consult with the Chairman-in-Office and report on a regular basis to the Permanent Council. He or she may be invited to the Permanent Council to present reports, within this mandate, on specific matters related to freedom of expression and free, independent and pluralistic media. He or she will report annually to the Implementation Meeting on Human Dimension Issues or to the OSCE Review Meeting on the status of the implementation of OSCE principles and commitments in respect of freedom of expression and free media in OSCE participating States.

8. The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media will not communicate with and will not acknowledge communications from any person or organization which practises or publicly condones terrorism or violence.

9. The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media will be an eminent international personality with long-standing relevant experience from whom an impartial performance of the function

would be expected. In the performance of his or her duty the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media will be guided by his or her independent and objective assessment regarding the specific paragraphs composing this mandate.

10. The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media will consider serious cases arising in the context of this mandate and occurring in the participating State of which he or she is a national or resident if all the parties directly involved agree, including the participating State concerned. In the absence of such agreement, the matter will be referred to the Chairman-in-Office, who may appoint a Special Representative to address this particular case.

11. The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media will co-operate, on the basis of regular contacts, with relevant international organizations, including the United Nations and its specialized agencies and the Council of Europe, with a view to enhancing co-ordination and avoiding duplication

12. The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media will be appointed in accordance with OSCE procedures by the Ministerial Council upon the recommendation of the Chairman-in-Office after consultation with the participating States. He or she will serve for a period of three years which may be extended under the same procedure for one further term of three years.

13. The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media will be established and staffed in accordance with this mandate and with OSCE Staff Regulations. The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, and his or her Office, will be funded by the participating States through the OSCE budget according to OSCE financial regulations. Details will be worked out by the informal Financial Committee and approved by the Permanent Council.

14. The Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media will be located in Vienna.

Document of the Seventh Meeting of the Ministerial Council

Oslo 1998

III. Decisions of the Oslo Ministerial Council Meeting

(...)

Decision on Enhancement of the OSCE's Operational Capabilities regarding Roma and Sinti Issues

The Ministerial Council,

Bearing in mind the existing OSCE commitments regarding Roma and Sinti, and

Recalling the decision taken by the Budapest Summit to appoint within the ODIHR a

Contact Point for Roma and Sinti (Gypsies) Issues,

1. Decides to enhance the capability of the OSCE regarding those issues by strengthening the existing ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues. Among its priorities will be:

- to enhance the OSCE's interaction with the governments of the participating States, with representatives of Roma and Sinti communities, as well as with international organizations, initiatives and NGOs relevant to Roma and Sinti issues, and in particular to secure further mutual reinforcement of co-operation with the Co-ordinator for Roma in the Council of Europe with a view to avoiding duplication of effort, including the establishment of regular consultations with those organizations, initiatives and NGOs in order to develop synergies and common approaches designed to facilitate full integration of Roma and Sinti communities into the societies they live in, while preserving their identity;
- to enhance co-operation among OSCE institutions and mission/field presences with respect to Roma and Sinti, if applicable;
- to develop, on the basis of input from participating States, the OSCE institutions, and in particular the HCNM, Roma and Sinti communities, NGOs, and international organizations and other institutions and initiatives, a work programme which should include, *inter alia*, seminars, workshops and clearing houses;
- to collect information from the participating States on legislative and other measures related to the situation of Roma and Sinti with a view to making it available to the OSCE community, as well as to other interested international organizations, and to elaborating additional reports on the situation of Roma and Sinti in the OSCE area.

2. Further decides that the Contact Point should deal solely with matters concerning Roma and Sinti.

3. Tasks the Permanent Council with devising appropriate ways to ensure adequate resources to implement this decision.

Istanbul Document

(Summit of Heads of State or Government)

Istanbul 1999

Istanbul Summit Declaration

(...)

2. (...) We reiterate unreservedly our commitment to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms and to abstain from any form of discrimination. We also reiterate our respect for international humanitarian law. We pledge our commitment to intensify efforts to prevent conflicts in the OSCE area, and when they occur to resolve them peacefully. We will work closely with other international organizations and institutions on the basis of the Platform for Co-operative Security, which we adopted as a part of our Charter.

(...)

6. (...) We underline the importance of respect for the rule of law and of vigorous efforts to fight organized crime and corruption, which constitute a great threat to economic reform and prosperity. We remain committed to the return of refugees and internally displaced persons, in particular minority return.

7. (...) We look forward to faster progress towards the return of refugees and displaced persons and the implementation of relevant international standards, particularly those related to equal treatment without regard to ethnicity, freedom of the media, and free and fair elections (...)

26. With a large number of elections ahead of us, we are committed to these being free and fair, and in accordance with OSCE principles and commitments. This is the only way in which there can be a stable basis for democratic development. We appreciate the role of the ODIHR in assisting countries to develop electoral legislation in keeping with OSCE principles and commitments, and we agree to follow up promptly ODIHR's election assessments and recommendations. We value the work of the ODIHR and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly – before, during and after elections – which further contributes to the democratic process. We are committed to secure the full right of persons belonging to minorities to vote and to facilitate the right of refugees to participate in elections held in their countries of origin. We pledge to ensure fair competition among candidates as well as parties, including through their access to the media and respect for the right of assembly.

27. We commit ourselves to ensuring the freedom of the media as a basic condition for pluralistic and democratic societies. We are deeply concerned about the exploitation of media in areas of conflict to foment hatred and ethnic tension and the use of legal restrictions and harassment to deprive citizens of free media. We underline the need to secure freedom of expression, which is an essential element of political discourse in any democracy. We support the Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media in its efforts to promote free and independent media.

28. In the year of the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and putting the OSCE's Copenhagen commitments into practice, we commit ourselves to actively promote children's rights and interests, especially in conflict and post-conflict situations. We will regularly address the rights of children in the work of the OSCE (...) We will pay particular attention to the physical and psychological wellbeing of children involved in or affected by armed conflict.

(...)

30. We reaffirm our commitment to ensure that laws and policies fully respect the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, in particular in relation to issues affecting cultural identity. Specifically, we emphasize the requirement that laws and policies regarding the educational, linguistic and participatory rights of persons belonging to national minorities conform to applicable international standards and conventions. We also support the adoption and full implementation of comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation to promote full equality of opportunities for all. We commend the essential work of the High Commissioner on National Minorities. We reaffirm that we will increase our efforts to implement the recommendations of the High Commissioner on National Minorities.

31. We deplore violence and other manifestations of racism and discrimination against minorities, including the Roma and Sinti. We commit ourselves to ensure that laws and policies fully respect the rights of Roma and Sinti and, where necessary, to promote antidiscrimination legislation to this effect. We underline the importance of careful attention to the problems of the social exclusion of Roma and Sinti. These issues are primarily a responsibility of the participating States concerned. We emphasize the important role that the ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti issues can play in providing support. A further helpful step might be the elaboration by the Contact Point of an action plan of targeted activities, drawn up in co-operation with the High Commissioner on National Minorities and others active in this field, notably the Council of Europe.

32. In line with our commitment to ensure full equality between women and men, we look forward to an early approval and implementation of an OSCE gender action plan.

(...)

37. We have in the Charter reaffirmed our commitment to the rule of law and stressed the need to combat corruption. We task the Permanent Council to examine how best to contribute to efforts to combat corruption, taking into account efforts of other organizations such as the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, Council of Europe and the United Nations. The results of this work will be reported to the 2000 Ministerial Meeting.

(...)

Charter for European Security

(...)

I. Our Common Challenges

2. The last decade of the twentieth century has brought great achievements in the OSCE area, co-operation has replaced previous confrontation, but the danger of conflicts between States has not been eliminated. We have put Europe's old divisions behind us, but new risks and challenges have emerged. Since we signed the Charter of Paris it has become more obvious that threats to our security can stem from conflicts within States as well as from conflicts between States. We have experienced conflicts which have often resulted from flagrant violations of OSCE norms and

principles. We have witnessed atrocities of a kind we had thought were relegated to the past. In this decade it has become clear that all such conflicts can represent a threat to the security of all OSCE participating States.

3. We are determined to learn from the dangers of confrontation and division between States as well as from tragedies of the last decade. Security and peace must be enhanced through an approach which combines two basic elements, we must build confidence among people within States and strengthen co-operation between States. Therefore, we will strengthen existing instruments and develop new ones to provide assistance and advice. We will reinforce our efforts to ensure full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the rights of persons belonging to national minorities. In parallel, we will strengthen our capacity to enhance confidence and security between States. We are determined to develop the means at our disposal to settle peacefully disputes between them.

4. International terrorism, violent extremism, organized crime and drug trafficking represent growing challenges to security. Whatever its motives, terrorism in all its forms and manifestations is unacceptable. We will enhance our efforts to prevent the preparation and financing of any act of terrorism on our territories and deny terrorists safe havens. The excessive and destabilizing accumulation and uncontrolled spread of small arms and light weapons represent a threat to peace and security. We are committed to strengthening our protection against these new risks and challenges; strong democratic institutions and the rule of law are the foundation for this protection. We are also determined to co-operate more actively and closely with each other to meet these challenges.

5. Acute economic problems and environmental degradation may have serious implications for our security. Co-operation in the fields of economy, science and technology and the environment will be of critical importance. We will strengthen our responses to such threats through continued economic and environmental reforms, by stable and transparent frameworks for economic activity and by promoting market economies, while paying due attention to economic and social rights. We applaud the unprecedented process of economic transformation taking place in many participating States. We encourage them to continue this reform process, which will contribute to security and prosperity in the entire OSCE area. We will step up our efforts across all dimensions of the OSCE to combat corruption and to promote the rule of law.

6. We confirm that security in areas nearby, in particular in the Mediterranean area as well as areas in direct proximity to participating States, such as those of Central Asia, is of increasing importance to the OSCE. We recognize that instability in these areas creates challenges that directly affect the security and prosperity of OSCE States.

II. Our Common Foundations

7. We reaffirm our full adherence to the Charter of the United Nations, and to the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris and all other OSCE documents to which we have agreed. These documents represent our common commitments and are the foundation for our work. They have helped us to bring about an end to the old confrontation in Europe and to foster a new era of democracy, peace and solidarity throughout the OSCE area. They established clear standards for participating States' treatment of each other and of all individuals within their territories. All OSCE commitments, without exception, apply equally to each participating State. Their implementation in good faith is essential for relations between States, between governments and their peoples, as well as between the organizations of which they are members. Participating States are accountable to their citizens and responsible to each other for their implementation of their OSCE commitments.

We regard these commitments as our common achievement and therefore consider them to be matters of immediate and legitimate concern to all participating States.

(...)

9. We will build our relations in conformity with the concept of common and comprehensive security, guided by equal partnership, solidarity and transparency. The security of each participating State is inseparably linked to that of all others. We will address the human, economic, political and military dimensions of security as an integral whole.

(...)

III. Our Common Response

(...)

Solidarity and Partnership

14. Peace and security in our region is best guaranteed by the willingness and ability of each participating State to uphold democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights. We individually confirm our willingness to comply fully with our commitments. We also have a joint responsibility to uphold OSCE principles. We are therefore determined to co-operate within the OSCE and with its institutions and representatives and stand ready to use OSCE instruments, tools and mechanisms. We will co-operate in a spirit of solidarity and partnership in a continuing review of implementation. Today we commit ourselves to joint measures based on co-operation, both in the OSCE and through those organizations of which we are members, in order to offer assistance to participating States to enhance their compliance with OSCE principles and commitments. We will strengthen existing co-operative instruments and develop new ones in order to respond efficiently to requests for assistance from participating States. We will explore ways to further increase the effectiveness of the Organization to deal with cases of clear, gross and continuing violations of those principles and commitments.

(...)

Our Institutions

17. The Parliamentary Assembly has developed into one of the most important OSCE institutions continuously providing new ideas and proposals. We welcome this increasing role, particularly in the field of democratic development and election monitoring. We call on the Parliamentary Assembly to develop its activities further as a key component in our efforts to promote democracy, prosperity and increased confidence within and between participating States.

18. The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), the High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM) and the Representative on Freedom of the Media are essential instruments in ensuring respect for human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The OSCE Secretariat provides vital assistance to the Chairman in – Office and to the activities of our Organization, especially in the field. We will also strengthen further the operational capacities of the OSCE Secretariat to enable it to face the expansion of our activities and to ensure that field operations function effectively and in accordance with the mandates and guidance given to them.

(...)

The Human Dimension

19. We reaffirm that respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law is at the core of the OSCE's comprehensive concept of security. We commit ourselves to counter such threats to security as violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief and manifestations of intolerance, aggressive nationalism, racism, chauvinism, xenophobia and anti-semitism.

The protection and promotion of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities are essential factors for democracy, peace, justice and stability within, and between, participating States. In this respect we reaffirm our commitments, in particular under the relevant provisions of the Copenhagen 1990 Human Dimension Document, and recall the Report of the Geneva 1991 Meeting of Experts on National Minorities. Full respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, besides being an end in itself, may not undermine, but strengthen territorial integrity and sovereignty.

Various concepts of autonomy as well as other approaches outlined in the above-mentioned documents, which are in line with OSCE principles, constitute ways to preserve and promote the ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious identity of national minorities within an existing State. We condemn violence against any minority. We pledge to take measures to promote tolerance and to build pluralistic societies where all, regardless of their ethnic origin, enjoy full equality of opportunity. We emphasize that questions relating to national minorities can only be satisfactorily resolved in a democratic political framework based on the rule of law.

We reaffirm our recognition that everyone has the right to a nationality and that no one should be deprived of his or her nationality arbitrarily. We commit ourselves to continue our efforts to ensure that everyone can exercise this right. We also commit ourselves to further the international protection of stateless persons.

20. We recognize the particular difficulties faced by Roma and Sinti and the need to undertake effective measures in order to achieve full equality of opportunity, consistent with OSCE commitments, for persons belonging to Roma and Sinti. We will reinforce our efforts to ensure that Roma and Sinti are able to play a full and equal part in our societies, and to eradicate discrimination against them.

21. We are committed to eradicating torture and cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment or punishment throughout the OSCE area. To this end, we will promote legislation to provide procedural and substantive safeguards and remedies to combat these practices. We will assist victims and co-operate with relevant international organizations and non-governmental organizations, as appropriate.

22. We reject any policy of ethnic cleansing or mass expulsion. We reaffirm our commitment to respect the right to seek asylum and to ensure the international protection of refugees as set out in the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, as well as to facilitate the voluntary return of refugees and internally displaced persons in dignity and safety. We will pursue without discrimination the reintegration of refugees and internally displaced persons in their places of origin.

In order to enhance the protection of civilians in times of conflict, we will seek ways of reinforcing the application of international humanitarian law.

23. The full and equal exercise by women of their human rights is essential to achieve a more peaceful, prosperous and democratic OSCE area. We are committed to making equality between men and women an integral part of our policies, both at the level of our States and within the Organization.

24. We will undertake measures to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women, and to end violence against women and children as well as sexual exploitation and all forms of trafficking in human beings. In order to prevent such crimes we will, among other means, promote the adoption or strengthening of legislation to hold accountable persons responsible for these acts and strengthen the protection of victims. We will also develop and implement measures to promote the rights and interests of children in armed conflict and post-conflict situations, including refugees and internally displaced children. We will look at ways of preventing forced or compulsory recruitment for use in armed conflict of persons under 18 years of age.

25. We reaffirm our obligation to conduct free and fair elections in accordance with OSCE commitments, in particular the Copenhagen Document 1990. We recognize the assistance the ODIHR can provide to participating States in developing and implementing electoral legislation. In line with these commitments, we will invite observers to our elections from other participating States, the ODIHR, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and appropriate institutions and organizations that wish to observe our election proceedings. We agree to follow up promptly the ODIHR's election assessment and recommendations.

26. We reaffirm the importance of independent media and the free flow of information as well as the public's access to information. We commit ourselves to take all necessary steps to ensure the basic conditions for free and independent media and unimpeded transborder and intra-State flow of information, which we consider to be an essential component of any democratic, free and open society.

27. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) can perform a vital role in the promotion of human rights, democracy and the rule of law. They are an integral component of a strong civil society. We pledge ourselves to enhance the ability of NGOs to make their full contribution to the further development of civil society and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

(...)

Rule of Law and Fight against Corruption

33. We reaffirm our commitment to the rule of law. We recognize that corruption poses a great threat to the OSCE's shared values. It generates instability and reaches into many aspects of the security, economic and human dimensions. Participating States pledge to strengthen their efforts to combat corruption and the conditions that foster it, and to promote a positive framework for good government practices and public integrity. They will make better use of existing international instruments and assist each other in their fight against corruption. As part of its work to promote the rule of law, the OSCE will work with NGOs that are committed to a strong public and business consensus against corrupt practices.

IV. Our Common Instruments

Enhancing our Dialogue

(...)

36. Reflecting our spirit of solidarity and partnership, we will also enhance our political dialogue in order to offer assistance to participating States, thereby ensuring compliance with OSCE commitments. To encourage this dialogue, we have decided, in accordance with established rules and practices, to make increased use of OSCE instruments, including:

(...)

- Organizing training programmes aimed at improving standards and practices, *inter alia*, within the fields of human rights, democratization and the rule of law;
- Addressing matters regarding compliance with OSCE commitments at OSCE review meetings and conferences as well as in the Economic Forum;

(...)

OSCE Field Operations

(...)

38. The development of OSCE field operations represents a major transformation of the Organization that has enabled the OSCE to play a more prominent role in promoting peace, security and compliance with OSCE commitments. Based on the experience we have acquired, we will develop and strengthen this instrument further in order to carry out tasks according to their respective mandates, which may, *inter alia*, include the following:

(...)

- Observing compliance with OSCE commitments and providing advice or recommendations for improved compliance;
- Assisting in the organization and monitoring of elections;
- Providing support for the primacy of law and democratic institutions and for the maintenance and restoration of law and order;

(...)

- Providing support in the rehabilitation and reconstruction of various aspects of society.

(...)

Police-related Activities

44. We will work to enhance the OSCE's role in civilian police-related activities as an integral part of the Organization's efforts in conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation. Such activities may comprise:

– Police monitoring, including with the aim of preventing police from carrying out such activities as discrimination based on religious and ethnic identity;

– Police training, which could, *inter alia*, include the following tasks:

– Improving the operational and tactical capabilities of local police services and reforming paramilitary forces;

– Providing new and modern policing skills, such as community policing, and anti-drug, anti-corruption and anti-terrorist capacities;

- Creating a police service with a multi-ethnic and/or multi-religious composition that can enjoy the confidence of the entire population;
 - Promoting respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in general.
- (...)

45. We shall also promote the development of independent judicial systems that play a key role in providing remedies for human rights violations as well as providing advice and assistance for prison system reforms. The OSCE will also work with other international organizations in the creation of political and legal frameworks within which the police can perform its tasks in accordance with democratic principles and the rule of law.

Peacekeeping

46. We remain committed to reinforcing the OSCE's key role in maintaining peace and stability throughout our area. The OSCE's most effective contributions to regional security have been in areas such as field operations, post-conflict rehabilitation, democratization, and human rights and election monitoring. We have decided to explore options for a potentially greater and wider role for the OSCE in peacekeeping. Reaffirming our rights and obligations under the Charter of the United Nations, and on the basis of our existing decisions, we confirm that the OSCE can, on a case-by-case basis and by consensus, decide to play a role in peacekeeping, including a leading role when participating States judge it to be the most effective and appropriate organization. In this regard, it could also decide to provide the mandate covering peacekeeping by others and seek the support of participating States as well as other organizations to provide resources and expertise. In accordance with the Platform for Co-operative Security, it could also provide a co-ordinating framework for such efforts.

(...)

VI. Conclusion

51. This Charter will benefit the security of all participating States by enhancing and strengthening the OSCE as we enter the twenty-first century. Today we have decided to develop its existing instruments and to create new tools. We will use them fully to promote a free, democratic and secure OSCE area (...)

Document of the Eighth Meeting of the Ministerial Council

Vienna 2000

Decisions of the Vienna Ministerial Council Meeting

Decision on Enhancing the OSCE'S Efforts to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings

The Ministerial Council,

Bearing in mind the Charter for European Security, which commits participating States “to undertake measures to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women, and to end violence against women and children as well as sexual exploitation and all forms of trafficking in human beings” and to “promote the adoption or strengthening of legislation to hold accountable persons responsible for these acts and strengthening the protection of victims”,

Recalling the OSCE commitments on combating the traffic in human beings contained in the Moscow Document of 1991,

Recognizing that trafficking in human beings is an increasing problem and convinced of the necessity for the OSCE to enhance its efforts to combat trafficking in human beings throughout the OSCE region, including in conflict and post-conflict situations, and to contribute to national, regional and international anti-trafficking efforts in defence of human rights and the fight against transnational organized crime,

1. Reaffirms that trafficking in human beings is an abhorrent human rights abuse and a serious crime that demands a more comprehensive and co-ordinated response from participating States and the international community, as well as a more coherent and co-operative approach among countries, in particular those of origin, transit and destination;
2. Welcomes the adoption, by the United Nations General Assembly, of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime as well as the definition of trafficking in persons contained therein and calls upon all participating States to sign and ratify the United Nations Protocol as well as the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography;
3. Recognizes the primary responsibility of participating States in combating trafficking based on an integrated and co-ordinated approach which includes prevention of trafficking, protection of victims and prosecution of traffickers and their accomplices;
4. Stresses the role of national parliaments in the enactment, among others, of laws necessary to combat trafficking in human beings and welcomes articles 106 and 107 of the Parliamentary Assembly's Bucharest Declaration on trafficking in persons;

5. Agrees to strengthen the activities of the OSCE to combat trafficking and emphasizes the need for intensified co-operation between different OSCE institutions as well as between the OSCE and other international organizations, such as relevant United Nations agencies, the International Organization for Migration, the Council of Europe, the European Union and Interpol;
6. Supports the work of the Stability Pact Task Force on Trafficking in Human Beings and calls in particular for the governments of the region concerned to play an active role in the Task Force;
7. Calls on OSCE institutions, in particular the ODIHR, and field operations, to develop and implement anti-trafficking programmes and to promote co-ordinated efforts in the areas of prevention, prosecution and protection, in co-operation with non-governmental organizations as well as international organizations and other relevant institutions;
8. Undertakes to raise awareness, including with assistance from the ODIHR, non-governmental organizations and other relevant institutions, through, where necessary, establishing training programmes among public officials, including law enforcement, judiciary, consular and immigration officials, about all aspects of trafficking;
9. Commits to take necessary measures, including by adopting and implementing legislation, to criminalize trafficking in human beings, including appropriate penalties, with a view to ensuring effective law enforcement response and prosecution. Such legislation should take into account a human rights approach to the problem of trafficking, and include provision for the protection of the human rights of victims, ensuring that victims of trafficking do not face prosecution solely because they have been trafficked;
10. Will consider adopting legislative or other appropriate measures, such as shelters, which permit victims of trafficking in persons to remain in their territories, temporarily or permanently, in appropriate cases; and establishing appropriate repatriation processes for the victims of trafficking, with due regard to their safety, including the provision of documents; and developing policies concerning the provision of economic and social benefits to victims as well as their rehabilitation and reintegration in society;
11. Encourages the nomination, where appropriate, of governmental representatives on trafficking to co-ordinate national activities and to ensure regional and international co-operation and to make this contact information available to other participating States;
12. Recognizes that OSCE field operations, within the legal framework of the host countries, can have a valuable role to play in the fight against trafficking, including by regular monitoring and reporting and assisting State authorities through, *inter alia*, promoting dialogue and acting as a bridge between governments and non-governmental organizations; and institutions, in resolving individual trafficking cases; and calls on field operations to strengthen co-operation among themselves;
13. Calls on the OSCE Secretariat, in co-operation with the ODIHR, to intensify anti-trafficking training in its induction programmes for OSCE field personnel in order to enhance their capacity to monitor, report and respond to the problem of trafficking through regular OSCE activities; and to raise awareness within OSCE institutions and among OSCE personnel of the problems of trafficking; these training programmes should also be made available to participating States and other international organizations;
14. Welcomes the further development of the OSCE Secretariat's Code of Conduct for OSCE Mission Members to include provisions on trafficking in human beings and other human rights abuses,

looks forward to its speedy implementation by all OSCE structures and institutions, requests heads of OSCE field operations to take appropriate measures if members of their staff use trafficking victims, and encourages all other international bodies, where appropriate, to adopt similar standards and practices.

Document of the Ninth Meeting of the Ministerial Council

Bucharest 2001

Bucharest Ministerial Declaration

(...)

2. We resolutely condemn all acts of terrorism. Terrorism, whatever its motivation or origin, has no justification. No cause can justify the purposeful targeting of innocent people. In the fight against terrorism, there is no neutrality.

3. Reflecting the OSCE's solidarity, the Ministerial Council has adopted today a decision and Action Plan on Terrorism. We reiterate that the struggle against terrorism is not a war against religions or peoples. We reaffirm our commitment to protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms.

4. We are determined to protect our citizens from new challenges to their security while safeguarding the rule of law, individual liberties, and the right to equal justice under law. Organized crime, illicit traffic in drugs and arms, and trafficking in human beings, affect the security, economy and social structure of all participating States. The Ministerial Council supports enhanced efforts and greater international co-operation to combat these challenges, and urges participating States who have not yet done so to become parties to the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols.

(...)

12. We also renew our commitment to relations founded on sovereign equality, mutual respect, co-operation, and support for democracy. We are determined to build our relations in conformity with the concept of common and comprehensive security, guided by equal partnership, solidarity and transparency. We remain committed to an OSCE community from Vancouver to Vladivostok, whole, free, and at peace, that responds through concerted efforts to challenges to peace and stability.

II. Decision on Combating Terrorism and the Bucharest Plan of Action for Combating Terrorism

The 55 participating States of the OSCE stand united against terrorism, a scourge of our times.

The OSCE participating States resolutely condemn the barbaric acts of terrorism that were committed against the United States on 11 September 2001. They represented an attack on the whole of the international community, and on people of every faith and culture. These heinous deeds, as well as other terrorist acts in all forms and manifestations, committed no matter when, where or by whom, are a threat to international and regional peace, security and stability. There must be no safe haven for those perpetrating, financing, harbouring or otherwise supporting those responsible for such criminal acts. Terrorism, whatever its motivation or origin, has no justification.

The OSCE participating States will not yield to terrorist threats, but will combat them by all means in accordance with their international commitments. This will require a long and sustained effort, but they take strength from their broad coalition, reaching from Vancouver to Vladivostok. They will defend freedom and protect their citizens against acts of terrorism, fully respecting international law and human rights. They firmly reject identification of terrorism with any nationality or religion and reconfirm the norms, principles and values of the OSCE.

The OSCE participating States pledge to reinforce and develop bilateral and multilateral co-operation within the OSCE, with the United Nations and with other international and regional organizations, in order to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, wherever and by whomever committed. As a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, the OSCE is determined to contribute to the fulfilment of international obligations as enshrined, *inter alia*, in United Nations Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), and will act in conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. The OSCE participating States pledge to become parties to all 12 United Nations conventions and protocols related to terrorism as soon as possible. They call for a speedy finalization of negotiations for a Comprehensive United Nations Convention on International Terrorism.

The OSCE participating States have come together in political solidarity to take joint action. They look forward to the substantive contribution that the Bishkek International Conference on Enhancing Security and Stability in Central Asia, to be held on 13 and 14 December 2001, can render to global anti-terrorism efforts, and will support, also through technical assistance, the Central Asian partners, on their request, in countering external threats related to terrorism.

To that end, the OSCE Ministerial Council adopts The Bucharest Plan of Action for Combating Terrorism, annexed to this Decision.

Annex

The Bucharest Plan of Action for Combating Terrorism

I. Goal of the Action Plan

1. Terrorism is a threat to international peace and security, in the OSCE area as elsewhere. The OSCE stands ready to make its contribution to the fight against terrorism in close co-operation with other organizations and fora. This contribution will be consistent with the Platform for Co-operative Security and will benefit from interaction between global and regional anti-terrorism efforts under the aegis of the United Nations. The OSCE participating States commit their political will, resources and practical means to the implementation of their obligations under existing international terrorism conventions and pledge themselves to intensify national, bilateral and multilateral efforts to combat terrorism.

2. In contribution to the world-wide efforts to combat terrorism, the OSCE will seek to add value on the basis of the specifics of the Organization, its strengths and comparative advantages: its comprehensive security concept linking the politico-military, human and economic dimensions; its broad membership; its experience in the field; and its expertise in early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management, post-conflict rehabilitation and building democratic institutions. In addition, many effective counter – terrorism measures fall into areas in which the OSCE is already active and proficient, such as police training and monitoring, legislative and judicial reform, and border monitoring.

3. The aim of the Action Plan is to establish a framework for comprehensive OSCE action to be taken by participating States and the Organization as a whole to combat terrorism, fully respecting international law, including the international law of human rights and other relevant norms of international law. The Action Plan seeks to expand existing activities that contribute to combating terrorism, facilitate interaction between States and, where appropriate, identify new instruments for action. The Action Plan, which recognizes that the fight against terrorism requires sustained efforts, will identify activities to be implemented immediately as well as over the medium and long term.

II. International legal obligations and political commitments

4. United Nations conventions and United Nations Security Council resolutions (UNSCR) constitute the global legal framework for the fight against terrorism. UNSCR 1269 (1999), 1368, 1373 and 1377 (2001), along with the 12 relevant United Nations conventions and protocols on anti-terrorism issues, provide the basis for this framework and include a number of specific elements of combating terrorism. In addition, a range of OSCE documents, including Summit declarations from Helsinki to Istanbul, spell out the OSCE's commitment to fight terrorism, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. The widest and most comprehensive participation in and implementation of existing instruments and commitments to combat terrorism by the participating States must be pursued and ensured.

5. Participating States: Pledge themselves to apply efforts to become parties to all 12 United Nations conventions and protocols relating to terrorism, by 31 December, 2002, if possible, recognizing the important role that parliamentarians may play in ratification and other anti-terrorism legislative processes. States are encouraged to inform the Permanent Council of steps taken in this regard. Will participate constructively in the ongoing negotiations at the United Nations on a Comprehensive Convention against International Terrorism and an International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, with a view to their early and successful conclusion.

6. Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR): Will, on formal request by interested participating States and where appropriate, offer technical assistance/ advice on legislative drafting necessary for the ratification of international instruments, in close co-operation with other organizations, including the United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention (UNODCCP).

7. Participating States: Will consider how the OSCE may draw upon best practices and lessons learned from other relevant groups, organizations, institutions and fora in areas such as police and judicial co-operation; prevention and suppression of the financing of terrorism; denial of other means of support; border controls including visa and document security; and access by law enforcement authorities to information.

8. The participating States will also use the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) to strengthen their efforts in combating terrorism through full and timely implementation of all relevant measures agreed by the OSCE. To this end they will enhance implementation of existing politico-military commitments and agreements, in particular the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security and the Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW).

The FSC will examine the relevance of its other documents to the fight against terrorism, and will assess whether there is a need to develop additional norms and measures. The Security Dialogue may serve as a suitable basis for regular consultations on these issues within the FSC.

The participating States will submit responses to the Code of Conduct Questionnaire that provide further transparency on international, regional and national commitments in combating terrorism, especially relevant United Nation conventions and resolutions. The FSC will consider ways to fully implement the Document on SALW, *inter alia*, Section V on early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management, and post-conflict rehabilitation. The FSC will examine the possibility of enhancing transparency on national marking systems, exports and imports, and national stockpile management and security procedures, primarily by reviewing the information thus exchanged and developing best practice guides. The follow-up conference on the Code of Conduct and the SALW workshop, both of which will take place in 2002, could further enhance the application of these documents in combating terrorism.

III. Preventive action against terrorism in the OSCE area

9. No circumstance or cause can justify acts of terrorism. At the same time, there are various social, economic, political and other factors, including violent separatism and extremism, which engender conditions in which terrorist organizations are able to recruit and win support. The OSCE's comprehensive approach to security provides comparative advantages in combating terrorism by identifying and addressing these factors through all relevant OSCE instruments and structures.

10. Institution building, strengthening the rule of law and state authorities: ODIHR: Will continue and increase efforts to promote and assist in building democratic institutions at the request of States, *inter alia* by helping to strengthen administrative capacity, local and central government and parliamentary structures, the judiciary, ombudsman institutions and civil society. Will facilitate exchanges of best practices and experience between participating States in this regard. Will continue to develop projects to solidify democratic institutions, civil society and good governance.

11. Promoting human rights, tolerance and multi-culturalism: Participating States/ Permanent Council/ODIHR/High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM)/ Representative on Freedom of the Media: Will promote and enhance tolerance, co-existence and harmonious relations between ethnic, religious, linguistic and other groups as well as constructive co-operation among participating States in this regard. Will provide early warning of and appropriate responses to violence, intolerance, extremism and discrimination against these groups and, at the same time, promote their respect for the rule of law, democratic values and individual freedoms. Will work to ensure that persons belonging to national minorities have the right freely to express, preserve and develop their ethnic, cultural, linguistic or religious identity.

12. Representative on Freedom of the Media: Will consider developing projects aimed at supporting tolerance towards people of other convictions and beliefs through the use of the media. Will promote measures aimed at preventing and fighting aggressive nationalism, racism, chauvinism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism in the media. Will continue to encourage pluralistic debate and increased media attention to promoting tolerance of ethnic, religious, linguistic and cultural diversity and will, in this context, promote broad public access to media as well as monitor hate speech.

13. Addressing negative socio-economic factors: Participating States/Secretariat: Will aim to identify economic and environmental issues that undermine security, such as poor governance; corruption; illegal economic activity; high unemployment; widespread poverty and large disparities; demographic factors; and unsustainable use of natural resources; and will seek to counter such factors with the assistance, on their request, of the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA), acting, among other things, as a catalyst for action and co-operation.

14. Preventing violent conflict and promoting peaceful settlement of disputes: Drawing on all its capacities, the OSCE will continue and intensify work aimed at early warning and appropriate response, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation; will strengthen its ability to settle conflicts; will increase efforts to find lasting solutions to unresolved conflicts, including through promotion of the rule of law and crime prevention in such conflict zones through increased co-operation with the United Nations, the European Union and other international organizations; and will further develop its rapid deployment capability (REACT) in crisis situations.

15. Addressing the issue of protracted displacement: Participating States/ODIHR/ HCNM/Representative on Freedom of the Media: Will explore strengthened OSCE potential for contributing to durable solutions, supporting and closely co-operating with other relevant organizations, primarily the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Will closely monitor situations of protracted displacement.

16. Strengthening national anti-terrorism legislation: Participating States: Will commit themselves to implementing all the obligations they have assumed under relevant conventions and protocols relating to terrorism as well as the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its additional protocols, sharing information and methods in this regard and considering ways and means of co-operation in implementation at bilateral, OSCE-wide and sub-regional meetings.

17. OSCE Parliamentary Assembly: Will continue its efforts to promote dialogue among OSCE parliamentarians with a view to strengthening legislation essential in combating terrorism.

18. ODIHR: Will, on request by interested participating States and where appropriate, offer technical assistance/advice on the implementation of international anti-terrorism conventions and protocols as well as on the compliance of this legislation with international standards, in accordance with Permanent Council decisions, and will seek cooperation with other organizations, especially the UNODCCP, to this end. Will consider facilitating contacts between national experts to promote exchange of information and best practices on counter-terrorism legislation.

19. Supporting law enforcement and fighting organized crime: Participating States: Noting the close connection between terrorism and transnational organized crime, illicit trafficking in drugs, money laundering and illicit arms trafficking, will take the necessary steps to prevent in their territory illegal activities of persons, groups or organizations that instigate, finance, organize, facilitate or engage in perpetration of acts of terrorism or other illegal activities directed at the violent overthrow of the political regime of another participating State. Will afford one another the greatest measure of assistance in providing information in connection with criminal investigations or criminal extradition proceedings relating to terrorist acts, in accordance with their domestic law and international obligations.

20. Permanent Council: Will consider arranging regular meetings of law enforcement officials of participating States and, where applicable, of OSCE experts with relevant experience in the field to exchange best practices and ways of improving co-operation.

21. Secretariat: Will assist participating States, on their request, through measures to combat trafficking in human beings, drugs and small arms and light weapons, in accordance with relevant Permanent Council decisions, and will undertake efforts to assist in facilitating increased border monitoring, where appropriate. Will further assist participating States, on the request and with their agreement, through provision of advice and assistance on restructuring and/or reconstruction of police services; monitoring and training of existing police services, including human rights

training; and capacity building, including support for integrated or multi-ethnic police services. Will, to this end, reinforce its existing police-related activities in conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation.

22. ODIHR: Will provide continued advice to participating States, at their request, on strengthening domestic legal frameworks and institutions that uphold the rule of law, such as law enforcement agencies, the judiciary and the prosecuting authorities, bar associations and defence attorneys. Will expand its efforts to combat trafficking in human beings and to support victims of trafficking. Will, where appropriate, support prison reform and improvements in criminal procedure.

23. Representative on Freedom of the Media: Will co-operate in supporting, on request, the drafting of legislation on the prevention of the abuse of information technology for terrorist purposes, ensuring that such laws are consistent with commitments regarding freedom of expression and the free flow of information.

24. **Suppressing the financing of terrorism:** Participating States: Will, within the framework of the United Nations Convention on the Suppression of Financing of Terrorism and UNSCR 1373 (2001), take action to prevent and suppress the financing of terrorism, criminalize the wilful provision or collection of funds for terrorist purposes, and freeze terrorist assets also bearing in mind UNSCR 1267 (1999). Will, in accordance with their domestic legislation and obligations under international law, provide early response to requests for information by another participating State and relevant international organizations.

25. Participating States/Secretariat: Will, in the realm of the Economic and Environmental activities for 2002, also consider ways of combating economic factors which may facilitate the emergence of terrorism, economic consequences of terrorism as well as financial support for terrorists. Will consider how the OSCE may contribute, within the framework of its work on transparency and the fight against corruption, to the wider international effort to combat terrorism. Will consider taking on a catalytic role in providing targeted projects for the training of the personnel of domestic financial institutions in counter-terrorism areas, *inter alia* on monitoring of financial flows and on prevention of money laundering. Participating States will participate constructively in the forthcoming negotiations at the United Nations on a global instrument against corruption, with a view to their early and successful conclusion.

26. **Preventing movement of terrorists:** Participating States: Will prevent the movement of terrorist individuals or groups through effective border controls and controls on issuance of identity papers and travel documents, as well as through measures for ensuring the security of identity papers and travel documents and preventing their counterfeiting, forgery and fraudulent use. Will apply such control measures fully respecting their obligations under international refugee and human rights law. Will, through the proper application of the exclusion clauses contained in the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, ensure that asylum is not granted to persons who have participated in terrorist acts. Will provide for the timely detention and prosecution or extradition of persons charged with terrorist acts, in accordance with their obligations under international and national law.

IV. Action under the Platform for Co-operative Security – Co-operation with other organizations

27. The United Nations is the framework for the global fight against terrorism. Close cooperation and co-ordination between all relevant actors must be secured. The OSCE can take on a co-ordinating role for inter – and intra-regional initiatives. The OSCE reaches out through close contacts

to non-governmental organizations (NGOs), civil society and parliamentarians, creating an ever-closer network for the international coalition against terrorism.

28. Participating States/Secretariat: Will strengthen co-operation and information exchanges, both formally and informally, with other relevant groups, organizations, and institutions involved in combating terrorism. Will strengthen co-operation with the European Union on analysis and early warning and reinforce synergy with the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe and the Central European Initiative in areas relevant to combating terrorism. Will promote dialogue within the OSCE area on issues relating to new threats and challenges. Will broaden dialogue with partners outside the OSCE area, such as the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation and Partners for Co-operation in Asia, the Shanghai Co-operation Organization, the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Arab League, the African Union, and those States bordering on the OSCE area to exchange best practices and lessons learned in counter-terrorism efforts for application within the OSCE area.

V. Follow-up

29. The “Bishkek International Conference on Enhancing Security and Stability in Central Asia: Strengthening Comprehensive Efforts to Counter Terrorism”, to be held on 13 and 14 December 2001 in Bishkek, will be a first opportunity to:

- discuss among a broad range of participants, on the basis of the present Action Plan, concrete experiences and best practices in combating international terrorism and
- due to the specific security challenges to which this region is exposed, apply relevant provisions of this Action Plan for practical support to participating States in Central Asia, including financial and technical assistance in concrete areas of their interest.

30. The Secretary General will, by 27 December 2001, report to the United Nations Counter Terrorism Committee on action on combating terrorism taken by the OSCE, and will thereafter inform the United Nations as appropriate. In addition, he will regularly inform the Permanent Council about OSCE activities under this Plan of Action. He will prepare a report for submission to the next OSCE Ministerial Council/Summit on activities of OSCE bodies in the anti-terrorism field, and thereafter as requested by the Permanent Council. 31. Each OSCE body called upon to take action under this Plan will prepare, for submission to the Permanent Council, a “road map” for implementation of these tasks, including a timetable, resource implications, and indication of activities requiring further Permanent Council decisions.

On the basis of information provided by other OSCE bodies, the Secretariat will prepare an indicative assessment of the administrative and financial implications of this Plan of Action, including the possible need for establishing an anti-terrorism unit or focal point within the Secretariat, and make recommendations for the approval by the Permanent Council of necessary resources within the 2002 budget. The Permanent Council, acting, *inter alia*, through the Chairman-in-Office and assisted by the Secretariat, will monitor the implementation of this Action Plan. It will further identify sources for assistance in implementing counter-terrorism measures, including expert teams, and possible additional tasking by the Permanent Council of OSCE field presences in close co-operation and agreement with host governments.

(...)

V. Decisions of the Bucharest Ministerial Council Meeting

Decision No. 5

The Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming its concern about manifestations of aggressive nationalism, racism, chauvinism, xenophobia, anti-semitism and violent extremism, wherever they may occur,

Reiterating its determination to implement all OSCE commitments on taking measures in this regard,

Calls on participating States to promote tolerance and non-discrimination also through awareness raising campaigns and education; Calls on OSCE institutions, particularly the ODIHR, the High Commissioner on National Minorities, and the Representative on Freedom of the Media, to pay increased attention to manifestations of aggressive nationalism, racism, chauvinism, xenophobia, anti-semitism and violent extremism, to countering intolerance and discrimination on the ground of racial or ethnic origin, religious, political or other opinion and to fostering respect for rule of law, democratic values, human rights and fundamental freedoms, including freedom of expression, thought, conscience, religion or belief;

Tasks the Permanent Council to consider developing further measures in this regard.

Decision No. 6

The Ministerial Council,

Reiterating its commitment to combat all forms of trafficking in human beings, which affects all participating States,

Affirming its commitment to developing co-operation and interaction among participating States on anti-trafficking measures and related crimes,

Calls on participating States to sign and ratify the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children;

Welcomes the successful completion of the OSCE's Code of Conduct and Anti-Trafficking Guidelines and their dissemination to the OSCE staff;

Reaffirms its support for the work of the ODIHR, field operations and Stability Pact Task Force on combating trafficking in Human Beings;

Encourages information exchange with a view to strengthening investigation, law enforcement and crime prevention;

Calls on participating States to accelerate taking the necessary measures to fulfil their Vienna ministerial commitments which include prevention of trafficking, protection of victims and prosecution of traffickers and their accomplices.

Decision No. 7

The Ministerial Council, Noting the conclusions of the Bucharest Conference on Equal Opportunities for Roma and Sinti,

Expressing its support for the work of the Contact Point on Roma and Sinti Issues and its commitment to strengthening the Contact Point,

Tasks the ODIHR to elaborate an Action Plan of targeted activities as mandated by the Istanbul Summit, as one of the ways the ability of the Contact Point can be strengthened to assist participating States in fulfilling their commitments to improve the situation of Roma and Sinti, and to submit it to the Permanent Council;

Encourages the Contact Point on Roma and Sinti Issues to continue its work in close cooperation with participating States, Council of Europe and other relevant organizations and to inform the Permanent Council of these matters.

Decision No. 8

The Ministerial Council,

Recognizing that equality of women and men is essential to sustainable democracy and stability in the OSCE region,

Convinced of women's potential to contribute to conflict prevention, reconciliation and peace-building processes,

Confirming the commitment to protect and promote the rights of women and being aware of the vulnerability of women especially in conflict and post-conflict situations,

Determined to combat all forms of violence against women, including domestic violence,

Recognizing the need for rehabilitation centres for women affected by violence, Welcoming the fact that during this year the OSCE has given more attention to the problem of violence against women, which affects all OSCE participating States,

Calls for the implementation of the Action Plan on Gender Issues;

Tasks the Permanent Council to consider how the OSCE can contribute to preventing violence against women.

Decision No. 9

Police-Related Activities

The Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming the understanding at the Istanbul Summit that new risks and challenges to security have arisen globally and in the OSCE area, and that these new challenges – international terrorism, violent extremism, organized crime and drug trafficking as well as the excessive and destabilizing

accumulation and uncontrolled spread of small arms and light weapons – represent growing challenges to security;

Reaffirming the Istanbul commitment to co-operate more actively and closely with each other to meet these challenges, and to strengthen protection against these new risks and challenges;

Noting the commitment at Istanbul to meet common challenges, and the understanding that strong democratic institutions and the rule of law are the foundation for protection against these new risks and challenges;

Affirming that effective policing is essential to uphold the rule of law and to defend democratic institutions;

Also affirming that greater co-operation between and among participating States in police-related activities can contribute to meeting these new risks and challenges;

Recalling the undertaking by OSCE participating States at the Istanbul Summit to expand the ability to carry out police-related activities in order to assist in maintaining the primacy of law;

Recalling also the commitments contained in Articles 44 and 45 of the Istanbul Charter for European Security to enhance the OSCE's role in civilian police-related activities as an integral part of the Organization's efforts in conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation;

Recalling as well the Istanbul commitment to promote the development of independent judicial systems that play a key role in providing remedies for human rights violations as well as providing advice and assistance for prison system reforms, and to work with other international organizations in the creation of political and legal frameworks within which the police can perform its tasks in accordance with democratic principles and the rule of law;

Pursuant to the Decision of the Ministerial Council of 28 November 2000 on policerelated activities, and taking note of the discussion at the meeting of police experts held in Vienna on 28 and 29 June 2001;

Noting the Decision of the Ministerial Council of 4 December 2001 on combating terrorism, and the pledge therein of all OSCE participating States to reinforce and develop bilateral and multi-lateral co-operation within the OSCE, with the United Nations and with other international and regional organizations, in order to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, wherever and by whomever committed, in accordance with their international commitments;

Also acknowledging the role of law enforcement in furthering the Decision of the Ministerial Council of 28 November 2000 on enhancing the OSCE's efforts to combat trafficking in human beings, and in implementing the Forum for Security Co-operation Decision of 24 November 2000 on the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons;

And noting the increase in requests from participating States to the OSCE for assistance in police-related activities, and the recent expansion of the Organization's efforts to monitor police activities and to provide police training, including in multi-ethnic and/or multi-religious police services, in crisis or post-conflict situations;

1. Agrees that in developing plans for OSCE police-related activities in meeting new security challenges and in enhancing OSCE police-related activities directed to conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation, the OSCE will:

- strive to ensure continuity in institution building and functional transition from and disengagement of international assistance;
- explore and build on the role of police training, particularly integrated police training, in creating police services that can enjoy the confidence of the entire population, and as a confidence-building measure; and,
- examine the options and conditions for an OSCE role in law enforcement.

2. Decides to reinforce the OSCE's existing police-related activities in conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation including, at the request of participating States and with their agreement, through provision of advice and assistance on restructuring and/or reconstruction of police services; monitoring and training of existing police services, including training regarding human rights and fundamental freedoms; and capacity building, including support for integrated or multi-ethnic police services, where appropriate.

3. Decides to increase and promote co-operation among participating States in countering new security challenges, including by:

- at the request of participating States and with their agreement, and, as necessary in accordance with current OSCE procedures, on the decision of the Permanent Council, providing and co-ordinating OSCE police training, including at the subregional level, with a view to:
 - improving operational and tactical policing capacities;
 - enhancing key policing skills, including respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and, as appropriate, dealing with the criminal aspects of illegal migration; and,
 - increasing community policing, anti-drug, anti-corruption and anti-terrorist capacities; and,
- at the request of participating States and with their agreement:
 - providing advice or arranging for the provision of expert advice on requirements for effective policing (needs assessments) and how to meet them, including by facilitating or identifying funding to implement such advice from the OSCE; from its participating States through extra-budgetary funding; or from other relevant international or regional organizations; and,
 - encouraging where appropriate the exchange of information among and between participating States regarding lessons learned and best policing practices in countering these new security challenges.

4. In support of the above activities and undertakings, in accordance with the Platform for Co-operative Security, the OSCE will:

- convene as appropriate and preferably annually meetings of police experts from OSCE participating States, and representatives of other relevant specialized international and regional organizations;
- ensure that OSCE activities in police-related issues are conducted in co-ordination with other relevant actors and organizations, including reviewing and if possible enhancing compatibility with subregional, regional and international efforts, with a view to maximizing efficiency and benefit to the Organization, the host participating State, and to avoiding gaps, duplication or overlapping of competencies; and,

- promote the capabilities and capacities of the Organization in designing, conducting and managing effective OSCE police training, monitoring and capacity building, including through the development of links to other relevant organizations and national agencies as well as the principal humanitarian aid agencies.
5. In keeping with the above undertakings, participating States commit to:
- enhance co-operation on police-related issues between and among themselves in order to address new risks and challenges to their security, both bilaterally and multilaterally, and, where appropriate, through increased contacts between relevant bodies; and,
 - share OSCE expertise and lessons learned in police-related activities with other relevant international organizations of which they are members with a view to more effective international action to address these new risks and challenges to security.
6. The Permanent Council will review annually OSCE police-related activities, on the basis of an annual report on OSCE police-related activities from the Secretary General, with a view, *inter alia*, to considering how these activities might best contribute to addressing challenges to security, and to decide appropriate follow-up action in accordance

Document of the Tenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council

Porto 2002

I. Porto Ministerial Declaration

Responding to Change

1. We, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the participating States of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, have met in Porto and reaffirmed our determination to work together to protect our peoples from existing and emerging threats to security. The evolving political, security and economic environment creates new challenges for the OSCE. As we advance in the new century, we see these challenges more clearly and the OSCE's unique contribution to an international community in which all nations and individuals can feel secure becomes ever more valuable. We have a historic opportunity to consolidate lasting peace, prosperity and democracy throughout a Europe which is becoming ever more united.

2. We reaffirm our commitment to promote security and co-operation throughout an OSCE area with no dividing lines, by building mutual confidence and working together to resolve security issues in a spirit of transparency and partnership. Our efforts will be complemented by those of other international organizations and institutions with which we will co-operate closely, on the basis of the Platform for Co-operative Security.

3. At the same time, our Organization must develop new responses to the changing nature of the threats to our security, embracing and enhancing all three dimensions of our comprehensive approach. Our efforts to promote peace and stability must go hand in hand with our determination to ensure full respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law, and to reinforce the conditions essential for sustainable development in all our States.

4. Terrorism, as recent terrorist acts like the hostage-taking in Moscow demonstrate, remains a threat to individual and global security. The Charter on Preventing and Combating Terrorism which we have adopted today sets out the principles of our common approach to terrorism. Last year, in Bucharest, following the events of 11 September, we adopted a Plan of Action for Combating Terrorism, and today we have decided to further intensify our efforts to implement it.

5. In order to ensure that the OSCE can effectively respond to present and future demands, we have concluded that it should continue to develop during 2003 a strategy to address threats to security and stability in the twenty-first century. The OSCE Annual Security Review Conference, on which we have decided today, will provide a framework for enhancing security dialogue and for reviewing security work undertaken by the OSCE and its participating States. We have also decided to review the OSCE role in peacekeeping operations, with a view to assessing the OSCE's capacity and identifying options for its involvement in this field.

6. Good policing can make a major contribution to security and stability. We confirm that the OSCE should continue to develop its capacity to assist participating States wishing to strengthen their policing skills and we encourage participating States to provide the necessary resources.

(...)

8. The Human Dimension remains at the core of the activities of the Organization. The new modalities for the OSCE Human Dimension Implementation meetings adopted this year will further enhance the effectiveness of the work of the Organization and its institutions. We have agreed to revise and update the OSCE Plan of Activities to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings. The promotion of tolerance and non-discrimination, on which we have adopted a separate decision, is a high priority. We have also adopted a decision on election commitments and we will co-operate further in this field.

9. We recognize the significant contribution of our institutions and field operations, through their dedicated staff, in putting into practice the goals and principles of our Organization, in co-operation with host States. We task the Permanent Council to consider, as appropriate, ways of further improving the functioning and effectiveness of field operations.

II. OSCE Charter on Preventing and Combating Terrorism

The OSCE participating States, firmly committed to the joint fight against terrorism,

1. Condemn in the strongest terms terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, committed no matter when, where or by whom and reiterate that no circumstance or motive can justify acts of or support for terrorism;

2. Firmly reject identification of terrorism with any nationality or religion and reaffirm that action against terrorism is not aimed against any religion, nation or people;

3. Recognize that terrorism requires a co-ordinated and comprehensive response and that acts of international terrorism, as stated in the United Nations Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), constitute a threat to international and regional peace and security;

4. Declare that acts, methods and practices of terrorism, as well as knowingly providing assistance to, acquiescing in, financing, planning and inciting such acts, are contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations and the OSCE;

5. Consider of utmost importance to complement the ongoing implementation of OSCE commitments on terrorism with a reaffirmation of the fundamental and timeless principles on which OSCE action has been undertaken and will continue to be based in the future, and to which participating States fully subscribe;

6. Reaffirm their commitment to take the measures needed to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, especially the right to life, of everyone within their jurisdiction against terrorist acts;

7. Undertake to implement effective and resolute measures against terrorism and to conduct all counter-terrorism measures and co-operation in accordance with the rule of law, the United Nations Charter and the relevant provisions of international law, international standards of human rights and, where applicable, international humanitarian law;

8. Reaffirm that every State is obliged to refrain from harbouring terrorists, organizing, instigating, providing active or passive support or assistance to, or otherwise sponsoring terrorist acts in another State, or acquiescing in organized activities within its territory directed towards the commission of such acts;

9. Will co-operate to ensure that any person who wilfully participates in financing, planning, preparing or perpetrating terrorist acts, or in supporting such acts, is brought to justice and, to that end, will afford one another the greatest measure of assistance in providing information in connection with criminal investigations or criminal extradition proceedings relating to terrorist acts, in accordance with their domestic law and international obligations;

10. Will take appropriate steps to ensure that asylum is not granted to any person who has planned, facilitated or participated in terrorist acts, in conformity with relevant provisions of national and international law, and through the proper application of the exclusion clauses contained in the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol;

11. Recognize that the relevant United Nations conventions and protocols, and United Nations Security Council resolutions, in particular United Nations Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), constitute the primary international legal framework for the fight against terrorism;

12. Recognize the importance of the work developed by the United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee and reaffirm the obligation and willingness of participating States and the OSCE to co-operate with this Committee;

13. Recall the OSCE's role as a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter, and its obligations in this context to contribute to the global fight against terrorism;

14. Recall their Decision on Combating Terrorism and its Plan of Action for Combating Terrorism, adopted at the Ninth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council in Bucharest and reaffirm the commitments contained therein;

15. Take note with satisfaction of the Declaration and the Programme of Action adopted at the Bishkek International Conference on Enhancing Security and Stability in Central Asia: Strengthening Comprehensive Efforts to Counter Terrorism, held on 13 and 14 December 2001;

16. Reiterate the commitment undertaken in the framework of the Charter for European Security, including the Platform for Co-operative Security, adopted at the Istanbul Summit, to co-operate more actively and closely with each other and with other international organizations to meet threats and challenges to security;

17. Underscore that the prevention of and fight against terrorism must be built upon a concept of common and comprehensive security and enduring approach, and commit to using the three dimensions and all the bodies and institutions of the OSCE to assist participating States, at their request, in preventing and combating terrorism in all its forms;

18. Undertake to fulfil their obligation, in accordance with the United Nations conventions, protocols and Security Council resolutions, as well as other international commitments, to ensure that terrorist acts and activities that support such acts, including the financing of terrorism, are established as serious criminal offences in domestic laws;

19. Will work together to prevent, suppress, investigate and prosecute terrorist acts, including through increased co-operation and full implementation of the relevant international conventions and protocols relating to terrorism;

20. Are convinced of the need to address conditions that may foster and sustain terrorism, in particular by fully respecting democracy and the rule of law, by allowing all citizens to participate fully in political life, by preventing discrimination and encouraging intercultural and inter-religious dialogue in their societies, by engaging civil society in finding common political settlement for conflicts, by promoting human rights and tolerance and by combating poverty;

21. Acknowledge the positive role the media can play in promoting tolerance and understanding among religions, beliefs, cultures and peoples, as well as for raising awareness of the threat of terrorism;

22. Commit themselves to combat hate speech and to take the necessary measures to prevent the abuse of the media and information technology for terrorist purposes, ensuring that such measures are consistent with domestic and international law and OSCE commitments;

23. Will prevent the movement of terrorist individuals or groups through effective border controls and controls relating to the issuance of identity papers and travel documents;

24. Recognize the need to complement international co-operation by taking all necessary measures to prevent and suppress, in their territories through all lawful means, assistance to, and the financing and preparation of, any acts of terrorism, and to criminalize the wilful provision or collection of funds for terrorist purposes, in the framework of their obligations under the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and relevant Security Council resolutions;

25. Reaffirm their commitment to fulfil their international obligations, as set out in United Nations Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1390 (2002), and in particular to freeze the assets of those designated by the Committee established pursuant to United Nations Security Council resolution 1267 (1999);

26. Note with concern the links between terrorism and transnational organized crime, money laundering, trafficking in human beings, drugs and arms, and in this regard emphasize the need to enhance co-ordination and to develop co-operative approaches at all levels in order to strengthen their response to these serious threats and challenges to security and stability;

27. Declare their determination to use in good faith all relevant instruments available within the politico-military dimension of the OSCE, as represented by the Forum for Security Co-operation, and emphasize the importance of fully implementing these instruments in particular, the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security and the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons;

28. Reaffirm that arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation remain indispensable elements of co-operative security between States; that they can also make an essential contribution by reducing the risk of terrorists gaining access to weapons and materials of mass destruction and their means of delivery;

Express determination to combat the risk posed by the illicit spread of and access to conventional weapons, including small arms and light weapons;

Will make every effort to minimize those dangers through national efforts and through strengthening and enhancing the existing multilateral instruments in the fields of arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation including the OSCE Principles Governing Non-Proliferation and to support their effective implementation and, where applicable, universalization.

III. Declaration on Trafficking in Human Beings

I.

We, the members of the Ministerial Council of the OSCE, declare that trafficking in human beings represents a dangerous threat to security in the OSCE area and beyond.

We declare that trafficking in human beings and other modern forms of slavery constitute an abhorrent violation of the dignity and rights of human beings.

We recognize that trafficking in human beings represents a serious and rapidly expanding area of transnational organized crime, generating huge profits for criminal networks that may also be associated with criminal acts such as trafficking in drugs and arms, as well as smuggling of migrants.

We recall and reaffirm our full adherence to the OSCE's commitments to combating trafficking in human beings, as reflected in the Moscow Document of 1991, the Charter for European Security adopted in Istanbul in 1999, Ministerial Council Decision No. 1 adopted in Vienna in 2000, Permanent Council Decision No. 426 and Ministerial Council Decision No. 6 adopted in Bucharest in 2001, and declare our determination to strengthen co-operation in addressing trafficking in human beings in countries of origin, transit and destination.

We reaffirm our determination to combat all forms of trafficking in human beings and call on States that have not done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and to its supplementary Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, and to take into account the definition of trafficking in human beings given in the said Protocol.

We declare that ratification and full implementation of both these instruments would enhance the international and national legal framework and enforcement capacities for combating trafficking in human beings. We strongly encourage States to consider concurrent ratification and full implementation of the Protocol Against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, also supplementing the above-mentioned Convention.

We reaffirm our support for the ODIHR's Anti-Trafficking and Gender Issues units and favour an increased involvement of the ODIHR's Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues. We also reaffirm our support for OSCE field operations and the OSCE Secretariat, especially the OSCE Adviser on Gender Issues. We commend them for their comprehensive approach and for facilitating national efforts in prevention of trafficking in human beings, prosecution of its perpetrators and protection and assistance to victims.

We also support the work of the Stability Pact Task Force on Trafficking in Human Beings under the auspices of the OSCE. We commend its role as a driving force for the promotion of regional co-operation and the development of relevant initiatives.

II.

We recognize the need to address root causes of trafficking and to reduce the economic and social inequalities and disadvantages, which also provoke illegal migration, and which may be exploited by organized criminal networks for their profit. We also recognize the need to fight corruption, which facilitates the operation of such networks. We recommend that the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities play an increased role in addressing all economic aspects of trafficking in human beings.

We recognize that, in countries of destination, demand for the activities of persons trafficked for the purposes of sexual exploitation, forced labour, slavery or other practices similar to slavery is an integral factor in trafficking in human beings. We urge countries of destination to take measures to effectively address such a demand as a key element in their strategy for effectively preventing and combating trafficking in human beings, and to exercise zero tolerance towards sexual exploitation, slavery and all forms of exploitation of forced labour, irrespective of its nature.

We are deeply concerned about reports of involvement by some mission members of international organizations in activities related to trafficking in human beings, particularly in post-conflict countries. We reiterate the importance of Permanent Council Decision No. 426, of 12 July 2001, on trafficking in human beings and encourage the adoption and implementation of relevant measures such as the OSCE Code of Conduct for Mission Members. We will not tolerate international staff members being involved in any illegal activities, inciting this criminal trade or behaving in contravention of this Code of Conduct. We commit ourselves to take all practicable measures to ensure the accountability of international staff members to their respective national, and when appropriate local, authorities for such activities.

We express our concern about the increase in trafficking in minors and, recognizing the special needs of children, we support more research and exchange of information on trafficking in children and, with due regard to the best interest of the child as the primary consideration in all actions concerning children, call for the elaboration of special measures to protect trafficked minors from further exploitation, mindful of their psychological and physical well-being.

We will strive for adequate measures to prevent trafficking in human beings in our countries, taking the form, *inter alia*, of target-oriented awareness raising campaigns and education in countries of origin and transit, directed in particular towards youth and other vulnerable groups, and will seek to develop appropriate campaigns in countries of destination, to organize training for relevant officials and government employees in the areas of law enforcement, border control, criminal justice and social services, and to recommend full co-operation with NGOs in this field.

We will strive to render assistance and protection to the victims of trafficking, especially women and children, and to this end, when appropriate, to establish effective and inclusive national referral mechanisms, ensuring that victims of trafficking do not face prosecution solely because they have been trafficked. The dignity and human rights of victims must be respected at all times. We will consider adopting appropriate measures, such as shelters, and establishing appropriate repatriation processes for the victims of trafficking, with due regard to their safety, including the provision of documents; and developing policies concerning the provision of economic and social benefits to victims, as well as their rehabilitation and reintegration in society.

We recognize that intensified co-operation among relevant actors in countries of origin, transit and destination plays a critical role in the return programmes for victims of trafficking and

facilitates their reintegration. Therefore, we encourage all organizations providing assistance to victims, including NGOs, to further develop such co-operation.

We will consider adopting legislative or other measures that permit victims of trafficking to remain in our territory, temporarily or permanently, in appropriate cases, and giving consideration to humanitarian and compassionate factors.

We call on participating States to enhance international co-operation in combating transnational organized crime, including criminal acts such as trafficking in drugs and arms, as well as smuggling of migrants. Such co-operation should include international law enforcement bodies, such as Europol and Interpol, as well as the Southeast European Co-operative Initiative (SECI), with a view to investigating and prosecuting those responsible for trafficking in human beings in accordance with domestic law and, where applicable, international obligations. In this regard, we ask that the Senior Police Adviser should devote increased attention to the fight against trafficking in human beings.

We reiterate the need for national strategies in order to unite efforts directed towards combating trafficking in human beings and to enhance co-ordination among national, international and regional organizations in this field. This need could be met through measures such as appointing inter-ministerial bodies and national co-ordinators or, as appropriate, other relevant bodies or mechanisms.

III.

We agree to intensify co-operation, based on a multidimensional approach, among the relevant OSCE structures and institutions, as well as among the OSCE and other relevant international organizations and actors, including the United Nations and its specialized agencies, the Council of Europe, the European Union and the International Organization for Migration, and task the Permanent Council with examining how better to assure such a co-operation with a view to combating trafficking in human beings.

We task the Permanent Council, through the informal Working Group on Gender Equality and Anti-Trafficking in Human Beings, with revising the Proposed OSCE Action Plan 2000 for Activities to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings and to elaborate a new draft for further appropriate action by 25 July 2003.

We task the Chairmanship-in-Office and the Permanent Council with using existing OSCE bodies and fora to exchange information, review commitments and share best practices on combating trafficking in human beings, as well as with promoting regular participation by experts representing relevant national institutions and bodies, as well as representatives of partner international organizations and NGOs.

(...)

V. Decisions of the Porto Ministerial Council Meeting

Decision No. 1

Implementing the OSCE Commitments and Activities on Combating Terrorism

The Ministerial Council,

Notes the Secretary General's comprehensive report on the actions of OSCE bodies and institutions to combat terrorism, including implementation of the Bucharest Plan of Action for Combating Terrorism and the Bishkek Programme of Action;

Decides that all OSCE participating States, bodies and institutions shall continue on an urgent basis to implement and ensure the effectiveness of their Bucharest commitments;

Reaffirms the commitment of all participating States to become parties as soon as possible to all 12 United Nations conventions and protocols related to terrorism and welcomes the steps undertaken by participating States that have already completed these procedures;

Commit themselves to work towards the successful conclusion of negotiations on new universal instruments in this field, presently under way within the United Nations and confirms their readiness to consider, in co-ordination with the United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee, requests for technical assistance and capacity building with a view to advancing the ratification and implementation of United Nations and other relevant instruments on terrorism;

Recognizing the danger posed by weapons of mass destruction in the hands of terrorists, urges all States to co-operate on negotiations underway at the United Nations on an International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, and at the International Atomic Energy Agency on a protocol to the United Nations Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material;

Welcomes the activities undertaken by the Forum for Security Co-operation, as reported by its Chairperson, in line with its Road Map and urges the Forum for Security Co-operation to continue to be seized with the matter of combating terrorism within its mandate and competencies;

Encourages the Co-ordinator for OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities to continue to pursue programmes in co-operation and co-ordination with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to support participating States' efforts to strengthen their ability to prevent and suppress terrorist financing;

Welcomes the decision in July 2002 (PC.DEC/487) that all participating States will complete the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) self-assessments on compliance with the Eight Special Recommendations on Terrorist Financing and notes with approval the OSCE's 88 per cent response rate to date. Commits to take steps towards speedy implementation of the Financial Action Task Force's Eight Special Recommendations on terrorist financing;

Recalls the Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office for Preventing and Combating Terrorism's recommendation that the OSCE pursue activities *inter alia* in policing, border security, anti-trafficking and suppressing terrorist financing. Requests that interested donors consider providing the necessary resources to implement OSCE projects for combating terrorism;

Decides that the OSCE participating States, bodies and institutions will intensify their efforts and their collective commitment to combat terrorism and the conditions that may foster and sustain it by exploiting its strengths and comparative advantages: its comprehensive approach to security; its expertise in early-warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation; its wide ranging repertoire of proven confidence – and security-building measures and its expertise in capacity building.

Decision No. 2

Development of an OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-First Century

The Ministerial Council,

Guided by the Bucharest Ministerial Declaration (2001) and, in particular, paragraph 8 on the development of an OSCE strategy to address threats to security and stability in the twenty-first century,

Recalling OSCE documents and decisions, including the Charter for European Security adopted at the Istanbul Summit, which identify risks and challenges to security, and reaffirming the commitment of the participating States to co-operate in a spirit of solidarity in countering them on the basis of the United Nations Charter, norms and principles of international law and commitments taken upon within the OSCE,

Bearing in mind the need to further the concept of the common comprehensive and indivisible security, based on sovereign equality and solidarity of the States,

Reconfirming the importance of the OSCE role in setting up effective co-operative mechanisms to address threats to security and stability in the Euro-Atlantic area and in broadening to this end the dialogue within the OSCE as well as its co-operation and partnership with other international, regional and subregional organizations and institutions on the basis of the Platform for Co-operative Security,

Committed to reinforcing the effectiveness of security-related activities across all three dimensions of the OSCE in line with developing European and global processes,

Taking into account the discussions initiated by the Portuguese Chairmanship on developing a future OSCE Strategy and the contributions of the participating States,

Has decided as follows:

- To task the Permanent Council to continue its work to develop, during the year of 2003, a comprehensive OSCE Strategy to address threats to security and stability in the twenty-first century and to request the Forum for Security Co-operation to make its own contribution to this work, within its competencies and mandate.

This Strategy will, *inter alia*:

- Identify threats to our common security and stability and analyse their changing nature and main causes;
- Address the role of the OSCE bodies, institutions and field operations and their coordinated approach to countering threats to security and stability;
- Set out how the OSCE can prevent or counter threats to security and stability and contribute to relevant international efforts. It should in particular:
- Adapt or supplement, where necessary, the existing instruments and mechanisms of co-operation within the OSCE;
- Establish enhanced forms of co-operation with other organizations and institutions in this area;

- Improve the OSCE's response to participating States. needs in capacity building relevant to countering threats to security and stability, taking into account the interests of all participating States.

In this context the participating States will use the OSCE Annual Security Review Conference, *inter alia*, to review the implementation of this Strategy.

The Ministerial Council also decides:

- That the work on the Strategy will be carried out in a special working group of the Permanent Council in close co-operation with the Forum for Security Co-operation and in accordance with the Bucharest Ministerial Decision No. 3 on Fostering the Role of the OSCE as a Forum for Political Dialogue. The progress on the work will be reviewed, when necessary, at the special meetings of the Permanent Council and the Forum for Security Co-operation, including their joint meetings.

Decision No. 3

Annual Security Review Conference

The Ministerial Council,

Restating the OSCE's concept of common, comprehensive, and indivisible security, Acknowledging the requirement to reinforce the effectiveness of security activities across all three dimensions of the OSCE,

Reaffirming the OSCE's role as a primary organization for the peaceful settlement of disputes within its region and as a key instrument for early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation, as well as its nature as an inclusive and comprehensive organization for consultation, decision-making and cooperation in its region,

Taking into account the Bucharest Plan of Action for Combating Terrorism and the Bishkek Programme of Action, the OSCE Charter on Preventing and Combating Terrorism, as well as the Charter for European Security adopted at the Istanbul Summit and ongoing work to elaborate an OSCE strategy to address threats to security and stability in the twenty-first century,

Emphasizing the increased importance of international co-operation and political dialogue among participating States and with other international, regional and subregional organizations in response to threats to our common security,

Mindful of the danger conflicts in various regions in the OSCE area pose to all participating States,

Recalling the Bucharest Ministerial Decision No. 3 on Fostering the Role of the OSCE as a Forum for Political Dialogue,

Acknowledging the role of the Forum for Security Co-operation as the OSCE body for, *inter alia*, negotiation of arms control, disarmament and confidence – and securitybuilding and for the assessment of the implementation of agreed measures,

Considering the role of the annual Economic Forum and its preparatory and follow-up seminars for reviewing OSCE activities in the economic and environmental dimension of security,

Taking into account the role of the Human Dimension Implementation Meetings, Review Conferences, the Supplementary Human Dimension Meetings and the annual Human Dimension Seminar for reviewing the implementation of commitments in the human dimension of security,

Stressing the need to strike a proper balance among the three dimensions of the OSCE,

Determined to complement and not to duplicate or replace the activities of other OSCE bodies and institutions, including the Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting, Decides to establish an Annual Security Review Conference, with the following purpose and modalities:

I. Purpose

To provide a framework for enhancing security dialogue and for reviewing security work undertaken by the OSCE and its participating States, *inter alia*:

- Implementation of an OSCE strategy to address threats to security and stability in the twenty-first century;
- Implementation of OSCE commitments in combating terrorism;
- Politico-military aspects of security;
- Implementation of OSCE decisions and activities in the area of early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management, and post-conflict rehabilitation;
- The security-related activities in OSCE institutions and field operations;
- OSCE police-related activities;
- Other security-related issues, including regional issues, which are dealt with by the OSCE.

The Conference may also provide an opportunity to exchange views on issues related to arms control and confidence – and security-building measures, including the CFE and Open Skies treaties.

In addition, the Conference should also promote the exchange of information and cooperation with relevant international and regional organizations and institutions.

II. Modalities

The Security Review Conference will meet annually, in Vienna unless otherwise decided. The meeting will last for 2 to 3 days, and will be held before the summer recess. Delegations of participating States will be encouraged to be reinforced at senior level from capitals.

The Conference will be chaired by a representative of the Chairmanship-in-office, with Forum for Security Co-operation involvement as appropriate.

The date, agenda and meeting-specific modalities of the Conference will be annually decided by the Permanent Council, taking into account the recommendation of the Forum for Security Co-operation.

The Conference can formulate recommendations to be provided to the Permanent Council and, as appropriate, to the Forum for Security Co-operation, for further consideration.

The contribution of the Forum for Security Co-operation to this Conference will be made in accordance with its procedures, mandate and competences.

Relevant officials of OSCE bodies and institutions shall be invited by the Permanent Council to report to the Conference on their security-related activities and areas for further action. Relevant international and regional organizations and institutions will be invited to participate as determined by the Permanent Council.

The OSCE established rules of procedure shall apply in the Annual Security Review Conference.

Decision No. 6

Tolerance and Non-Discrimination

The Ministerial Council,

Recalling the principles of human rights and the inherent dignity of the human being, freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief that underpin the general provisions of the OSCE human dimension commitments,

Recalling the Charter for European Security, Istanbul Summit 1999, which reaffirms full adherence to the Charter of the United Nations, and to the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris and all other OSCE documents,

Recalling Decision No. 5 by the Ministerial Council at its Ninth Meeting in Bucharest reaffirming its concern about manifestation of aggressive nationalism, racism, chauvinism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and violent extremism, wherever they may occur,

Reiterating that democracy and European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms are essential safeguards of tolerance and non-discrimination and constitute important factors for stability, security, co-operation and peaceful development throughout the entire OSCE region, and that conversely tolerance and non-discrimination are important elements in the promotion of human rights,

Reaffirming the internationally recognized prohibition of discrimination, without adverse distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion or belief, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status,

Recalling the continuing work of the OSCE structures and institutions in the field of promoting human rights, tolerance, non-discrimination and multiculturalism, in particular by the human dimension meetings and activities, projects and programmes including those of participating States,

Stressing the positive role of multicultural and inter-religious dialogue in creating better understanding among nations and peoples,

Noting that promoting tolerance and non-discrimination can also contribute to eliminating the basis for hate speech and aggressive nationalism, racism, chauvinism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and violent extremism,

Recognizing the responsibility of participating States for promoting tolerance and nondiscrimination,

1.(a) Condemns in strongest terms all manifestations of aggressive nationalism, racism, chauvinism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and violent extremism, as well as hate speech and occurrences of discrimination based on religion or belief;

(b) Undertakes to further promote multicultural, interethnic and inter-religious dialogue in which governments and civil society will be encouraged to participate actively;

(c) Also undertakes to further promote the rights of persons belonging to national minorities;

2. Decides to intensify efforts to maintain and strengthen tolerance and non-discrimination, with the assistance of OSCE institutions and in co-operation with relevant international organizations and civil society, by such means as the exchanges of information and best practice;

3. Calls on participating States, which have not yet done so, to consider ratifying the international instruments, which address the problem of discrimination and calls for full compliance with the obligations assumed therein;

4. Commits to take appropriate measures, in conformity with respective constitutional systems, at national, regional and local levels to promote tolerance and non-discrimination as well as to counter prejudices and misrepresentation, particularly in the field of education, culture and information;

5. Condemns, in particular, discrimination on religious grounds and undertakes to endeavour to prevent and protect against attacks directed at any religious group, whether on persons or on places of worship or religious objects;

6. Condemns in particular the recent increase in anti-Semitic incidents in the OSCE area, recognizing the role that the existence of anti-Semitism has played throughout history as a major threat to freedom;

7. Also condemns the recent increase in acts of discrimination and violence against Muslims in the OSCE area and rejects firmly the identification of terrorism and extremism with a particular religion or culture;

8. Decides to take strong public positions against hate speech and other manifestations of aggressive nationalism, racism, chauvinism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and violent extremism, as well as occurrences of discrimination based on religion or belief;

9. Calls on relevant authorities of participating States to investigate promptly and impartially acts of violence, especially where there are reasonable grounds to suspect that they were motivated by aggressive nationalism, racism, chauvinism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and violent extremism, as well as attacks motivated by hatred against a particular religion or belief, and to prosecute those responsible in accordance with domestic law and consistent with relevant international standards of human rights;

10. Tasks the Permanent Council to consider further enhancement of the Contact Point on Roma and Sinti Issues in the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR);

11. Urges the convening of separately designated human dimension events on issues addressed in this decision, including on the topics of anti-Semitism, discrimination and racism and xenophobia;

12. Tasks the Chairmanship-in-Office and the Permanent Council in close co-operation with the ODIHR, the High Commissioner on National Minorities and the Representative on Freedom of the Media to ensure an effective follow-up of the present decision, through increased use of tools already available to the OSCE, including the annual human dimension meetings and seminars.

Decision No. 7

Election Commitments

The Ministerial Council,

Recalling the provisions of the 1990 Document of the Copenhagen Meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension of the CSCE,

Noting that additional commitments, reflected in the 1996 Lisbon Summit Declaration, the 1999 Istanbul Summit Declaration and the 2001 Bucharest Ministerial Declaration, have supplemented those provisions,

Reaffirming the determination to implement these commitments,

Acknowledging that democratic elections can be conducted under a variety of electoral systems,

Recognizing the ODIHR's expertise in assisting participating States in the implementation of election-related commitments,

Taking into account PC Decision No. 509, on international standards and commitments: a practical guide to democratic elections best practice,

Calls upon participating States to strengthen their response to the ODIHR's recommendations following election observations,

Tasks the Permanent Council to consider the need to elaborate additional commitments on elections, in the spirit of enhanced co-operation with other international organizations, as well as among participating States, and to report to the next Ministerial Council meeting.

Document of the Eleventh Meeting of the Ministerial Council

Maastricht 2003

I. OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-First Century

1. The evolving security environment in the early twenty-first century creates new challenges for all, including for the OSCE. The OSCE will meet such challenges on the basis of important strengths, namely its broad membership, from North America to Europe and parts of Asia, and its multidimensional concept of common, comprehensive, cooperative and indivisible security. The Organization remains committed to a free, democratic and more integrated OSCE area without dividing lines.

2. Respect for and compliance with international law and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations remain central to efforts to prevent and combat threats to stability and security. The United Nations Security Council bears primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security and continues to play a crucial role in contributing to security and stability in the OSCE region. Compliance with OSCE norms, principles and commitments, from the Helsinki Final Act onwards, is an integral part of this framework. This Strategy aims to contribute to a more cohesive and effective international system for responding to global threats and challenges.

Threats to security and stability in the twenty-first century

3. The OSCE was instrumental in paving the way for security and stability across the OSCE region towards the end of the twentieth century, and has contributed to important democratic transformation in the OSCE area. Co-operation has now replaced previous confrontation. Threats to security and stability in the OSCE region are today more likely to arise as negative, destabilizing consequences of developments that cut across the politico-military, economic and environmental and human dimensions, than from any major armed conflict. At the same time, unresolved conflicts still exist in the OSCE area that continue to be of deep concern. The search for negotiated solutions to these must remain an urgent matter.

4. Respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law is at the core of the OSCE's comprehensive concept of security. Strong democratic institutions and the rule of law play an important role in preventing threats from arising. Weak governance, and a failure by States to secure adequate and functioning democratic institutions that can promote stability, may in themselves constitute a breeding ground for a range of threats. Equally, systematic violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, can give rise to a wide range of potential threats.

5. Socio-economic and environmental factors may affect security and stability as well. Globalization, liberalization and technological change offer new opportunities for trade, growth and development, but have not benefited all participating States equally, thus contributing in some cases to deepening

economic disparities between as well as within States. The outcome of globalization depends on policy choices adopted by governments and international institutions and on the responses of the private sector and civil society. Environmental degradation is also of growing concern. Demographic factors and widespread degradation of health are other potential challenges to security.

6. Lack of openness and transparency in politico-military matters can have serious negative consequences. Failure to comply in a full and timely manner with existing arms control, disarmament, non-proliferation and confidence – and security-building agreements and instruments may further affect common security significantly.

7. Threats may also arise from the actions of terrorists and other criminal groups. Terrorist acts in recent years have fully borne out the growing challenge of such threats and the priority that must be given to preventing and combating them. Furthermore, threats often do not arise from within a single State, but are transnational in character. They affect the security of all States in the OSCE area and the stability of our societies. At the same time, the OSCE region is increasingly exposed to threats originating outside it, and developments within our own region may similarly have consequences for adjacent areas.

8. Against this background, it is clear that the OSCE's comprehensive approach to security, covering the politico-military, economic and environmental and human dimensions retains its full validity and should be maintained and further strengthened. Our analysis of the pattern of threats has highlighted a range of issues within this framework on which we need to focus particular attention as part of our efforts to reinforce our response.

9. Threats emerging from inter-State and intra-State conflicts remain the broadest category of threat to participating States and to individuals. Such conflicts, wherever they take place, may also pose a risk to neighbouring areas and may give rise to instability and other types of threats, such as terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, excessive and destabilizing accumulation and uncontrolled spread of small arms and light weapons (SALW), human rights violations, mass expulsion, deterioration of the socio-economic situation, and illegal migration. Non-compliance with international law and with OSCE norms and principles, as well as a range of factors within the politico-military, economic and environmental and human dimensions lie behind the immediate causes of violent conflict.

10. Terrorism is one of the most important causes of instability in the current security environment. It seeks to undermine the very values that unite the participating States in the OSCE area. Terrorism will remain a key challenge to peace and stability and to State power, particularly through its ability to use asymmetric methods to bypass traditional security and defence systems. There is no justification for terrorism whatsoever. At the same time, terrorism requires a global approach, addressing its manifestations as well as the social, economic and political context in which it occurs.

11. Globalization and technological advances have increased the scope and extent of the threat that organized crime constitutes. Moreover, organized crime often runs parallel with terrorism, regarding both actors and methods. Smuggling of migrants and trafficking in human beings, illicit traffic in narcotic drugs, in small arms and light weapons as well as in sensitive materials and technologies, are other criminal activities that may pose a threat to stability and security, both inside and outside the OSCE area. Open borders and free movement of persons and goods are beneficial to international co-operation, but also present growing challenges, including illegal migration.

12. Practices related to discrimination and intolerance both threaten the security of individuals and may give rise to wider-scale conflict and violence. They can have their root in issues such as

ethnic and religious tensions, aggressive nationalism, chauvinism and xenophobia, and may also stem from racism, anti-Semitism and violent extremism, as well as lack of respect for the rights of persons belonging to national minorities.

13. The mobility of migrant populations and the emergence of societies with many coexisting cultures in all parts of the OSCE region present growing opportunities as well as challenges. Failure to integrate societies and failure also by everyone who resides in them to respect the rights of all can undermine stability.

14. Deepening economic and social disparities, lack of rule of law, weak governance in public and corporate spheres, corruption, widespread poverty and high unemployment are among the economic factors, which threaten stability and security. They can provide a breeding ground for other major threats. Environmental degradation, unsustainable use of natural resources, mismanagement of wastes and pollution affect ecological systems and have a substantial negative impact on the health, welfare, stability and security of States. Ecological disasters may also have such effects. Problems of governance connected to these factors have a direct undermining effect and at the same time reduce the capacity to ensure sustainable economic and social development as well as to effectively address economic and environmental challenges and threats to security and stability.

15. Many of the threats of a politico-military nature, including those addressed by existing OSCE documents, such as destabilizing accumulations of conventional weaponry, illicit transfers of arms, and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, remain of great concern to the OSCE participating States. Among the threats that have either changed in nature or impact or are new altogether, armed threats posed by terrorists and other criminal groups require particular attention. Equally, attention should be given to potential challenges stemming from the changing character of armed conflicts.

16. In a changing security environment, threats are evolving, and not all threats will be foreseeable. The OSCE framework for permanent political dialogue, and in particular the Annual Security Review Conference (ASRC), will help to identify, analyse and react to new threats as they emerge.

The OSCE response

17. The OSCE response will be multidimensional and will not occur in a vacuum. The Organization will build on its unique strengths, expertise and capabilities and provide an effective framework for co-operation with other international actors in order to address threats in a co-ordinated and complementary way, which avoids duplication and maintains focus. The Charter for European Security and its Platform for Co-operative Security was adopted in Istanbul in 1999 in order to strengthen security and stability in the region and improve operational capabilities in a transformation of the OSCE to meet unprecedented challenges. It remains fully valid.

18. The prime responsibility for providing security for their citizens lies with individual participating States. The participating States are accountable to their citizens and responsible to each other for implementation of their OSCE commitments. The OSCE stands ready to offer assistance and advice as well as to foster co-operation between participating States towards this end. Co-operation between participating States in the spirit of solidarity, partnership and transparency is basic to security in the OSCE area and should reflect mutual interest and respect. Each participating State has an equal right to security.

19. The OSCE is a forum for political and security dialogue, for setting consensually based, politically binding norms and principles and for promoting their implementation. The Permanent Council

and the Forum for Security Co-operation, within its competencies and mandate, are central to this role. It will be further strengthened and the process of political consultation and transparency within the Organization enhanced. The dialogue and the norms and standards that underpin it are directed towards preventing threats from arising. They also encourage the development of democratic institutions and of inclusive societies, able to deal more effectively and co-operatively with emerging threats.

20. The OSCE will continue to be an active player across its region, using its institutions – the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), the High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM), and the Representative on Freedom of the Media (RFM) – its field operations and its Secretariat to the full. They are important instruments in assisting all participating States to implement their commitments, including respect for human rights, democracy and the rule of law. In all relevant activities, possibilities for strengthening co-operation with the Parliamentary Assembly, and through it, national parliaments will be actively pursued.

21. Recognizing the significant contributions of the institutions and field operations in putting into practice the goals and principles of the Organization, the OSCE is considering ways of further improving the functioning and effectiveness of field operations and developing new tools if necessary.

22. The overall capacity of OSCE to identify, analyse and take co-ordinated action in response to threats needs to be further consolidated. More attention should be paid to the early warning functions in the Secretariat, institutions and field operations, and follow – up to early warning should be strengthened. Special mechanisms for early warning and peaceful settlement of conflicts as well as the tool of rapid expert assistance and cooperation teams, REACT, continue to be at the disposal of the OSCE. The early warning and conflict prevention activities of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly represent a valuable contribution to these efforts.

23. As threats originating or evolving in adjacent regions are of increasing importance, the OSCE will intensify its co-operation with its Mediterranean and Asian Partners for Co-operation, by early identification of areas of common interest and concern and possibilities for further co-ordinated action. We will encourage them to voluntarily implement the principles and commitments of the OSCE and will co-operate with them in this as appropriate. As a first step towards increased dialogue, we will invite all our Partners for Co-operation to participate on a more frequent basis as observers in Permanent Council and Forum for Security Co-operation meetings. The OSCE will also consider ways in which OSCE norms, principles, commitments and values could be shared with other regions, in particular neighbouring areas. Contacts with organizations in those areas will be further developed.

(...)

27. Conflict prevention and post-conflict rehabilitation involve substantial efforts by the Organization in close co-operation with participating States in order to promote and assist in building democratic institutions and the rule of law, *inter alia*, by supporting capacity building and helping to strengthen authorities at all levels and parliamentary structures, independent judiciaries and free civil societies and media.

Addressing terrorism and threats arising from other criminal activities

Terrorism

28. UN conventions and protocols as well as UN Security Council resolutions constitute the global legal framework for combating terrorism. In support of this, the OSCE has through decisions in 2001 and 2002 established a structure for comprehensive action by participating States and the Organization to address, as a main priority, the threat of terrorism, its manifestations and conditions that may foster and sustain it. An operational part of this framework is the Action against Terrorism Unit in the OSCE Secretariat.

29. OSCE counter-terrorism activities focus, *inter alia*, on border security and management, policing, the combating of trafficking and suppression of terrorist financing. Special attention will be given to capacity building and other assistance in the sphere of counter-terrorism. The important challenge of implementing effective measures against terrorism in full accordance with the rule of law and international law, including human rights law, is also addressed. Such measures include denying safe havens to terrorists and eliminating conditions in which terrorists may recruit and gain support. They also aim at preventing terrorists from increasing their capabilities, including by preventing terrorists from gaining access to SALW and other conventional weapons as well as WMD and associated technologies. Close interaction with other relevant international organizations and bodies, in particular the UN Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee (UN CTC) and the UN Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC), is sought through joint meetings, contacts at all levels and specific programmes and projects.

30. The OSCE has also decided to establish a Counter-Terrorism Network to promote the strengthening of co-ordination of counter-terrorism measures and information sharing between OSCE participating States and to support and supplement the work of the UN CTC in implementing Security Council resolution 1373.

Threats arising from other criminal activities

31. The OSCE will step up its work to combat organized crime. Regular meetings of police experts from OSCE participating States and representatives of other relevant specialized international and regional organizations would constitute an important contribution in this respect. In particular, the OSCE will further increase its attention to the growing threat of trafficking. An OSCE Action Plan on Trafficking in Human Beings has been adopted. The OSCE Document on SALW remains a key instrument for combating trafficking in and proliferation of SALW in all its aspects. Its implementation will be further strengthened. The OSCE will continue the collaborative efforts already underway with the UNODC to address the issue of illicit traffic in narcotic drugs. An effective and comprehensive international approach to dealing with this issue needs to be developed.

32. The Strategic Police Matters Unit was set up to improve the capacity of participating States to address threats posed by criminal activity and to assist them in upholding the rule of law. The aim is to enhance key policing skills, including respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. The OSCE will, at the request of participating States, increase its focus on assistance to authorities, including at the local level, on fighting crime and criminal networks and will define and develop core competencies for police activities such as training and capacity-building activities.

33. The OSCE will intensify its efforts to address such issues as smuggling of migrants and illegal migration.

34. A comprehensive and multidisciplinary approach is required to effectively prevent and combat corruption in all its forms. The OSCE, in close co-ordination with the UNODC and other relevant international organizations and financial institutions, will contribute to reducing corruption across the OSCE region.

35. Threats of terrorism and organized crime are often interlinked, and synergetic approaches to deal with them will be further explored. Cross-border movement of persons, resources and weapons as well as trafficking for the purpose of financing and providing logistic support play an increasing role for terrorist activities. The OSCE is committed to addressing these problems and to strengthening its capacities to promote open and secure borders, *inter alia*, through the elaboration of an OSCE Border Security and Management Concept in order to enhance capacity building and mutually beneficial inter-State co-operation.

Addressing threats related to discrimination and intolerance

36. Discrimination and intolerance are among the factors that can provoke conflicts, which undermine security and stability. Based on its human dimension commitments, the OSCE strives to promote conditions throughout its region in which all can fully enjoy their human rights and fundamental freedoms under the protection of effective democratic institutions, due judicial process and the rule of law. This includes secure environments and institutions for peaceful debate and expression of interests by all individuals and groups of society. Civil society has an important role to play in this regard, and the OSCE will continue to support and help strengthen civil society organizations.

37. The participating States, the OSCE bodies and institutions, the Secretariat and many OSCE field operations are engaged in activities directed against threats related to discrimination and intolerance, including those deriving from religious and ethnic tensions combined with violent extremism. They also perform a significant early warning function. The annual Human Dimension Implementation Meeting and other events within the human dimension provide opportunities to discuss threats related to discrimination and intolerance and to make recommendations on possible actions to address these threats. While fully respecting freedom of expression, the OSCE will strive to combat hate crime which can be fuelled by racist, xenophobic and anti-Semitic propaganda on the Internet.

38. The participating States and OSCE bodies and institutions are committed to stepping up their efforts to counter threats arising from discrimination and intolerance. Harmonious relations between ethnic, religious, linguistic and other groups and the rights of persons belonging to national minorities will be actively promoted, as will equal opportunities for women and men. Violence, intolerance, extremism and discrimination against these groups, including migrant workers, asylum seekers and other immigrants, must be counteracted and persons responsible for such actions held accountable. At the same time, the respect of persons belonging to such groups for the rule of law, democratic values and individual freedoms is essential.

39. In this context, the OSCE recognizes the particular difficulties faced by Roma and Sinti and the need to undertake effective measures in order to eradicate discrimination against them and to achieve equality of opportunity, consistent with OSCE commitments. Therefore, the OSCE has adopted an Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE Area.

40. The OSCE's efforts will in particular be targeted at the younger generation in order to build up their understanding of the need for tolerance and the importance of reconciliation and peaceful coexistence. Their outlook and perspective on the future are key. Where appropriate, the OSCE

will therefore take on a stronger role in the field of education. An area such as human rights education would deserve particular attention.

41. Full use will be made of ODIHR's monitoring capacity, and operational co-operation with other monitoring bodies in such areas as data collection, information sharing and joint analysis will be promoted in order to have the fullest picture of developments. This will enable the OSCE to efficiently target work towards areas of highest priority.

(...)

Co-operation with other international organizations and institutions

52. No single State or organization can, on its own, meet the challenges facing us today. Co-ordination of the efforts of all relevant organizations is therefore essential. The OSCE's interaction with other organizations and institutions is based on the Platform for Co-operative Security. In it, participating States have pledged themselves to seek to develop political and operational coherence among all the bodies dealing with security, both in responding to specific threats and in formulating responses to new threats and challenges. In an evolving security situation, more needs to be done to attain that basic goal, drawing upon the strengths and advantages of each organization.

53. Our co-operation with other organizations and institutions currently encompasses political dialogue, co-ordination, and structured co-operation on thematic or regional issues across the OSCE region, based on common values and objectives. It is important to intensify interaction at both the political and the working levels. Co-operation and co-ordination on practical matters and projects should be strengthened, both at headquarters and in the field. Contacts between envoys and special representatives should be encouraged, as should the development of shared strategies and joint fact-finding.

54. The OSCE seeks to expand its relations with all organizations and institutions that are concerned with the promotion of comprehensive security within the OSCE area, and has established regular patterns of consultation at both the technical and the political levels with a number of them, *inter alia*, the UN, EU, NATO and the Council of Europe. The OSCE needs to remain flexible in order to be able to co-operate with different organizations as their capabilities and focus may change over time, with developments in perceptions of threat and organizational capacities.

55. As a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter, the OSCE is a forum for co-operation with sub-regional organizations in its area. It will continue to organize information-sharing and co-ordination meetings on specific topics with these organizations and institutions. Practical measures aimed at sharing relevant OSCE experience with other regional organizations should also continue. The OSCE will be ready to consider supporting initiatives and plans elaborated in other forums to improve co-operation in combating threats, as it has done in giving support to the implementation of UN conventions against terrorism.

56. The OSCE has developed strong substantive interaction with non-governmental organizations whose contributions to the overall efforts of the Organization remain significant. This interaction should be further strengthened.

57. Such co-operation on issues across the whole spectrum of threats covered by the Strategy should be enhanced. More effort should be devoted to enhancing the functioning of the Platform for Co-operative Security in order to meet common threats more effectively and efficiently. To accomplish this, it will be proposed to establish a new ad-hoc consultative mechanism, in consultation with other international organizations and institutions, as part of the overall effort to jointly analyse

and cope with threats. The OSCE offers this tool as a flexible framework for consultation by initiating contacts with relevant organizations and institutions as a specific threat arises or intensifies. More regular information-sharing meetings with interested organizations and institutions and the establishment of contact points would be other ways of further intensifying co-operation.

Conclusion

58. In this Strategy, we have identified a number of threats to our common security and stability. We have given strategic directions to our activities aimed at preventing and combating these threats. The Permanent Council and the Forum for Security Co-operation together with the institutions, field operations and Secretariat are tasked to contribute to the implementation of and follow-up to the Strategy within their competencies and mandates. An efficient and effective response will require a cohesive and coordinated approach by all OSCE bodies and institutions. The Chairmanship-in-Office will be responsible on behalf of the Ministerial Council and the Permanent Council for the co-ordination of, and consultations on, the implementation of the Strategy. The ASRC will provide a regular opportunity to review the Strategy and its implementation and to identify and analyse threats and challenges as they emerge. Equally, it will be an occasion to initiate development of additional OSCE response measures and of the Strategy itself as necessary. Our response also needs to be integrated with those of other organizations and institutions. We will focus on areas and issues where the OSCE can make a real difference. We seek the contribution of a strengthened OSCE to meet the threats and challenges facing the whole OSCE area, and to improve human security, thereby making a difference in the life of the individual – the aim of all our efforts.

II. OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension

(...)

1.6 Deepening economic and social disparities, lack of the rule of law, weak governance, corruption, widespread poverty and high unemployment are among the factors that contribute to global threats such as terrorism, violent extremism, transnational organized crime, and also to illegal economic activities, including money-laundering, trafficking of all kinds, and illegal migration. Inter-State and intra-State conflicts, in their turn, impede regional economic co-operation and development and undermine the security, *inter alia*, of communications and energy transport routes.

(...)

2. Our response and action

(...)

2.2 Strengthening good governance

2.2.1 Good public and corporate governance and strong institutions are essential foundations for a sound economy, which can attract investments, and thereby enable States to reduce poverty and inequality, to increase social integration and opportunities for all and to protect the environment. Good governance at all levels contributes to prosperity, stability and security. Peace, good international relations, the security and stability of the State and the security and safety of the individual within the State, based on the rule of law and respect for human rights, are crucial for the creation of the climate of confidence which is essential to ensure positive economic and social development.

2.2.2 Good governance is of critical importance for all the participating States, and we are agreed to work on a national basis, with the support of relevant international institutions, to strengthen

good governance in all its aspects and to develop methods of cooperation to assist each other in achieving it.

2.2.3 Achieving good governance requires a comprehensive and long-term strategic approach, so that successes in one area are not undermined by weaknesses in others. We will co-operate in the development of our strategies for good governance and will share experience regarding best practices.

Promoting transparency and combating corruption

2.2.4 Transparency in public affairs is an essential condition for the accountability of States and for the active participation of civil society in economic processes. Transparency increases the predictability of, and confidence in an economy that is functioning on the basis of adequate legislation and with full respect for the rule of law. Free and pluralistic media which enjoy maximum editorial independence from political and financial pressure have an important role to play in ensuring such transparency.

2.2.5 We will make our governments more transparent by further developing processes and institutions for providing timely information, including reliable statistics, about issues of public interest in the economic and environmental fields to the media, the business community, civil society and citizens, with a view to promoting a well-informed and responsive dialogue. This is essential for decision-making which is responsive to changing conditions and to the needs and wishes of the population.

2.2.6. Transparency is also important for the exposure and prosecution of all forms of corruption, which undermines our economies and our societies. In addition to transparency, the fight against corruption requires the adoption by the participating States of a comprehensive and long-term anti-corruption strategy.

2.2.7 We agree to make the elimination of all forms of corruption a priority. We will consider accession to, encourage ratification of, and support full implementation of, international conventions and other instruments in the field of combating corruption, in particular those developed by the Council of Europe and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). We welcome the adoption of the UN Convention against corruption and look forward to its early signature, ratification and entry into force.

Improving the management of public resources

2.2.8 Another component of good governance is the effective management of public resources by strong and well-functioning institutions, a professional and effective civil service and sound budgetary processes. Good management of public resources, including revenue collection, budget formation and execution and public procurement, is particularly important in order to provide the best possible public and social services. We will seek to provide a solid financial basis for our public administration systems and to further strengthen their effectiveness and efficiency at all levels.

(...)

Social conditions

2.2.13 Good governance and sustainable development imply policies and systems that promote social partnership and cohesion. We will work for improved access for all to basic social benefits, such as affordable health services, pensions and education, and for adequate levels of protection of socially vulnerable groups, and the prevention of social exclusion.

2.2.14 We are determined to take measures to improve social conditions, including by identifying and targeting vulnerable groups in society, providing adequate and effective safety nets,

strengthening health services, increasing employment opportunities and implementing rehabilitation programmes.

(...)

2.3 Ensuring sustainable development

2.3.3 We support the efforts of the participating States to implement policies of poverty reduction and sustainable development, including the national poverty reduction programmes in countries with economies in transition. We will encourage the provision of the necessary advice and assistance by international organizations and institutions having the relevant expertise and resources.

IV. Decisions of the Ministerial Council

Decision No. 2/03

Combating Trafficking in Human Beings

The Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming the commitments that participating States have adhered to in the field of combating trafficking in human beings, especially the 2000 Vienna Ministerial Council Decision No. 1, the 2001 Bucharest Ministerial Council Decision No. 6, and the 2002 Porto Ministerial Declaration,

Recalling furthermore Permanent Council Decision No. 557 of 24 July 2003 on the adoption of the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, which provides participating States with a comprehensive toolkit to combat trafficking in human beings through a multidimensional approach, covering protection of victims, prevention of trafficking in human beings, and prosecution of those who facilitate or commit the crime,

With the goal of enhancing the OSCE's efforts in fighting trafficking in human beings,

1. Decides to endorse the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings as annexed to this Decision; and
2. Establishes, under the aegis of the Permanent Council, an OSCE mechanism to provide assistance to participating States to combat trafficking in human beings. The mechanism will consist of two parts, complementing the activities of each other: a Special Representative appointed by the Chairmanship-in-Office, and a special unit in the OSCE Secretariat,

The mechanism is set up to:

- (a) Assist OSCE participating States in the implementation of commitments and full usage of recommendations proposed by the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings;
- (b) Ensure co-ordination of OSCE efforts in combating trafficking in human beings across all three dimensions of the OSCE;
- (c) Strengthen co-ordination among the relevant authorities of the participating States and between the OSCE and other relevant organizations;
- (d) Raise the public and political profile of the combat against trafficking in human beings;

(e) Operate in the whole OSCE area and as appropriate, assist the participating States, in a spirit of co-operation and following consultations with the respective authorities of the relevant participating States in aiming at the implementation of their commitments in combating human trafficking;

(f) Provide and facilitate advice and technical assistance in the field of legislation as well as policy development, together, as necessary, with other OSCE structures engaged in this field;

(g) Be ready to offer advice to senior level authorities representing the legislative, judicial, and executive branches in participating States and discuss with them the implementation of the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings and commitments in the field of combating trafficking in human beings. In specific cases calling for special attention, seek direct contacts, in an appropriate manner with the participating State concerned and discuss the provisions of advice and concrete assistance, if needed;

(h) Co-operate with National Rapporteurs or other national mechanisms established by participating States for co-ordinating and monitoring the anti-trafficking activities of State institutions. It will also co-operate with relevant Non-Governmental Organizations of the participating States. Furthermore, it will assume responsibility within the OSCE for hosting and facilitating meetings for the exchange of information and experience between national co-ordinators, representatives designated by participating States, or experts on combating trafficking in human beings;

(i) Closely co-operate and co-ordinate with the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and other OSCE Institutions, the Secretary General, relevant structures of the Secretariat including the Office of the Co-ordinator for OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA), the Strategic Police Matters Unit (SPMU), the Senior Gender Adviser, as well as, where appropriate, the OSCE field operations. The mechanism will draw on the expertise within these OSCE structures, and will see that duplication is avoided. Participate when appropriate in the work of the Informal Working Group on Gender Equality and Anti-Trafficking in Human Beings;

(j) Co-operate and co-ordinate with relevant international actors such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Children's Fund, the International Labour Organization, as well as the International Organization for Migration, the International Centre for Migration Policy Development, the European Union, the Council of Europe, the Stability Pact Task Force on Trafficking in Human Beings, the Council of Baltic Sea States, the South-east European Co-operative Initiative, Interpol and Europol;

3. Affirms that the Special Representative will be politically accountable to, and will report regularly and when appropriate to the Permanent Council. It will function in accordance with Decision No. 8 of the Tenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council in Porto;

4. Calls on the Chairmanship-in-Office to appoint as Special Representative a prominent personality with relevant expertise, according to OSCE procedures, following consultations with participating States through the Preparatory Committee on his or her mandate. In order to ensure continuity for the Special Representative to carry out his or her responsibilities initially for at least the duration of two successive Chairmanships, the Chairmanship-in-Office will consult with the next incoming Chairmanship-in-Office on this appointment, and the next incoming Chairmanship-in-Office will, within its prerogative, undertake to prolong the Special Representative's duties for the duration of that Chairmanship-in-Office, in accordance with Decision No. 8 of the Tenth Ministerial Council Meeting in Porto;

5. Tasks the Permanent Council to establish the above-mentioned special unit, as a part of the OSCE Secretariat, with contracted or seconded staff. The Special Representative will have the capacity of the special unit at his or her full disposal in order to effectively implement the above-mentioned tasks;

6. Agrees that both parts of the mechanism will be funded by the participating States through the OSCE Unified Budget in accordance with existing procedures. The ACMF will elaborate, in consultation with the Chairmanship-in-Office and the Secretary General, administrative and funding modalities for the mechanism and submit its recommendations to the Permanent Council for approval in time for their inclusion into the OSCE 2004 Unified Budget.

Annex to Decision No. 2/03

OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings

I. Objectives and purposes of the Action Plan

1. The Action Plan intends to provide participating States with a comprehensive toolkit to help them implement their commitments to combating THB. It aims to provide participating States with a follow-up mechanism, which will also promote co-ordination between individual participating States, both within the OSCE structures and with other international organizations. The Action Plan adopts a multidimensional approach to combating trafficking in human beings. It addresses the problem comprehensively, covering protection of victims, the prevention of THB and the prosecution of those who facilitate or commit the crime. It provides recommendations as to how participating States and relevant OSCE institutions, bodies and field operations may best deal with political, economic, legal, law enforcement, educational and other aspects of the problem.

2. The Action Plan is further intended to assist participating States in employing these tools by drawing upon existing regional experience gained through the implementation of such concrete initiatives and measures as those undertaken by the Stability Pact Task Force on Trafficking in Human Beings in South Eastern Europe.

3. A comprehensive approach to trafficking in human beings requires a focus on bringing to justice those responsible for this crime, and on carrying out effective measures to prevent it, while maintaining a humanitarian and compassionate approach in rendering assistance to its victims.

II. Definition of trafficking in human beings

The Action Plan is based on the following definition contained in Article 3 of the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime:

“Trafficking in persons shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs”.

The OSCE Ministerial Council in its Decision No. 6 (2001) called on participating States to sign and ratify the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children.

III. Investigation, law enforcement and prosecution

Commitments of participating States related to investigation, law enforcement and prosecution have been undertaken in the Ministerial Declaration on Trafficking in Human Beings adopted in Porto in 2002, the Bucharest Plan of Action for Combating Terrorism of 2001, the Ministerial Decision No. 6 adopted in Bucharest in 2001, and the Ministerial Decision on Enhancing the OSCE's Efforts to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings adopted in Vienna in 2000. In these documents the participating States also agreed on the role of the OSCE in this field.

Recommended action at the national level

1. Criminalization

1.1 Adopting such legislative and other measures as may be necessary to establish as criminal offences the conduct set forth in Article 3 of the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

1.2 Adopting such legislative and other measures as may be necessary to establish as criminal offences:

- Attempting to commit this criminal offence;
- Participating as an accomplice in this criminal offence;
- Organizing or directing other persons to commit this criminal offence.

1.3 Adopting such measures as may be necessary to establish the liability of legal persons for trafficking offences in addition to the liability of natural persons. Subject to the legal principles of the participating State, the liability of legal persons may be criminal, civil and/or administrative.

1.4 Making legislative provisions for effective and proportionate criminal penalties, including imprisonment, that take into account the serious nature of this crime. Where appropriate, legislation should provide for additional penalties to be applied to persons found guilty of trafficking in aggravating circumstances, such as in the case of offences involving trafficking in children or offences committed by or involving the complicity of State officials.

1.5 Considering legislative provisions for confiscation of the instruments and proceeds of trafficking and related offences, specifying, where not inconsistent with national legislation, that the confiscated proceeds of trafficking will be used for the benefit of victims of trafficking. Giving consideration to the establishment of a compensation fund for victims of trafficking and the use of the confiscated assets to help finance such a fund.

1.6 Ensuring that trafficking, its constitutive acts and related offences constitute extraditable offences under national law and extradition treaties.

1.7 Adopting such legislative and other measures to establish as criminal offences acts of active or passive corruption of public officials, as referred to in Articles 8 and 9 of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

1.8 Ensuring that victims of trafficking are not subject to criminal proceedings solely as a direct result of them having been trafficked.

2. Law enforcement response

2.1 Fully implementing anti-trafficking and related measures set out in legislation.

2.2 Establishing special anti-trafficking units – comprising both women and men – with advanced training in investigating offences involving sexual assault or involving children, in order to promote competence, professionalism and integrity.

2.3 Building capacity in the anti-corruption field.

2.4 Developing community-policing programmes: raising levels of trust between the police and the public in order, *inter alia*, to contribute to the acquisition of information relating to trafficking and to increase the willingness of victims to report offences.

2.5 Enhancing co-operation between law enforcement investigating bodies in order to establish the possibly criminal, trafficking-related origins of suspicious assets.

2.6 Providing not only the resources and training for developing intelligence-led policing for the management and analysis of crime and criminal information, but also the other advanced skills and equipment necessary for law enforcement bodies to carry out their anti-trafficking tasks.

2.7 Encouraging investigators and prosecutors to carry out investigations and prosecutions without relying solely and exclusively on witness testimony. Exploring alternative investigative strategies to preclude the need for victims to be required to testify in court.

2.8 Taking practicable measures to ensure that OSCE mission members who are behaving in breach of the OSCE Code of Conduct for Mission Members and other regulations face prescribed sanctions, including, as appropriate, disciplinary and criminal proceedings.

2.9 Targeting corruption of local law enforcement as a matter of priority, and ensuring that appropriate disciplinary and criminal proceedings are undertaken against law enforcement authorities found to be engaged in corrupt practices related to trafficking in human beings.

3. Law enforcement co-operation and information exchange between participating States

3.1 Co-operating closely with one another and consistent with their respective domestic legal and administrative systems, to enhance the effectiveness of law enforcement action in combating the offences covered by this Action Plan. Promoting similar cooperation and co-ordination between law enforcement agencies within States.

3.2 Adopting, in particular, effective measures

- To enhance and where necessary to establish channels of communication between participating States;
- To co-operate on inquiries regarding offences covered by this Action Plan;
- To provide, when appropriate, items or evidence necessary for analytical or investigative purposes;
- To facilitate effective co-ordination between their competent authorities, agencies and services and to promote the exchange of personnel and other experts, including, subject to bilateral agreements or arrangements between the participating States concerned, the posting of liaison officers;
- To exchange information on specific means and methods used by organized criminal groups, including, where applicable, routes and conveyances and the use of false identities, altered or forged documents or other means of concealing their activities;
- To co-ordinate administrative and other measures considered appropriate for the early identification of the offences covered by this Action Plan.

3.3 Concluding agreements on bilateral and multilateral law enforcement co-operation to facilitate exchange of information.

3.4 Undertaking efforts to develop common standards for the collection of statistical data.

4. Assistance and protection of witnesses and victims in the criminal justice system

4.1 Taking appropriate measures within participating States' means, including legislative ones, to provide effective protection from potential retaliation or intimidation for witnesses in criminal proceedings who give testimony concerning offences covered by this Action Plan and, as appropriate, for their relatives and other persons close to them.

4.2 Sensitizing law enforcement authorities and officials to their responsibility for ensuring the safety and immediate well-being of victims of THB.

4.3 Ensuring data protection and the victim's right to privacy, also in the course of data collection and analysis.

4.4 Facilitating the victim's participation as a witness in the investigation and court hearings or other criminal proceedings by providing him/her with the possibility of relocation as a form of witness protection.

4.5 Providing legal counselling for victims when they are in the process of deciding whether or not to testify in court.

4.6 Permitting NGOs to support victims in court hearings, if it is not inconsistent with national legislation.

5. Training

5.1 Providing or improving training for border officials, law enforcement officials, judges, prosecutors, immigration and other relevant officials in all aspects of trafficking in persons.

5.2 Giving, in such training programs, consideration to human rights and child – and gender-sensitive issues, and encouraging co-operation with non-governmental organizations, other relevant organizations and other elements of civil society.

6. Border measures

6.1 Considering taking measures that permit, in accordance with its domestic law, the denial of entry, the revocation of visas or possibly the temporary detention of persons implicated in committing offences as defined by the legislation in force.

6.2 Considering strengthening co-operation among border control agencies by, *inter alia*, establishing and maintaining direct channels of communication.

7. Security and control of documents

7.1 Taking such measures as may be necessary, within available means, to ensure that travel or identity documents issued by or on behalf of participating States are of such quality that they cannot easily be misused, readily falsified or unlawfully altered, replicated or issued.

8. Legitimacy and validity of documents

8.1 At the request of another participating State and in accordance with its domestic law, verifying within a reasonable time the legitimacy and validity of travel or identity documents issued or purporting to have been issued in its name, where there are reasonable grounds to suspect their usage for trafficking in persons. Action for OSCE Institutions and Bodies

9. Legislative review and reform

9.1 The ODIHR, and where appropriate the field operations, will continue to promote and support legislative review and reform efforts in compliance with international standards.

9.2 The OSCE will further develop co-operation with other relevant partners and organizations.

10. Law enforcement response

10.1 The OSCE Strategic Police Matters Unit will further promote the concept of community policing.

10.2 The Strategic Police Matters Unit and the Office of the OSCE Co-ordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA) will facilitate the exchange of information between participating States on best practices to be used by relevant investigating units to check the possibly criminal and trafficking-related origin of suspicious assets.

10.3 The OCEEA will further work together with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Global Programme against Money Laundering and use its good offices to promote the organization of workshops on tackling money-laundering in interested participating States.

10.4 As part of its assistance in the development of National Referral Mechanisms the ODIHR will continue to promote and encourage co-operation between law enforcement and civil society.

11. Disciplinary response

11.1 The Office of Internal Oversight is requested to maintain data on investigations into offences related to trafficking in human beings by mission members and all subsequent related actions taken thereon. The Secretary General is requested to report regularly to the Permanent Council on measures taken to implement regulations in cases of breaches of the Code of Conduct while respecting the privacy of alleged perpetrators.

12. Training

12.1 The ODIHR and the OSCE Strategic Police Matters Unit will continue to develop training materials targeted at law enforcement authorities on trafficking and sex crimes investigation, consult with the International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) in Budapest regarding possibilities for incorporating this training into ILEA programs, identify law enforcement trainers to conduct training, and facilitate funding training sessions for law enforcement authorities in OSCE participating States.

12.2 While international partners such as the International Centre for Migration Policy Development and the International Organization for Migration provide basic police training on how to respond to allegations of trafficking, and others such as the United Nations Development Programme provide advanced training, additional training needs to be provided on dealing with particular aspects of sexual crime, e.g. sexual abuse of children. The OSCE Strategic Police Matters Unit will provide such training in co-operation with the United Nations Children's Fund and other relevant organizations.

13. Security and control of documents

13.1 The relevant OSCE bodies, in particular the Anti-Terrorism Unit, will continue to facilitate workshops focusing on detecting documents used for illegal purposes in relation to trafficking in human beings, detecting false travel documents being used for entry of trafficked persons, and improving non-technical means of detection, such as interview techniques. In addition, workshops will focus on means of protecting freedom of movement of persons across the border, within the restrictions that are consistent with relevant OSCE commitments.

IV. Prevention of trafficking in human beings Commitments of participating States related to prevention have been undertaken in the Ministerial Declaration on Trafficking in Human Beings adopted in Porto in 2002, the OSCE Permanent Council Decision No. 426 of 2001, the Ministerial Decision on Enhancing the OSCE's Efforts to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings adopted in Vienna in 2000, the OSCE Action Plan for Gender Issues approved by the Permanent Council

in 2000, the Charter for European Security adopted in Istanbul in 1999, the Document of the Moscow Meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension of the CSCE adopted in Moscow in 1991, the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe adopted in Helsinki in 1975. In the above-mentioned documents the participating States also agreed on the role of the OSCE in this field.

Recommended action at the national level

1. Data collection and research

1.1 Collecting separate data related to women, men and children victims of trafficking, and improving research into and analysis of subjects such as the character and scale of THB and the trafficking and exploitation mechanisms deployed by the organized criminal groups, in order to develop effective and well-targeted prevention measures on trafficking in human beings. Promoting more research and exchange of information on trafficking in children.

1.2 Identifying the most vulnerable segments of the population and developing specially designed awareness-raising campaigns for them.

1.3 Conducting more far-reaching analysis of the root causes of THB, its demand and supply factors, its networks and its economic consequences, and its link with illegal migration.

2. Border measures

2.1 Without prejudice to international commitments in relation to the free movement of people, strengthening, to the extent possible, border controls as may be necessary to prevent and detect THB.

2.2 Adopting legislative or other appropriate measures to prevent, as far as possible, means of transport operated by commercial carriers from being used in committing offences, as defined by the provisions against trafficking.

2.3 Where appropriate, and without prejudice to applicable international conventions, obliging commercial carriers, including any transportation company or the owner or operator of any means of transport, to ascertain that all passengers are in possession of valid travel documents. In accordance with domestic law, taking the necessary measures to provide for sanctions in case of violation.

3. Economic and social policies aimed at addressing root causes of THB

3.1 In countries of origin:

- Considering as priority goals: the fostering of social-economic and political stability, and the reduction both of migration caused by deep poverty and of supply factors of trafficking. Policies followed in pursuit of these goals should also promote both economic development and social inclusion;
- Improving children's access to educational and vocational opportunities and increasing the level of school attendance, in particular by girls and minority groups;
- Enhancing job opportunities for women by facilitating business opportunities for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Organizing SMEs training courses, and targeting them particularly at high-risk groups.

3.2 In countries of destination:

- Implementing measures to reduce "the invisibility of exploitation". A multi-agency programme of monitoring, administrative controls and intelligence gathering on the labour markets, and, where applicable, on the sex industry, will contribute greatly to this objective;

- Considering the liberalization by governments of their labour markets with a view to increasing employment opportunities for workers with a wide range of skills levels;
- Addressing the problem of unprotected, informal and often illegal labour, with a view to seeking a balance between the demand for inexpensive labour and the possibilities of regular migration;
- Tackling underground economic activities which undermine economies and enhance trafficking.

3.3 Whether in countries of origin or countries of destination:

- Taking measures to raise levels of social protection and to create employment opportunities for all;
- Taking appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the field of employment in order to ensure, on a basis of gender equality, the right to equal pay for equal work and the right to equality in employment opportunities;
- Addressing all forms of discrimination against minorities;
- Developing programmes that offer livelihood options and include basic education, literacy, communication and other skills, and reduce barriers to entrepreneurship;
- Encouraging gender sensitization and education on equal and respectful relationships between the sexes, thus preventing violence against women;
- Ensuring that policies are in place which allow women equal access to and control over economic and financial resources;
- Promoting flexible financing and access to credit, including micro-credit with low interest;
- Promoting good governance and transparency in economic transactions;
- Adopting or strengthening legislative, educational, social, cultural or other measures, and, where applicable, penal legislation, including through bilateral and multilateral co-operation, to discourage the demand that fosters all forms of exploitation of persons, especially women and children, and that leads to trafficking.

4. Awareness-raising

4.1 Undertaking, in co-operation with civil society and NGOs, information campaigns to generate public awareness about trafficking in its various forms, including the methods employed by traffickers and the risks to victims.

4.2 Increasing awareness about trafficking among immigration authorities and consular and diplomatic personnel so that they use this knowledge in their daily contacts with potential victims.

4.3 Encouraging national embassies to disseminate information on relevant national legislation such as family law, labour law and immigration law as is of interest to potential migrants, including through NGOs.

4.4 Increasing awareness of other relevant target groups, including policy makers, law enforcement officers, and other relevant professionals such as medical, social services and employment officials, and in the private sector, to THB, to enhance their readiness to address it adequately and to strengthen their institutional capacity to counter it.

4.5 Encouraging the consular and visa sections of the diplomatic missions to use printed and other materials in their work with at-risk individuals.

4.6 Raising awareness of the media. The perception of the problem of trafficking in human beings brought forward by the media should include a clear explanation of the phenomenon and a realistic portrayal of the victims. To maximize public knowledge and awareness, anti-trafficking campaigns should be conducted with media professionals.

4.7 Targeting awareness-raising campaigns also at the most vulnerable groups, including persons belonging to national minorities, children, migrants and internally displaced persons (IDPs).

4.8 Extending awareness-raising campaigns to smaller towns and villages whose populations may be at particular risk.

4.9 Working in schools and universities as well as directly with families to reach young people and to raise their awareness about trafficking.

4.10 Addressing, also through the media, the need to reduce the demand for the activities of persons trafficked for sexual exploitation, forced labour, slavery or other practices similar to slavery and, in this connection, promoting zero tolerance towards all forms of trafficking.

4.11 Establishing well-publicized telephone “hotlines” in the countries of origin, transit and destination, which should serve three purposes: to act as an independent source of advice and guidance to potential victims who may be considering job opportunities or other offers to go abroad, to act as a first point of contact providing access to a referral mechanism for victims of THB, and, furthermore, to facilitate the anonymous reporting of cases or suspected cases of THB.

5. Legislative measures

5.1 Adopting or reviewing laws, administrative controls and procedures relating to the licensing and operation of sectors of business that, according to intelligence, may be involved in trafficking, such as employment, tourist, au pair, adoption or mail-order bride agencies, as well as hotels and escort services.

5.2 Ensuring that measures adopted for the purpose of preventing and combating trafficking in persons do not have an adverse impact on the rights and dignity of persons, including their freedom of movement.

Action for OSCE Institutions and Bodies

6. Data collection and research

6.1 Enhancing data collection and research on trafficking in persons, particularly on trafficking in children, by building on past research and engaging in exchanges with the United Nations Children’s Fund and other relevant actors.

6.2 Tasking ODIHR’s Contact Point on Roma and Sinti with continuing to gather data regarding trafficking in human beings, especially children, and its effects on Roma and Sinti communities.

7. Addressing root causes of THB

7.1 The OCEEA will support the promotion and the development of national public information resource centres to allow individuals to check the legitimacy of businesses, particularly those advocating employment abroad, while avoiding overlap with existing Chambers of Commerce facilities or other business registration offices. The OCEEA can function as an intermediary, collecting examples of best practices on easily accessible legitimacy checks and distributing them to interested participating States and/or OSCE field operations.

7.2 The OCEEA will continue to promote SMEs training and to target it in particular at high-risk groups, including by assisting in the development of legislation to reduce barriers to the establishment of SMEs.

7.3 The OCEEA should develop programmes to tackle economic factors that increase the vulnerability of women and minorities to trafficking, including discrimination in the workplace and lack of access to credit.

8. Awareness-raising

8.1 The ODIHR and, where appropriate, field operations will continue to contribute to research efforts as well as promoting and carrying out awareness-raising initiatives in co-operation with relevant partners throughout the OSCE region.

8.2 The Press and Public Information Section will help to raise media awareness of OSCE activities in the field of trafficking. The ODIHR will enhance training activities with regard to the responsibility of the media for dealing with the topic of trafficking in a sensitive manner and without reinforcing negative stereotypes. Training will stress the complexity of the trafficking phenomenon and the need for a comprehensive response.

8.3 In order to ensure that staff of OSCE field operations do not engage in or in any way knowingly facilitate trafficking in human beings, and to fulfil the norms contained in part 4 of the OSCE Code of Conduct which is an integral part of the Staff Regulations, the Secretary General will draft comprehensive staff instructions for review by the Permanent Council no later than 15 November 2003.

8.4 The OSCE Training Co-ordinator, the Senior Adviser on Gender Issues and the Senior Security Co-ordinator will continue to use the induction course to develop and implement staff training on gender issues, trafficking in human beings and on relevant regulations and guidelines, in co-operation with the ODIHR, and to organize special workshops in the field. Heads of field operations will ensure that attendance at such training courses will be compulsory for all staff.

8.5 The OCEEA will help to mobilize and strengthen the private sector's efforts to combat trafficking in human beings by raising awareness, and by identifying and disseminating best practices, such as self-regulation, policy guidelines and codes of conduct.

V. Protection and assistance

The OSCE commitments related to protection and assistance to the victims of trafficking in human beings have been undertaken in the Ministerial Declaration on Trafficking in Human Beings adopted in Porto in 2002, the Ministerial Decision No. 6 adopted in Bucharest in 2001, the Ministerial Decision No. 1 adopted in Vienna in 2000, the Charter for European Security adopted in Istanbul in 1999. Recommended action at the national level

1. Data collection and research

1.1 Collecting data through the exchange and analysis of best practices and other information regarding effective protection of and assistance to victims of trafficking in the OSCE participating States.

2. Legislative measures

2.1 Considering the need for adopting legislation which will provide the legal basis for rendering assistance and protection to victims of THB, especially during pre-trial investigations and in court proceedings.

2.2 Ratifying, or acceding to, and fully implementing the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

3. National Referral Mechanisms (NRM).*

* The ODIHR's [*National Referral Mechanisms: A Practical Handbook*] may serve as a useful source of advice and information regarding the role of NRMs in rendering assistance and protection to victims of THB).

3.1 Establishing National Referral Mechanisms by creating a co-operative framework within which participating States fulfil their obligations to protect and promote the human rights of the victims of THB in co-ordination and strategic partnership with civil society and other actors working in this field.

3.2 Providing guidance to facilitate the accurate identification and appropriate treatment of the victims of THB, in ways which respect the views and dignity of the persons concerned.

3.3 Combining the efforts of law-enforcement bodies, including specially established anti-trafficking units and police at local level, officials of migration and border services, social protection units, medical institutions, as well as NGOs and other civil society institutions as the most relevant actors to be involved in NRM activities.

3.4 Establishing appropriate mechanisms to harmonize victim assistance with investigative and prosecutorial efforts.

3.5 Drawing special attention to the need for enhanced co-operation between the police and NGOs in identifying, informing and protecting victims of THB.

3.6 Linking the activities of NRMs with those of inter-ministerial bodies, national coordinators, NGOs and other relevant national institutions to form a cross-sectoral and multidisciplinary team capable of developing and monitoring the implementation of anti-trafficking policies.

4. Shelters

4.1 Establishing shelters, run by governmental bodies, NGOs, or other institutions of civil society to meet the needs of trafficked persons; these shelters are to provide safety, access to independent advice and counselling in a language known by the victim, firsthand medical assistance, and an opportunity for reflection delay after the experienced trauma. Shelters may be established on the basis of already existing facilities such as crisis centres for women.

4.2 Providing access to shelters for all victims of trafficking, regardless of their readiness to co-operate with authorities in investigations.

4.3 Giving special attention to ensuring security for personnel of such shelters, confidentiality of information obtained, and safety and privacy for victims of THB.

4.4 Using shelters to provide the kind of training opportunities for victims of THB which will facilitate their future reintegration, employment and independence, as well as improving their competitive capabilities after the experienced trauma.

5. Provision of documents

5.1 Ensuring provision of documents, if necessary, as a first step to clarifying the victim's identity and status in countries of destination, thus making it possible to proceed with options of assistance in appropriate cases, such as repatriation, preferably voluntary, provision of a temporary or permanent residence permit, and/or legalization of employment.

5.2 Enhancing co-operation amongst law enforcement bodies in the countries of origin, transit and destination, and responsible officials of all institutions involved in the restoration of rights of victims of THB, including the personnel of embassies and consulates of participating States in order to facilitate the speedy verification of personal data and the avoidance of undue or unreasonable delay.

5.3 Informing identified victims of THB of their right to access to diplomatic and consular representatives of their country of nationality.

6. Provision of social assistance

6.1 Developing social assistance and integration programmes, including legal counselling in a language known by the victim, medical and psychological assistance and access to health care, to be made available either in shelters or other relevant institutions.

6.2 Considering, where not inconsistent with national legislation, legal measures to allow confiscated assets to be used to supplement government funding for programmes that address the needs of victims of THB and to compensate the victims in accordance with the gravity of the crime committed against them.

7. Repatriation, rehabilitation and reintegration

7.1 Assisting the victims of THB in – preferably – voluntary repatriation to the country of origin with due regard for their safety and that of their families, and without undue or unreasonable delay.

7.2 Ensuring due process in all return and removal proceedings, taking into account a humanitarian and compassionate approach.

7.3 Considering contributing to the rehabilitation and social reintegration of victims of THB by providing them with social and economic benefits.

7.4 Raising media awareness of the need to safeguard privacy by avoiding public disclosure of the identity of victims of THB, or publication of confidential information inimical to victims' security or to the cause of justice in criminal proceedings.

8. Provision of a reflection delay and temporary or permanent residence permits

8.1 Considering the introduction of a reflection delay to give the victim due time to decide whether or not to act as a witness.

8.2 Considering on a case-by-case basis, if appropriate, the provision of temporary or permanent residence permits, taking into account such factors as potential dangers to victims' safety.

8.3 Considering, if appropriate, the provision of work permits to victims during their stay in the receiving country.

9. Ensuring the right to apply for asylum

9.1 Ensuring that anti-trafficking laws, policies, programmes and interventions do not affect the right of all persons, including victims of THB, to seek and enjoy asylum from persecution in accordance with international refugee law, in particular through effective application of the principle of *non-refoulement*.

10. Protection of children

10.1 Ensuring that the special needs of children and the best interests of the child are fully taken into account when deciding upon appropriate housing, education and care. In appropriate cases, if there is no direct threat to the safety of the child, providing the children with access to the State educational system.

10.2 Deciding on the repatriation of a child victim of THB only after having taken account of all the circumstances of the specific case and if there is a family or special institution in the country of origin to ensure the child's safety, protection, rehabilitation and reintegration.

10.3 Considering the provisions outlined in the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Guidelines for the Protection of Unaccompanied Minors when elaborating policies targeted at this risk group, and in particular for those who are not in possession of identification documents.

10.4 Using bilateral and/or regional agreements on fundamental principles of good reception of unaccompanied children in order to combine efforts targeted at the protection of children.

10.5 Ratifying or acceding to, and fully implementing, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography.

Action for OSCE Institutions and Bodies

11. National Referral Mechanism

11.1 Enhancing the activities of the OSCE, especially the ODIHR, in assisting participating States, upon their request, in establishing the NRM.

11.2 Tasking the OSCE Strategic Police Matters Unit, together with the ODIHR, with the further development of guidelines or a manual on the identification of suspected victims and of evidence of THB, in order to assist participating States, as appropriate.

12. Reintegration

12.1 The OCEEA will facilitate contacts between public and private actors with a view to encouraging the business community to offer job opportunities to victims of trafficking.

13. Protection of children

13.1 The OSCE as a whole shall give special attention to the issue of trafficking in children and to recognizing the vulnerability of unaccompanied children. Efforts should be made to develop co-operation with specialized international agencies, especially the United Nations Children's Fund and relevant international NGOs, on expert meetings, research and the development of guidelines promoting the best interest of the child.

14. Training

14.1 Tasking the OSCE Training Co-ordinator, the Senior Adviser on Gender Issues and the Senior Security Co-ordinator in co-operation with the ODIHR with developing information material on how to assist victims of trafficking, especially children, in response to requests either from individuals or governmental and non-governmental bodies, and with providing relevant training for OSCE mission members. The material might also be disseminated to military personnel, peacekeepers and other international staff in the field.

14.2 Tasking the ODIHR with the collection and dissemination of information on measures, training programmes and materials already in place in OSCE participating States.

15. Legislative measures

15.1 In co-ordination with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Council of Europe and other relevant actors, the ODIHR will continue to assist participating States, upon their request, in bringing their national legislation into compliance with international norms and standards, particularly by promoting a humanitarian and compassionate approach to the victims of THB.

VI. Follow-up and co-ordinating mechanisms

Besides monitoring the implementation of the OSCE commitments by participating States through existing OSCE mechanisms, including the annual Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, Review Conferences and relevant human dimension events, The Permanent Council recommends the following actions at the national level:

1. To consider appointing National Rapporteurs or other mechanisms for monitoring the anti-trafficking activities of State institutions and the implementation of national legislation requirements;

2. To consider establishing Anti-Trafficking Commissions (task forces) or similar bodies responsible for co-ordinating activities within a country among State agencies and NGOs, and for elaborating measures to prevent THB, to punish perpetrators of THB and to protect its victims;
3. To improve co-operation between State institutions and national NGOs active in rendering protection and assistance to the victims of THB, combating violence against women and children, promoting gender equality and raising awareness in human rights issues;

Furthermore, the Permanent Council:

4. Tasks the Chairmanship with conducting discussions on follow-up to this Action Plan, including augmenting current structures and examining the need for a new mechanism, with a view to enhancing the OSCE's efforts in fighting trafficking in human beings by raising its political profile and giving it a prominent role on the issue, as well as better co-ordinating work among the three dimensions of the OSCE;
5. Tasks the OSCE relevant structures with hosting and facilitating annual meetings in Vienna of national co-ordinators, representatives or experts on combating trafficking, to monitor the process of the implementation of the OSCE Action Plan. This will provide them with a chance to build networks, exchange information, and outline priorities for co-operation;
6. Urges the pursuit of close interaction between the OSCE Secretariat, its institutions and its field operations, to assist participating States, where appropriate, in implementing the current Action Plan;
7. Tasks the ODIHR with rendering necessary technical assistance to participating States, when appropriate, in developing National Anti-Trafficking Plans of Action, including legislative and other assistance measures aimed at effective prevention and combating trafficking and protection of victims;
8. Tasks OSCE institutions and bodies with engaging in more extensive regular exchange of information, data collection and research with relevant international organizations;
9. Tasks the ODIHR with the further development of its clearing-house function for the exchange of information, contacts, materials and good practices and with the enhancement of its project activities.

Decision No. 3/03

Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE Area

The Ministerial Council,

Committed to respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without adverse distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion or belief, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status,

Supporting the adoption and implementation of comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation to promote full equality of opportunities for all,

Recognizing the particular difficulties faced by Roma and Sinti people and the need to undertake effective measures in order to eradicate discrimination against them and to bring about equality of opportunities, consistent with OSCE commitments,

Recognizing that progress has been achieved in national legislation and in programmes for action and that substantial efforts have been undertaken by the participating States to this end,

Aware at the same time that resolute action is still required to improve the situation of the Roma and Sinti population across the OSCE region,

Noting the rich cultural, linguistic and historical diversity among Roma and Sinti people within the OSCE area, as well as the diversity of national structures and traditions in the OSCE area,

Noting the outcome of important recent governmental and non-governmental conferences and initiatives on Roma and Sinti in Europe, including, *inter alia*, the launching of a Decade of Roma Inclusion and the possible creation of a European Forum for Roma and Travellers,

Convinced that Roma and Sinti populations should have an ever-increasing degree of ownership of the policies focusing on them,

Decides to endorse the Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE Area, adopted by the Permanent Council in its Decision No. 566 on 27 November 2003, and annexed to this Decision.

Annex to Decision No. 3/03

Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE Area

I. Scope and objectives

1. The Action Plan is intended to reinforce the efforts of the participating States and relevant OSCE institutions and structures aimed at ensuring that Roma and Sinti people are able to play a full and equal part in our societies, and at eradicating discrimination against them.

2. The Action Plan relies on the framework of international and regional human rights law, existing OSCE commitments and examples of best practices from countries throughout Europe, where these are in place, and aims at fostering such practices elsewhere. The special measures foreseen by the Action Plan with a view to improving the situation of Roma and Sinti people are based on the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.*

3. Both the participating States and OSCE institutions are called upon to implement the Action Plan. Roma and Sinti communities in the participating States are invited to draw upon and contribute actively to the implementation of the Action Plan's provisions.

* Article I, paragraph 4 reads: "Special measures taken for the sole purpose of securing adequate advancement of certain racial or ethnic groups or individuals requiring such protection as may be necessary in order to ensure such groups or individuals equal enjoyment or exercise of human rights and fundamental freedoms shall not be deemed racial discrimination, provided, however, that such measures do not, as a consequence, lead to the maintenance of separate rights for different racial groups and that they shall not be continued after the objectives for which they were taken have been achieved."

II. General context: for Roma, with Roma

4. Each national policy or implementation strategy should: (1) respond to the real problems, needs and priorities of Roma and Sinti communities; (2) be comprehensive; (3) introduce a balanced and sustainable approach to combining human rights goals with social policies; and (4) maximize Roma ownership of the policies that affect them. At the same time, national policies or implementation strategies should be adapted and implemented according to the specific needs of Roma and Sinti populations in particular situations in participating States. Implementation strategies should also include mechanisms to ensure that national policies are implemented at the local level.

5. The guiding principle in the efforts of participating States and relevant OSCE institutions should be that each policy and implementation strategy should be elaborated and implemented with the active participation of Roma and Sinti communities. It is essential to ensure real participation by Roma and Sinti people in all the decisions that affect their lives. Roma and Sinti people should work alongside local, national and international authorities in the development of these strategies. Equally, Roma communities should be equal partners and should share the responsibility for the betterment of their welfare.

6. The particular situation of Roma and Sinti women should be taken into account in the design and implementation of all policies and programmes. Where consultative and other mechanisms exist to facilitate Roma and Sinti people's participation in such policy – making processes, women should be able to participate on an equal basis with men. Roma women's issues should be systematically mainstreamed in all relevant policies designed for the population as a whole.

III. Combating racism and discrimination

In order to counter prejudice against Roma and Sinti and to effectively elaborate and implement policies to combat discrimination and racial violence, the following actions are recommended:

Legislation and law enforcement

Recommended action by participating States:

7. Consider ratifying the relevant international treaties as soon as possible, if they have not already done so, *inter alia*, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

8. Adopt and implement effective anti-discrimination legislation to combat racial and ethnic discrimination in all fields, including, *inter alia*, access to housing, citizenship and residence, education, employment, health and social services. Involve Roma and Sinti representatives in the design, implementation and evaluation processes.

9. The anti-discrimination legislation should ensure:

- Prohibition of both direct and indirect racial discrimination;
- Imposition of effective, proportionate and dissuasive sanctions for discriminatory acts or practices;
- Imposition of heavier sentences for racially motivated crimes by both private individuals and public officials;
- Equal access to effective remedies (judicial, administrative, conciliation or mediation procedures).

10. It should be ensured that national legislation prohibits all kinds of discriminatory acts and that all cases of suspected discrimination are thoroughly and objectively investigated.

11. Create, where appropriate, specialized institutions to ensure the implementation of such legislation, as well as domestic mechanisms to monitor and report regularly and with transparency on the progress achieved in its implementation. Encourage participation of Roma and Sinti representatives in such bodies, whose work should be accessible to the public.

12. Develop, where necessary, comprehensive national strategies or action plans to improve the situation of Roma and Sinti people, which include specific measures to tackle discrimination in all fields of life.

13. Assess on a regular basis, especially at the local level, the results of these strategies and involve Roma and Sinti communities in the evaluation process.

14. Endeavour, by encouraging a genuine dialogue or consultations or through other appropriate means, to improve the relations between Roma and Sinti people and other inhabitants, with a view to promoting tolerance and overcoming prejudices and negative stereotypes on both sides.

15. Document, consistent with national and international standards on the protection of data, all types and relevant cases of discrimination in order to better assess the situation and respond to the needs of Roma and Sinti people.

16. Ensure the vigorous and effective investigation of acts of violence against Roma and Sinti people, especially where there are reasonable grounds to suspect that they were racially motivated, and prosecute those responsible in accordance with domestic law and consistent with relevant standards of human rights.

17. Ensure no impunity for perpetrators of discriminatory or violent acts, *inter alia*, by taking prompt and effective investigative and punitive action on the part of the police.

18. Facilitate access to justice for Roma and Sinti people through measures such as legal aid and the provision of information in the Romani language.

19. Take into account in all measures and programmes, the situation of Roma and Sinti women, who are often victims of discrimination on the basis of both ethnicity and sex. Recommended action by OSCE institutions and structures:

20. The ODIHR and, where appropriate, other OSCE institutions and structures, including OSCE field operations, will assist participating States, at their request, in developing anti-discrimination legislation, as well as in establishing anti-discrimination bodies.

21. The HCNM, within its mandate, will continue to follow the development of anti-discrimination legislation and provide advice and assistance to the participating States in this respect, as appropriate.

22. Upon request, the ODIHR will provide advice on how a participating State's existing mechanisms, such as ombudsman offices, commissions for combating discrimination, police disciplinary commissions, and other relevant bodies can alleviate tensions between Roma and Sinti and non-Roma communities.

23. The ODIHR/Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues (CPRSI) will promote better relations between Roma and Sinti non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the participating States.

24. The ODIHR-CPRSI will serve as a clearing house on initiatives undertaken by participating States and facilitate exchanges of information on best practices.

25. The ODIHR-CPRSI will, in close co-operation with participating States, Roma and Sinti communities, and where possible with other international organizations, and in full respect of the laws on the protection of personal data, collect documentation for the purpose of developing more precisely targeted policies.

Police

Recommended action by participating States:

26. Develop policies that promote awareness among law-enforcement institutions regarding the situation of Roma and Sinti people and that counter prejudice and negative stereotypes.

27. Develop training programmes to prevent excessive use of force and to promote awareness of and respect for human rights.

28. Develop policies: (1) to improve relations between Roma and Sinti communities and the police, so as to prevent police abuse and violence against Roma and Sinti people; and (2) to improve trust and confidence in the police among Roma and Sinti people.

29. Develop policies and procedures to ensure an effective police response to racially motivated violence against Roma and Sinti people.

30. Assess the gap between international standards on police and currently existing national practices in consultation with national police forces, NGOs and representatives of Roma and Sinti communities.

31. Elaborate, where appropriate, and in close partnership with international organizations and Roma NGOs, policy statements, codes of conduct, practical guidance manuals and training programmes.

32. Encourage Roma and Sinti people to work in law-enforcement institutions as a sustainable means of promoting tolerance and diversity.

Recommended action by OSCE institutions and structures:

33. The Strategic Police Matters Unit in the Secretariat and the ODIHR will assist participating States in developing programmes and confidence-building measures – such as community policing – to improve the relations between Roma and Sinti people and

the police, particularly at the local level. 34. The ODIHR-CPRSI and the Strategic Police Matters Unit will, within their respective mandates, produce a compilation of police “best practices” in the OSCE region with respect to policing and Roma and Sinti communities.

35. The HCNM, the ODIHR-CPRSI and the Strategic Police Matters Unit will assist the participating States in developing codes of conduct to prevent racial profiling and improve interethnic relations.

Mass Media

Recommended action by participating States:

36. Launch information and awareness-raising campaigns with a view to countering prejudices and negative stereotypes of Roma and Sinti people.

37. In order to foster freedom of expression, encourage training of Roma and Sinti journalists and their employment in media outlets with a view to facilitating wider access to the media for Roma and Sinti people.

38. Encourage the media to show positive aspects and present a balanced portrayal of Roma life, refrain from stereotyping Roma and Sinti people and avoid inciting tension between various ethnic groups. Organize round tables between media representatives and Roma and Sinti representatives to promote this objective. Recommended action by OSCE institutions and structures:

39. In co-operation with the ODIHR as well as relevant international organizations, the Representative on Freedom of the Media (RFOM) should consider how the OSCE could contribute to the establishment of a European Roma Radio which would broadcast throughout Europe. The ODIHR and the RFOM should organize public debates, anti-discrimination campaigns and joint training programmes with and for the media.

40. The RFOM should consider facilitating training seminars for Roma journalists.

41. The ODIHR-CPRSI and the RFOM will organize round tables with journalists on the image that Roma and Sinti communities have in society.

42. The HCNM will continue to elaborate and disseminate guidelines for policy-makers on the use of the State broadcast media in multicultural communities, aimed, *inter alia*, at encouraging support for minority broadcasters, including Roma and Sinti broadcasters, and improving their access to the media.

IV. Addressing socio-economic issues

Action is required to ensure that Roma and Sinti people enjoy social and economic rights on a par with others. Measures at the grass-roots level, particularly those originating from Roma groups themselves, are particularly needed in order to promote the integration of Roma and Sinti people into social and economic life and to combat their isolation and poverty. The OSCE and its participating States should continue to facilitate such integration.

Housing and living conditions

Recommended action by participating States:

43. Put in place mechanisms and institutional procedures to clarify property rights, resolve questions of ownership and regularize the legal status of Roma and Sinti people living in circumstances of unsettled legality (e.g., Roma neighbourhoods lacking land rights or which are not included in the urban plans of the main locality; families and houses without legal residence status in settlements where the people have been living *de facto* for decades).

44. Involve Roma and Sinti people in the design of housing policies, as well as in the construction, rehabilitation and/or maintenance of public housing projects meant to benefit them. Ensure that housing projects do not foster ethnic and/or racial segregation.

45. Consider the possibility of guaranteeing loans to participating States that may be available from international organizations and financial institutions for low-income housing projects.

46. Promote the option of co-operative housing schemes for Roma communities and provide appropriate training for the maintenance of such facilities. Recommended action by OSCE institutions and structures:

47. The ODIHR-CPRSI and the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA) are encouraged to play a larger role in facilitating the provision of information about and access to resources made available by foreign donors for specific projects, particularly those generated by Roma and Sinti groups, addressing the social and economic development of Roma and Sinti communities. Unemployment and economic problems

Recommended action by participating States:

48. Promote increased representation of qualified Roma and Sinti people in public employment.

49. Develop training programmes to prepare under-represented groups such as Roma and Sinti for employment in local public administration and other areas, and develop policies to encourage employment of the graduates of these programmes as civil servants.

50. Reassess the impact of subsidized employment programmes, paying particular attention to their educational components, to ensure that these will aim to increase the competitiveness of Roma and Sinti people on the labour market.

51. Develop policies and programmes, including vocational training, to improve the marketable skills and employability of Roma and Sinti people, particularly young people and women.

52. Adopt social policies that strengthen incentives to seek employment, as a sustainable way to avoid dependency on social benefits.

Recommended action by OSCE institutions and structures:

53. At the request of participating States, the OCEEA, together with relevant international organizations, will contribute to developing approaches designed to overcome obstacles and discrimination that prevent Roma and Sinti people from fulfilling their potential in the economic sphere.

54. At the request of participating States, the ODIHR-CPRSI and the OCEEA will support development of the employability and entrepreneurial skills of Roma and Sinti people through the establishment of training and retraining programmes in participating States. Successful practices, particularly relating to the development of entrepreneurial skills and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) (e.g., the Youth Entrepreneurship Seminars programme) could be adapted to the needs of Roma and Sinti people. The OCEEA could also facilitate economic and social insertion by acting as a catalyst for support by partner organizations and financial institutions of micro-credit programmes, in the form of small loans for the establishment of small-scale businesses.

55. The OCEEA, working in close contact and in co-operation with other international organizations, so as to avoid overlapping, can assist governments in assessing the impact of economic policies and processes on Roma and Sinti communities (by developing policy performance/assessment indicators).

56. The ODIHR-CPRSI and the OCEEA will draw upon the research developed by UNDP and other agencies to assess the needs of Roma and Sinti people with a view to fostering policies that take into account the extent and nature of their specific needs in each participating State.

57. In co-ordination with relevant international organizations (in particular UNDP and the World Bank), the ODIHR-CPRSI and the OCEEA will examine ways to stimulate better access by Roma and Sinti people to regular training programmes. Workshops or round-table discussions tailored to the needs of Roma and Sinti people can be organized, with a view to informing and educating community members regarding the economic and social rights of individuals and entrepreneurs.

Health care

Recommended action by participating States:

58. Ensure that Roma and Sinti people have access to health care services on a non-discriminatory basis.

59. Promote awareness about the specific needs of the Roma and Sinti population amongst health care personnel.

60. Address the high incidence of disease and malnutrition among Roma communities.

61. Encourage access by Roma and Sinti populations to general public health services at an early stage by:

(a) Informing Roma and Sinti people about the availability of such services and telling them how to take advantage of them;

(b) Strengthening the confidence of Roma and Sinti people towards public health care providers, including through: punishing incidents of direct or indirect discrimination experienced by Roma and Sinti; training health care workers to understand relevant aspects of Roma culture; and supporting mediators who can play an important role in bridging the gap between Roma communities and public health care service providers.

62. Pay special attention to the health of women and girls, *inter alia*, by:

(a) Promoting and/or developing programmes aimed at providing information on health care (including nutrition, neonatal care and domestic violence, etc.);

(b) Improving access to gynaecological health care, including prenatal, delivery and postnatal health care services, *inter alia*, through the provision of information and training.

63. Pay special attention to the health of Roma and Sinti children through the provision of appropriate paediatric care, including preventive measures such as offering vaccinations in Roma settlements.

Recommended action by OSCE institutions and structures:

64. In co-operation with other international organizations and NGOs, the ODIHR will draw upon existing research data to identify socio-economic, political and cultural factors that have an impact

on the health status of particular Roma and Sinti populations, and will advise participating States regarding public health programmes which would respond to needs identified.

65. The ODIHR-CPRSI and, where appropriate, other OSCE institutions and structures, including OSCE field operations, will assist participating States in launching educational initiatives to help Roma and Sinti people make full use of regular health services. They will, *inter alia*, collect, produce and disseminate relevant information on good practices.

66. The ODIHR-CPRSI will pay special attention to ensuring that Roma and Sinti people have access to programmes aimed at prevention and/or treatment of drug abuse and addiction and AIDS and related diseases.

V. Improving access to education

Education is a prerequisite to the participation of Roma and Sinti people in the political, social and economic life of their respective countries on a footing of equality with others. Strong immediate measures in this field, particularly those that foster school attendance and combat illiteracy, should be assigned the highest priority both by decision – makers and by Roma and Sinti communities. Educational policies should aim to integrate Roma and Sinti people into mainstream education by providing full and equal access at all levels, while remaining sensitive to cultural differences.

Recommended action by participating States:

67. Ensure that national legislation includes adequate provisions banning racial segregation and discrimination in education and provides effective remedies for violations of such legislation.

68. Consult Roma and Sinti representatives when designing educational policies affecting them.

69. Actively promote equal opportunities in the field of education for Roma and Sinti children, particularly by providing them with language-related or other assistance.

70. Take special measures to enhance the quality and effectiveness of education for Roma and Sinti children. Encourage increased representation of Roma and Sinti people among school teachers.

71. Include Roma history and culture in educational texts, with particular consideration given to the experience of Roma and Sinti people during the Holocaust.

72. Consider measures to ensure the respect, protection and promotion of the Romani language and its teaching, and of Roma culture as an integral part of the Roma and Sinti cultural heritage.

73. Develop and implement comprehensive school desegregation programmes aiming at: (1) discontinuing the practice of systematically routing Roma children to special schools or classes (e.g., schools for mentally disabled persons, schools and classes exclusively designed for Roma and Sinti children); and (2) transferring Roma children from special schools to mainstream schools.

74. Allocate financial resources for the transfer of the Roma children to mainstream education and for the development of school support programmes to ease the transition to mainstream education.

75. Facilitate Roma children's access to mainstream education by taking measures such as:

(a) Taking measures to eradicate manifestations of prejudice against Roma and Sinti people in schools;

- (b) Training of educators regarding multicultural education and ways of dealing with ethnically mixed classes;
- (c) Developing strategies to gain wider community support for the desegregation of schools;
- (d) Providing support to bridge the gap between Roma and Sinti children and other pupils, including through pre-school programmes designed to prepare Roma and Sinti children for primary school;
- (e) Providing support to increase the number of mediators/trainers and teachers from within the Roma communities.

76. Develop and implement anti-racist curricula for schools, and anti-racism campaigns for the media.

77. Develop policies that address the full range of factors which contribute to low school attendance by Roma and Sinti children. This includes, *inter alia*, ensuring that Roma and Sinti families have the necessary documentation for registration as any other inhabitants.

78. Consider elaborating social support programmes for low-income Roma families with school-aged children.

79. Promote regular school attendance by Roma and Sinti children, *inter alia*, through the involvement of family and social mediators, the promotion of awareness by Roma and Sinti parents and elders of their responsibility to facilitate children's school attendance and, in particular, equal access to education for girls.

80. Pay special attention to providing Roma and Sinti girls with equal opportunities for educational and social inclusion and develop programmes to counter their particularly high drop-out rate.

81. Consider developing appropriate programmes for those who have not completed primary school or are illiterate.

82. Develop, where necessary, scholarship programmes for Roma students and encourage their increased participation in existing scholarship programmes.

83. Encourage computer literacy among Roma and Sinti people through the setting up of information web-sites.

84. Evaluate periodically the effectiveness of educational policies.

Recommended action by OSCE institutions and structures:

85. The HCNM will encourage participating States to comply with their commitments to provide free and equal access to public education to all members of society, and will encourage them to take steps to improve the situation of Roma and Sinti people in this respect.

86. The HCNM will continue to provide guidance on educational models, curriculum content and the teaching of, or in, the mother tongue, including the Romani language.

VI. Enhancing participation in public and political life

Roma and Sinti people face special challenges in their efforts to participate in the public – and particularly the political – life of their respective countries. Low levels of education and, in certain

cases, discrimination against them contribute substantially to the under-representation of Roma and Sinti people at all levels of government. Roma and Sinti people have an equal right to participate in public affairs. This includes the rights to vote, stand for election, participate in public affairs and form political parties without discrimination. Efforts made in recent years to foster Roma political participation should be encouraged, particularly those originating from the Roma groups themselves.

Recommended action by participating States:

87. Participating States must be proactive in ensuring that Roma and Sinti people, like any other inhabitants, have all the necessary documents, including birth certificates, identity documents and health insurance certificates. In resolving problems related to the lack of basic documents, participating States are strongly advised to work in partnership with Roma and Sinti civil organizations. 88. Participating States are encouraged to take into account the following basic conditions for ensuring effective participation by Roma and Sinti people in public and political life:

- Early involvement: Any initiative relating to Roma and Sinti people should involve them at the earliest stages in the development, implementation and evaluation phases;
- Inclusiveness: Roma and Sinti people should be included in formal consultative processes, and the effectiveness of mechanisms established for their participation in shaping major policy initiatives should be ensured by involving them in a broadly representative process;
- Transparency: Programmes and proposals should be circulated sufficiently in advance of decisionmaking deadlines to allow for meaningful analysis and input from representatives of Roma and Sinti communities;
- Meaningful participation by Roma and Sinti people at all levels of government: Participation by Roma and Sinti people in local government is essential for the effective implementation of policies affecting them;
- Ownership: Roma and Sinti people play an essential and irreplaceable role in ensuring that the right to participate in the political process is observed in practice.

89. Elected officials should establish close working relations with Roma and Sinti communities.

90. Establish mechanisms to ensure equal, direct and open communication between Roma and Sinti representatives and government authorities, including advisory and consultative bodies.

91. Facilitate interaction between political leaders at the local and national levels and diverse Roma groups.

92. Organize election-awareness campaigns so as to increase participation of the Roma electorate in elections.

93. Ensure that Roma voters can make free and informed choices in elections.

94. Take measures to guarantee the equal voting rights of women, including by enforcing prohibitions on so-called "family voting".

95. Encourage Roma and Sinti people to engage more actively in public service, including, where necessary, through the introduction of special measures to promote their participation in the civil service.

96. Encourage the representation of Roma and Sinti people in elected and appointed office at all levels of government.

97. Empower and integrate Roma and Sinti individuals into decision-making processes of States and localities as elected representatives of their communities and as citizens of their respective countries.

98. Promote Roma women's participation in public and political life; Roma women should be able to participate on an equal basis with men in consultative and other mechanisms designed to increase access to all areas of public and political life. Recommended action by OSCE institutions and structures:

99. The ODIHR and, where appropriate, other OSCE institutions and structures, including OSCE field operations, will develop programmes aimed at fostering the registration necessary for full political participation.

100. The ODIHR-CPRSI should help to organize training for and by Roma NGOs, including media organizations, for wider Roma communities on the issues of democratic processes and participation.

101. The ODIHR and, where appropriate, other OSCE institutions and structures, including OSCE field operations, will develop and implement voter education and voter registration programmes.

102. The ODIHR will act as a catalyst for exchanges of information and best practices among participating States and other international organizations.

103. The ODIHR will continue and strengthen the practice of examining the involvement of Roma people in voting and election processes, and will continue the practice of including Roma and Sinti experts in its election observation missions in the OSCE area.

104. The HCNM, within its mandate, will continue to advise States on appropriate ways and means of facilitating the participation of Roma and Sinti people in all areas of public life.

105. The ODIHR-CPRSI and, where appropriate, other OSCE institutions and structures, including OSCE field operations, will design programmes that encourage Roma and Sinti representatives to stand as candidates for elected bodies or will identify creative solutions that would ensure the participation of Roma and Sinti representatives in national and local decision-making processes.

106. The ODIHR will devote particular attention to activities aimed at increasing access by Roma women to all areas of public and political life.

VII. Roma and Sinti in crisis and post-crisis situations

The participating States have an obligation to ensure that, even in crisis and post-crisis situations, all the fundamental rights, including the rights of refugees deriving from relevant international instruments, in particular the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, are secured without discrimination. They take into account the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement as a useful framework for the work of the OSCE and their endeavours in dealing with internal displacement.

Recommended action by participating States:

107. Consult Roma and Sinti populations when defining crisis situations in order to facilitate adequate procedures and to identify specific geographical areas from which refugees and internally displaced persons flee, as well as to ensure that the specific situation of Roma and Sinti people are addressed.

108. Ensure that Roma and Sinti populations in a forced displacement situation (refugees and IDPs) are duly registered and provided with the relevant documents. 109. The participating States should ensure that programmes are in place to promote informed choice regarding the decision of Roma and Sinti refugees and IDPs concerning durable solutions to their situations, including the exercise of their right to safe, decent and sustainable return. Such programmes should provide concrete information regarding each subject of concern to refugees and IDPs and should be made available in the relevant languages.

110. Ensure that Roma and Sinti refugees are treated in accordance with the relevant international norms and standards of protection, and in a non-discriminatory manner.

111. Make use of the ODIHR's role in conflict prevention and identification of areas of early intervention, and draw on the expertise of the OSCE HCNM in this regard.

112. Pay special attention to the needs of Roma and Sinti women and children in crisis and post-crisis situations, particularly by providing them with access to health care, housing and schooling.

Recommended action by OSCE institutions and structures:

113. The ODIHR will make use of its specific role in addressing conflict prevention and identifying areas of potential crisis requiring early intervention.

114. In accordance with its mandate, the ODIHR-CPRSI is called upon to respond effectively to crisis situations by, *inter alia*, co-operating with relevant governments, intergovernmental bodies and international organizations, in particular the UNHCR, to ensure protection of Roma communities at risk.

115. The ODIHR-CPRSI will raise awareness among public officials, journalists and others of the situation of Roma and Sinti people in crisis or conflict areas. 116. The ODIHR will assume a proactive role in analysing measures undertaken by participating States relating to Roma and Sinti people and offer its advice with a view to better tackling those elements of tension in particular local contexts which may evolve, if not prevented, into open conflict situations.

117. The HCNM will continue to exercise his mandate of conflict prevention at the earliest possible stage.

VIII. Enhancing co-operation and co-ordination with other international organizations and NGOs

Given the increased attention being paid to issues concerning Roma and Sinti people by various international organizations, co-ordination and co-operation is required to avoid duplication of effort. With a view to ensuring effective implementation of the Action Plan, the OSCE, and in particular the ODIHR, will closely co-operate with international organizations and non-governmental organizations.

118. The ODIHR-CPRSI will continue to participate actively in the *Informal Contact Group on Roma of the Intergovernmental Organisations*.*

119. The strengthening and up-grading of this informal body will be agreed upon and implemented in co-operation with all the relevant partners, particularly by ensuring the inclusion of representatives of OSCE participating States. Regular meetings of the Informal Contact Group at the expert level, or a higher level when deemed necessary, will be considered with a view to furthering this aim.

120. The Informal Contact Group should establish common orientations and priorities, as well as better co-ordination and co-operation in order to avoid duplication of effort.

121. The ODIHR-CPRSI will seek to consolidate the “International Roma Contact Group”† and will further contribute to the Council of Europe’s initiative for a possible European Forum for Roma and Travellers.

122. The ODIHR-CPRSI will provide information and co-ordination services to relevant national and international institutions, and will facilitate dialogue among them and with Roma NGOs.

123. The ODIHR-CPRSI will seek to develop relations with Roma and Sinti organizations and help them to co-ordinate their efforts and resources, both within individual States and across borders, and to avail themselves fully of opportunities provided by existing national and international policies affecting Roma and Sinti people.

124. The ODIHR-CPRSI will draw upon the experience and input of existing monitoring projects developed by other international organizations.

IX. The ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues

125. Where necessary, the ODIHR-CPRSI will facilitate information-sharing among OSCE participating States that have developed or are seeking to improve national policies on Roma and Sinti people.

126. Upon request, ODIHR-CPRSI will advise participating States on future policies related to Roma and Sinti people and will stimulate debates between governments and Roma NGOs.

127. The ODIHR-CPRSI will support capacity-building for Roma and Sinti NGOs.

128. The ODIHR-CPRSI will establish a database of best practices in OSCE participating States.

129. The ODIHR-CPRSI should assume a proactive role in analysing measures undertaken by participating States, as well as in particular situations and incidents relating to Roma and Sinti people. Towards this end CPRSI will establish and develop direct contacts with participating States and will offer advice and opinions to them.

* The Informal Contact Group on Roma of the Intergovernmental Organisations is composed of representatives from OSCE/ODIHR, the Council of Europe, the European Commission and the European Union.

† The International Roma Contact Group was established in October 2000 at the initiative of the ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues. The Contact Group includes representatives of the International Romani Union, the Roma National Congress, elected Romani representatives, Romani experts and the ODIHRCPRSI.

130. Governments concerned will co-operate with the ODIHR-CPRSI in identifying effective solutions to crisis situations.

131. The ODIHR-CPRSI will provide Roma and Sinti communities with more information on OSCE resources and activities.

132. In co-operation with relevant OSCE institutions and structures, the ODIHR will develop appropriate action aimed at tackling the root causes of trafficking in human beings, especially in children, and raise awareness of its consequences among Roma and Sinti communities.

X. Implementation: review and assessment

133. The implementation of the Action Plan's provisions will be reviewed at the Human Dimension Implementation Meetings, Review Conferences and other relevant human dimension events.

134. Drawing on the outcome of the above-mentioned meetings, as well as on input from the consolidated Informal Contact Group on Roma of the Intergovernmental Organisations and the International Roma Contact Group, the Director of the ODIHR will report to the Permanent Council, which may recommend to participating States and OSCE institutions priorities for co-operation and co-ordination.

135. The Permanent Council will periodically organize informal briefings by the Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues on the areas covered by the present Action Plan in order to assess the impact at the national and local levels of the measures foreseen by it.

136. With a view to facilitating the implementation review process, OSCE participating States are encouraged to provide information on recent developments in the situation of Roma and Sinti people and/or measures inspired by this Action Plan at the Human Dimension Implementation Meetings, prior to Review Conferences and to the Permanent Council, where appropriate.

137. All relevant OSCE institutions and structures, including OSCE field operations, will continue to interact closely with participating States in order to assist them in implementing the Action Plan.

138. The ODIHR-CPRSI will disseminate information on this Plan to Roma and Sinti communities and organizations as well as to other international organizations.

139. In order to enable ODIHR-CPRSI to carry out the tasks entrusted to it in the present Action Plan, the OSCE Permanent Council will address providing adequate human and financial resources. The details will be worked out by the Advisory Committee on Management and Finance and will be submitted to the Permanent Council.

Decision No. 4/03

Tolerance and Non-Discrimination

The Ministerial Council,

Recognizing that respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law are at the core of the OSCE's comprehensive concept of security,

Recalling its commitments in the field of the human dimension, enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris for a New Europe, the Charter for European Security (Istanbul Summit, 1999) and all other relevant OSCE documents and decisions,

Recalling Decision No. 6 on Tolerance and Non-discrimination, adopted at the Tenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council in Porto on 7 December 2002,

Reaffirming its commitment to promote tolerance and combat discrimination, and its concern about all manifestations of aggressive nationalism, racism, chauvinism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and violent extremism in all participating States, as well as discrimination based, *inter alia*, on race, color, sex, language, religion or belief, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status,

Urging the relevant authorities in all participating States to continue to condemn publicly, at the appropriate level and in the appropriate manner, violent acts motivated by discrimination and intolerance,

Affirming its commitment to increase its efforts for the promotion of tolerance and non-discrimination in all fields,

Welcoming the work done by the OSCE during 2003,

1. Commits itself to promote the implementation of the Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE Area;

2. Decides to enhance the efforts being made to increase women's participation and the role of women in furthering democratization and economic development, and to consider integrating the provisions of the OSCE Action Plan on Gender Issues where applicable into national policies. Further decides to enhance its efforts to achieve gender balance at all levels within the OSCE, taking full account also in this respect of the principle of recruiting staff from all participating States on a fair basis. Reiterates that the OSCE encourages female candidates to apply for OSCE positions;

3. Decides to follow up the work started at the OSCE Conference on Anti-Semitism, held in Vienna on 19 and 20 June 2003 and welcomes the offer by Germany to host a second OSCE conference on this subject in Berlin on 28 and 29 April 2004;

4. Decides to follow up the work started at the OSCE Conference on Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, held in Vienna on 4 and 5 September 2003 and welcomes the offer by Belgium to host a second OSCE conference on this subject in Brussels in autumn 2004;

5. Tasks the Permanent Council to further discuss, in addition to the two above-mentioned conferences, ways and means of increasing the efforts of the OSCE and the participating States for the promotion of tolerance and non-discrimination in all fields;

6. Encourages all participating States to collect and keep records on reliable information and statistics on hate crimes, including on forms of violent manifestations of racism, xenophobia, discrimination, and anti-Semitism, as discussed and recommended in the above-mentioned conferences. Recognizing the importance of legislation to combat hate crimes, participating States will inform the ODIHR about existing legislation regarding crimes fuelled by intolerance and discrimination, and, where appropriate, seek the ODIHR's assistance in the drafting and review of such legislation;

7. Tasks the ODIHR, in full co-operation, *inter alia*, with the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (UNCERD), the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) and the European Monitoring Center on Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC), as well as relevant NGOs, with serving as a collection point for information and statistics collected by participating States, and with reporting regularly on these issues, including in the format of the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, as a basis for deciding on priorities for future work. The ODIHR will, *inter alia*, promote best practices and disseminate lessons learned in the fight against intolerance and discrimination;
8. Recognizes the need to combat hate crimes, which can be fuelled by racist, xenophobic, and anti-Semitic propaganda on the internet. We welcome the offer by France to host in Paris in 2004 a forward-looking event, fully respecting the rights to freedom of information and expression, on the relationship between propaganda on the internet and hate crimes;
9. Affirms the importance of freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief, and condemns all discrimination and violence, including against any religious group or individual believer. Commits to ensure and facilitate the freedom of the individual to profess and practice a religion or belief, alone or in community with others, where necessary through transparent and non-discriminatory laws, regulations, practices and policies. Encourages the participating States to seek the assistance of the ODIHR and its Panel of Experts on Freedom of Religion or Belief. Emphasizes the importance of a continued and strengthened interfaith and intercultural dialogue to promote greater tolerance, respect and mutual understanding;
10. Ensures the advancement of the implementation of the OSCE commitments on national minorities, and recognizes the importance of the recommendations of the High Commissioner on National Minorities on education, public participation, and language, including on its use in broadcast media, and the relevant recommendations of the Representative on Freedom of the Media in this regard;
11. Undertakes to combat discrimination against migrant workers. Further undertakes to facilitate the integration of migrant workers into the societies in which they are legally residing. Calls on the ODIHR to reinforce its activities in this respect;
12. Undertakes, in this context, to combat, subject to national legislation and international commitments, discrimination, where existing, against asylum seekers and refugees, and calls on the ODIHR to reinforce its activities in this respect;
13. Takes into account the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement as a useful framework for the work of the OSCE and the endeavors of participating States in dealing with internal displacement;
14. Decides that the OSCE in addressing the issues contained in this document will increase its efforts towards the younger generation in order to build up their understanding of the need for tolerance. Human rights education merits particular attention;
15. Decides to intensify the co-operation of the OSCE with relevant international organizations such as the United Nations, the Council of Europe and the European Union, as well as with civil society and relevant non-governmental organizations to promote tolerance and non-discrimination;
16. Tasks the Permanent Council, the ODIHR, the HCNM and the RFoM, in close cooperation with the Chairmanship-in-Office, with ensuring an effective follow-up to the relevant provisions

of the present decision, and requests the Permanent Council to address the operational and funding modalities for the implementation of this decision.

Decision No. 5/03

Elections

The Ministerial Council, Reaffirming the provisions of the Document of the Copenhagen Meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension of the CSCE (1990),

Noting that relevant provisions of the Lisbon Summit Declaration (1996) and the Istanbul Summit Declaration (1999) have supplemented those commitments,

Reaffirming its determination to implement these commitments,

Recalling Decision No. 7 adopted at the Tenth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council in Porto in 2002,

Acknowledging that democratic elections can be conducted under a variety of different electoral systems and laws,

Recognizing the ODIHR's expertise in assisting participating States in the implementation of election-related commitments and standards,

Welcoming the continuing efficient co-operation between the ODIHR and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in election monitoring,

Welcoming the document "Existing Commitments for Democratic Elections in OSCE Participating States: A Progress Report" (ODIHR.GAL/39/03), which was prepared by the ODIHR and submitted to the participating States in June of this year,

Recognizing in particular the need for confidence by the electorate in the entire process, for transparency of election procedures, and for accountability on the part of authorities conducting elections, calls upon participating States to further enhance their cooperation with the ODIHR in this field,

Tasks the ODIHR to consider ways to improve the effectiveness of its assistance to participating States in following up recommendations made in ODIHR election-observation reports and inform the Permanent Council on progress made in fulfilling this task;

Tasks the Permanent Council, drawing on expertise from the ODIHR, to consider the need for additional commitments on elections, supplementing existing ones, and report to the next Ministerial Council.

Decision No. 6/03

Terms of Reference for the OSCE Counter-Terrorism Network

The Ministerial Council,

Acknowledging the need to strengthen the co-ordination of counter-terrorism measures and information sharing between OSCE participating States and within their capitals,

Recalling Decision No. 1 (MC(10).DEC/1 of 7 December 2002) of the Tenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council, on implementing the OSCE commitments and activities on combating terrorism,

Decides to establish the OSCE Counter-Terrorism Network (CTN) in accordance with the terms of reference for the Network contained in the annex to this decision.

Annex to Decision No. 6/03

OSCE Counter-Terrorism Network

Terms Of Reference

The primary purpose of the OSCE Counter-Terrorism Network (CTN) is to promote the strengthening of co-ordination of counter-terrorism measures and information-sharing between OSCE participating States. In particular, it aims to strengthen the liaison between the delegations of participating States, counter-terrorism officials in capitals and the OSCE Action against Terrorism Unit (ATU).^{*} The Network facilitates timely exchanges of information on counter-terrorism programmes, training and legal developments initiated by the OSCE and participating States, as well as on open-source analyses concerning trends in terrorist phenomena. The primary emphasis will be placed on supporting and supplementing the work of the United Nations Security Council Counter – Terrorism Committee in implementing Security Council resolution 1373. The CTN is not intended to be a conduit for intelligence or other sensitive information, nor does it seek to duplicate functions of other international and regional law-enforcement networks.

Responsibilities of the ATU

1. Inform participating States of bilateral as well as multilateral training opportunities related to counter-terrorism matters, and work with principal liaisons to take full advantage of such programmes.
2. Co-ordinate and facilitate OSCE counter-terrorism activities, including capacitybuilding assistance programmes, training and contingency-preparedness workshops, with a view to effectively utilizing resources and averting duplication.
3. Respond to information and requests for action from principal liaisons in a timely manner.

^{*} The United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) has supported the development of such regional networks to strengthen co-operation and co-ordination. The Secretariat of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE), within the Organization of American States, has already developed a regional hemispheric network of national points of contact. The ATU is grateful for and acknowledges CICTE's advice and assistance in developing the OSCE Counter-Terrorism Network.

4. Ensure that, through the delegations, the principal liaisons are kept fully informed of developments regarding significant counter-terrorism matters that affect the OSCE region, by means of regular distribution by email of an ATU newsletter and of regular updates of the OSCE ATU home page.
5. Co-ordinate with the principal liaison, through the delegation concerned, when an OSCE ATU official travels to a participating State in connection with terrorism-related matters.

Responsibilities of principal liaisons

1. Ensure that communications from the ATU reach the appropriate government offices, and that responses to the ATU are forwarded in a timely manner.
 2. Provide information to the ATU about significant national developments regarding action to combat terrorism, including new counter-terrorism legislation⁴, counter-terrorism training or assistance programmes and examples of national “best practices”.
 3. Communicate information on seminars, workshops and conferences related to counter – terrorism concerns that participating States may host, and that are open to outside participation.
 4. Serve as the principal co-ordinator for OSCE anti-terrorism seminars, workshops and conferences involving the principal liaison’s participating State.
 5. Co-ordinate, prioritize and communicate, on behalf of the participating State concerned, training and assistance needs and requests related to counter-terrorism matters that the OSCE might support or facilitate.
- 4 The OSCE ATU relies on official notifications of ratification through the web sites of the relevant depositories of anti-terrorism instruments for the most accurate information on ratification.

Means of communication and support

The ATU will, where possible and appropriate, use Internet-based technologies to communicate with principal liaisons and others on the CTN, with email being the most common tool. Principal liaisons are, however, encouraged to consult the OSCE and CTC web sites regularly. As needed, the ATU will recommend meetings of principal liaisons to participating States, subject to authorization by the Permanent Council and availability of funding, either on the margins of other annual OSCE meetings such as the Annual Security Review Conference, or as a separate event. One P-1 contracted position will be added to the ATU staff in 2004 to support the development and maintenance of the CTN.

Document of the Twelfth Meeting of the Ministerial Council

Sofia 2004

I. Sofia Ministerial Statement on Preventing and Combating Terrorism

1. We, the members of the Ministerial Council of the OSCE, having met together in Sofia, declare our resolute and unconditional condemnation of terrorist acts, in particular those committed in 2004 in Spain, Uzbekistan, Turkey and Russia, where in the city of Beslan terrorists brutally and callously killed innocent and defenceless children. We grieve the loss of hundreds of human lives and express our profound solidarity with victims of acts of terrorism and their families. These acts have vividly exposed terrorism's inhuman nature. We express our solidarity with the States not participating in our Organization which were also attacked by terrorists.

Reiterating that terrorism constitutes one of the most serious threats to peace and security and considering that acts of terrorism seriously impair the enjoyment of human rights, we reaffirm our commitment to protect the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms, especially the right to life, of everyone within our jurisdiction against terrorist acts. We re-emphasize our determination to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, as a crime that has no justification, whatever its motivation or origin, and to conduct this fight with respect for the rule of law and in accordance with our obligations under international law, in particular international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law.

2. We underscore the leading role of the United Nations in the comprehensive fight against terrorism. We reaffirm obligations and commitments adopted by our States in the field of combating terrorism within the United Nations, including resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001), 1456 (2003), 1535 (2004), 1540 (2004) and 1566 (2004) of the United Nations Security Council, as well as resolution 58/187 of the United Nations General Assembly, and we support the resolution 2004/87 of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. We also reaffirm obligations and commitments adopted within other international organizations of which we are members.

We welcome the importance attributed by UN Security Council resolution 1566 (2004) to the role of relevant international, regional and subregional organizations in strengthening international co-operation in the fight against terrorism and the call for intensified interaction with the United Nations.

We underline our determination to support the important efforts of the UN Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee and of its Executive Directorate. We commit to hold ourselves to the highest possible standards of implementation of the 12 United Nations conventions and protocols related to terrorism. We also renew our call for cooperation on an expedited basis in resolving all outstanding issues with a view to adopting by consensus the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and the draft international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism.

We remain committed to the anti-terrorism OSCE decisions, in particular the commitments contained in the Bucharest Plan of Action for Combating Terrorism, the OSCE Charter on Preventing and Combating Terrorism and the OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-First Century.

Our countries reaffirm their commitment to swift and full implementation of these decisions and arrangements throughout the OSCE area.

3. We welcome the OSCE's efforts in the field of combating terrorism, including the decisions adopted in 2004, and support the work of the Action against Terrorism Unit of the OSCE Secretariat.

We are convinced that the package of practical decisions that we adopt and welcome today,* and their further implementation will increase the level of security and stability in the OSCE area. These decisions will help ensure implementation of our obligations under international law to prevent and combat terrorism.

4. We intend to step up OSCE activities and measures to prevent and combat terrorism and to address all the factors which engender conditions in which terrorist organizations are able to recruit and win support.

We reaffirm that the OSCE efforts to counter terrorist threats should be taken in all OSCE dimensions, the security dimension, including the politico-military area, the economic and environmental dimension, and the human dimension. Based on the common, comprehensive and indivisible approach to security, our Organization could make further substantial contributions to global anti-terrorist efforts.

We are convinced that respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms is an important element of ensuring peace and stability and prevention of terrorism. We acknowledge that effective prevention of and fight against terrorism require the involvement of civil society in our countries.

We are determined to further strengthen our interaction at both bilateral and multilateral levels in various formats in order to forestall the threat of terrorism in the OSCE area and in the world. We will actively co-operate to find and bring to justice the perpetrators, organizers, supporters and sponsors of terrorist acts.

We also will continue to develop interaction and dialogue on the issues of preventing and combating terrorism with the Mediterranean and Asian Partners for Co-operation.

II. Ministerial Declaration on the Sixtieth Anniversary of the End of World War II

The year 2005 marks the sixtieth anniversary of the end of the battles of World War II. We mourn the tens of millions of people who lost their lives, as victims of the war, the Holocaust, occupations and acts of repression. We honour all those who fought for the victory of humanity against dictatorship, oppression and aggression. Time will not diminish the meaning of their sacrifice.

* Permanent Council Decision No. 617 on Further Measures to Suppress Terrorist Financing (1 July 2004). Permanent Council Decision No. 618 on Solidarity with Victims of Terrorism (1 July 2004). Ministerial Decision on Combating the Use of the Internet for Terrorist Purposes. Ministerial Decision on Enhancing Container Security. Ministerial Decision on Reporting Lost/Stolen Passports to Interpol's ASF-STD.

We welcome the UN General Assembly resolution on the commemoration of the sixtieth anniversary of the end of World War II.

Reflecting on our desire to prevent the recurrence of such a European and international catastrophe, we hail the progress that has been made in the past sixty years in overcoming the tragic legacy of World War II, towards achieving global peace and security, reconciliation, international and regional co-operation and the promotion of democratic values, human rights and fundamental freedoms, in particular through the United Nations and the establishment of regional organizations. We stress the important role that the CSCE and OSCE have played in this regard in the past three decades.

Recalling the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris for a New Europe, the Charter for European Security, and other agreed OSCE documents we shall spare no effort to avoid the emergence of new dividing lines in the OSCE area, and to eliminate sources of hostility, tensions and confrontation. We are determined to continue our collective efforts with a view of creating a common and indivisible space of security in the OSCE area, based on democracy, the rule of law, economic prosperity, social justice, and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the rights of persons belonging to national minorities.

We have learned from history the danger of intolerance, discrimination, extremism and hatred on ethnic, racial and religious grounds. We are committed to combat these threats, including through the OSCE, and we reject any attempts to justify them.

We strongly condemn any denial of the Holocaust. We condemn all forms of ethnic cleansing. We confirm our adherence to the UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide adopted on 9 December 1948. We call on the participating States to take every possible action to ensure that attempts to commit genocide are prevented today and in the future. The perpetrators of such crimes should be brought to justice.

New times have brought new threats and challenges, one of the most dangerous of which is terrorism. We will fight this threat together, by uniting our efforts and resources, and defending common principles. We will work, *inter alia*, through the OSCE, to combat terrorism and other threats and challenges to security.

We are convinced that the peaceful resolution of all existing conflicts, the observance of the norms of international law, the aims and principles of the UN Charter, the fulfilment of commitments contained in the Helsinki Final Act and other agreed OSCE documents are the best way to pay tribute to those who struggled for peace, freedom, democracy and human dignity, to commemorate all victims of World War II, to overcome the past, and to save present and future generations from the scourge of war and violence.

IV. Decisions of the Ministerial Council

Decision No. 3/04

Combating the Use of the Internet for Terrorist Purposes

The Ministerial Council,

Recognizing United Nations Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1566 (2004) as milestones of the international legal framework for the fight against terrorism, Determined to further intensify efforts in the implementation of existing OSCE commitments on combating terrorism, as reflected in the OSCE Charter on Preventing and Combating Terrorism, Porto Ministerial Council Decision No. 1 on implementing the OSCE commitments and activities on combating terrorism, the Bucharest Plan of Action for Combating Terrorism and the OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-First Century,

Recalling the Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime (November 2001), and other relevant works developed in this forum, as well as the results of the Council of Europe Conference on the Challenge of Cybercrime,

Recalling the OSCE Meeting on the Relationship Between Racist, Xenophobic and Anti – Semitic Propaganda on the Internet and Hate Crimes (Paris, 15 and 16 June 2004), Concerned by the extent of use of the Internet by terrorist organizations:

- To identify and to recruit potential members,
- To collect and transfer funds,
- To organize terrorist acts,
- To incite terrorist acts in particular through the use of propaganda,

Decides that participating States will exchange information on the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes and identify possible strategies to combat this threat, while ensuring respect for international human rights obligations and standards, including those concerning the rights to privacy and freedom of opinion and expression;

Tasks the Secretary General to organize in 2005, in co-operation with Interpol and other interested international organizations, an expert workshop to exchange information on the extent of this threat, as well as on the existing legal framework and institutional tools, and to consider concrete measures to enhance international co-operation on this issue.

Decision No. 11/04

Combating Corruption

The Ministerial Council,

Reiterating that corruption represents one of the major impediments to the prosperity and sustainable development of the participating States, that undermines their stability and security and threatens the OSCE's shared values,

Determined to further intensify efforts in the implementation of existing OSCE commitments on combating corruption, as reflected in the Charter for European Security adopted at the 1999 OSCE Istanbul Summit and the OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension adopted in Maastricht in 2003,

Reaffirming its commitment to make the elimination of all forms of corruption a priority and to implement effective and resolute measures against corruption, including through the implementation of relevant national legislation and programmes,

Recalling that the fight against corruption requires the adoption by the participating States of a comprehensive and long-term anti-corruption strategy,

Acknowledging the important work on this issue done by other international organizations, in particular by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Council of Europe (CoE) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD),

Recognizing that the United Nations Convention against Corruption, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 31 October 2003 in New York, marks a major step forward in international co-operation against corruption and provides the opportunity for a global response to the problem,

Encourages the OSCE participating States, which have not yet done so, to sign and ratify the United Nations Convention against Corruption as soon as possible, in order to ensure its rapid entry into force, and implement it fully.

Tasks the OSCE Secretariat, in particular the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA), upon the request of the OSCE participating States, to provide support in mobilizing technical assistance, including necessary expertise and resources, from relevant competent international organizations, with due regard to their respective mandates, in the ratification or/and the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

Decision No. 12/04

Tolerance and Non-Discrimination

The Ministerial Council,

Recognizing that respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law are at the core of the OSCE comprehensive concept of security,

Recalling its commitments in the field of the human dimension, enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris for a New Europe, the Charter for European Security (Istanbul Summit, 1999) and all other relevant OSCE documents and decisions,

Recalling Decision No. 4/03 on Tolerance and Non-Discrimination, adopted at the Eleventh Meeting of the Ministerial Council in Maastricht on 2 December 2003, Welcoming the work done by the OSCE during 2004 in promoting tolerance and nondiscrimination,

1. Appreciates the Declaration made by the OSCE Chairman-in-Office at the OSCE Conference on Anti-Semitism held in Berlin on 28 and 29 April 2004 – “Berlin Declaration” and the Declaration made by the OSCE Chairman-in-Office at the OSCE Conference on Tolerance and the Fight

Against Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination held in Brussels on 13 and 14 September 2004 – “Brussels Declaration”;

2. Endorses the Permanent Council Decisions on Combating Anti-Semitism (PC. DEC/607) and on Tolerance and the Fight against Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination (PC.DEC/621) and the Permanent Council Decision on Promoting Tolerance and Media Freedom on the Internet (PC.DEC/633), annexed to this decision;

3. Further decides to intensify efforts for the implementation of these three decisions, which include commitments in the fields of, *inter alia*, education, media, legislation, law enforcement, migration and religious freedom;

4. Decides to follow up the work started in 2003 and continued with the OSCE Conference on Anti-Semitism, (Berlin on 28 and 29 April 2004), the OSCE Meeting on the Relationship Between Racist, Xenophobic and anti-Semitic Propaganda on the Internet and Hate Crimes, held in Paris on 16 and 17 June 2004, and the OSCE Conference on Tolerance and the Fight against Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, (Brussels on 13 and 14 September 2004). Also welcomes the offer by Spain to host in Cordoba in June 2005 the OSCE Conference on anti – Semitism and on Other Forms of Intolerance;

5. Welcomes the intention of the Chairman-in-Office to appoint, in accordance with Porto Ministerial Council Decision No. 8, three personal representatives as part of the overall fight of the OSCE in combating discrimination and promoting tolerance. The personal representatives will have their costs covered by extra-budgetary contributions

Annex to Decision No. 12/04
Permanent Council Decision No. 607

Combating Anti-Semitism

(PC.DEC/607 of 22 April 2004)

The Permanent Council,

Taking into account the forthcoming OSCE Conference on Anti-Semitism in Berlin on 28 and 29 April 2004,

Reaffirming the participating States’ existing commitments related to combating anti – Semitism, and

In order to reinforce our common efforts to combat anti-Semitism across the OSCE region,

Decides,

1. The participating States commit to:

- Strive to ensure that their legal systems foster a safe environment free from anti – Semitic harassment, violence or discrimination in all fields of life;
- Promote, as appropriate, educational programmes for combating anti-Semitism;

- Promote remembrance of and, as appropriate, education about the tragedy of the Holocaust, and the importance of respect for all ethnic and religious groups;
 - Combat hate crimes, which can be fuelled by racist, xenophobic and anti-Semitic propaganda in the media and on the Internet;
 - Encourage and support international organization and NGO efforts in these areas;
 - Collect and maintain reliable information and statistics about anti-Semitic crimes, and other hate crimes, committed within their territory, report such information periodically to the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), and make this information available to the public;
 - Endeavour to provide the ODIHR with the appropriate resources to accomplish the tasks agreed upon in the Maastricht Ministerial Decision on Tolerance and Non-Discrimination;
 - Work with the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly to determine appropriate ways to review periodically the problem of anti-Semitism;
 - Encourage development of informal exchanges among experts in appropriate fora on best practices and experiences in law enforcement and education;
2. To task the ODIHR to:
- Follow closely, in full co-operation with other OSCE institutions as well as the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (UNCERD), the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC) and other relevant international institutions and NGOs, anti-Semitic incidents in the OSCE area making use of all reliable information available;
 - Report its findings to the Permanent Council and to the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting and make these findings public. These reports should also be taken into account in deciding on priorities for the work of the OSCE in the area of intolerance;
 - Systematically collect and disseminate information throughout the OSCE area on best practices for preventing and responding to anti-Semitism and, if requested, offer advice to participating States in their efforts to fight anti-Semitism;
3. To ask the Chairman-in-Office to bring this decision to the attention of the participants of the upcoming Conference in Berlin and to incorporate it into his declaration concluding the Conference;
4. To forward this decision to the Ministerial Council for endorsement at its Twelfth Meeting.

Annex to Decision No. 12/04
Permanent Council Decision No. 621

Tolerance and the Fight against Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination

(PC.DEC/621 of 29 July 2004)

The Permanent Council,

Taking into account the forthcoming OSCE Conference on Tolerance and the Fight against Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination in Brussels on 13 and 14 September 2004, Recalling the Maastricht Ministerial Council Decision on Tolerance and Non – Discrimination (MC.DEC/4/03), the OSCE Conference on anti-Semitism in Berlin on 28 and 29 April 2004 as well as the OSCE Meeting on

the Relationship between Racist, Xenophobic and anti-Semitic Propaganda on the Internet and Hate Crimes in Paris on 16 and 17 June 2004 and their results,

Reaffirming the participating States' existing commitments related to the promotion of tolerance and non-discrimination, and

In order to reinforce our common efforts to fight manifestations of intolerance across the OSCE region,

Decides,

1. The participating States commit to:

- Consider enacting or strengthening, where appropriate, legislation that prohibits discrimination based on, or incitement to hate crimes motivated by, race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status;
- Promote and enhance, as appropriate, educational programmes for fostering tolerance and combating racism, xenophobia and discrimination; • Promote and facilitate open and transparent interfaith and intercultural dialogue and partnerships towards tolerance, respect and mutual understanding and ensure and facilitate the freedom of the individual to profess and practice a religion or belief, alone or in community with others, including through transparent and non-discriminatory laws, regulations, practices and policies;
- Take steps to combat acts of discrimination and violence against Muslims in the OSCE area;
- Take steps, in conformity with their domestic law and international obligations, against discrimination, intolerance and xenophobia against migrants and migrant workers;
- Consider undertaking activities to raise public awareness of the enriching contribution of migrants and migrant workers to society;
- Combat hate crimes, which can be fuelled by racist, xenophobic and anti-Semitic propaganda in the media and on the Internet, and appropriately denounce such crimes publicly when they occur;
- Consider establishing training programmes for law enforcement and judicial officials on legislation and enforcement of legislation relating to hate crimes;
- Encourage the promotion of tolerance, dialogue, respect and mutual understanding through the Media, including the Internet;
- Encourage and support international organization and NGO efforts in these areas;
- Collect and maintain reliable information and statistics about hate crimes motivated by racism, xenophobia and related discrimination and intolerance, committed within their territory, report such information periodically to the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and make this information available to the public;
- Examine the possibility of establishing within countries appropriate bodies to promote tolerance and to combat racism, xenophobia, discrimination or related intolerance, including against Muslims, and anti-Semitism;
- Endeavour to provide the ODIHR with the appropriate resources to accomplish the tasks agreed upon in the Maastricht Ministerial Decision on Tolerance and Non-Discrimination;
- Work with the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly to determine appropriate ways to review periodically the problems of racism, xenophobia and discrimination;
- Encourage development of informal exchanges among experts in appropriate fora on best practices and experiences in law enforcement and education;

2. To task the ODIHR to:

- Follow closely, in full co-operation with other OSCE institutions as well as the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (UNCERD), the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR), the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC) and other relevant international institutions and NGOs, incidents motivated by racism, xenophobia, or related intolerance, including against Muslims, and anti-Semitism in the OSCE area making use of all reliable information available;
- Report its findings to the Permanent Council and to the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting and make these findings public. These reports should also be taken into account in deciding on priorities for the work of the OSCE in the area of intolerance;
- Systematically collect and disseminate information throughout the OSCE area on best practices for preventing and responding to racism, xenophobia and discrimination and, if requested, offer advice to participating States in their efforts to fight racism, xenophobia and discrimination;
- Support the ability of civil society and the development of partnerships to address racism, xenophobia, discrimination or related intolerance, including against Muslims, and anti-Semitism;

3. To ask the Chairman-in-Office to bring this decision to the attention of the participants of the upcoming Conference in Brussels and to incorporate it into his declaration concluding the Conference;

4. To forward this decision to the Ministerial Council for endorsement at its Twelfth Meeting.

Annex to Decision No. 12/04 Permanent Council Decision No. 633

Promoting Tolerance and Media Freedom on the Internet

(PC.DEC/633 of 11 November 2004)

The Permanent Council,

Reaffirming the commitments made at the Ministerial Council Meeting in Maastricht to combat hate crimes, which can be fuelled by racist, xenophobic and anti-Semitic propaganda on the Internet,

Reaffirming the importance of fully respecting the right to the freedoms of opinion and expression, which include the freedom to seek, receive and impart information, which are vital to democracy and in fact are strengthened by the Internet,

Recalling the commitments to collect and maintain reliable information and statistics about hate crimes motivated by racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and related discrimination and intolerance, to report such information periodically to the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and to make this information available to the public, as contained in the Permanent Council Decisions on Combating Anti-Semitism (PC.DEC/607) and on Tolerance and the Fight against Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination (PC.DEC/621),

Stressing the importance of promoting tolerance, mutual respect, dialogue and understanding, including through the Media and the Internet within strategies based on a variety of measures,

Decides that:

1. Participating States should take action to ensure that the Internet remains an open and public forum for freedom of opinion and expression, as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and to foster access to the Internet both in homes and in schools;
2. Participating States should investigate and, where applicable, fully prosecute violence and criminal threats of violence, motivated by racist, xenophobic, anti-Semitic or other related bias on the Internet;
3. Participating States should train law enforcement agents and prosecutors on how to address crimes motivated by racist, xenophobic, anti-Semitic or other related bias on the Internet and should share information on successful training programmes as part of the exchange of best practices;
4. The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media will continue an active role in promoting both freedom of expression and access to the Internet and will continue to observe relevant developments in all the participating States. The Representative will advocate and promote OSCE principles and commitments. This will include early warning when laws or other measures prohibiting speech motivated by racist, xenophobic, anti-Semitic or other related bias are enforced in a discriminatory or selective manner for political purposes which can lead to impeding the expression of alternative opinions and views;
5. Participating States should study the effectiveness of laws and other measures regulating Internet content, specifically with regard to their effect on the rate of racist, xenophobic and anti-Semitic crimes;
6. Participating States should encourage and support analytically rigorous studies on the possible relationship between racist, xenophobic and anti-Semitic speech on the Internet and the commission of crimes motivated by racist, xenophobic, anti-Semitic or other related bias;
7. The OSCE will foster exchanges directed toward identifying effective approaches for addressing the issue of racist, xenophobic and anti-Semitic propaganda on the Internet that do not endanger the freedom of information and expression. The OSCE will create opportunities, including during the annual Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, to promote sharing of best practices;
8. Participating States should encourage the establishment of programmes to educate children and youth about expression motivated by racist, xenophobic, anti-Semitic or other related bias they may encounter on the Internet. Also, as appropriate, participating States and Internet service providers should take steps to increase parental awareness of widely available filtering software that enables parents to exercise greater supervision and control over their children's use of the Internet. Materials on successful educational programmes and filtering software should be widely disseminated as part of the exchange of best practices;
9. Participating States should welcome continued and increased efforts by NGOs to monitor the Internet for racist, xenophobic and anti-Semitic content, as well as NGOs' efforts to share and publicize their findings.

Decision No. 13/04

The Special Needs for Child Victims of Trafficking for Protection and Assistance

The Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming the strong commitments of participating States in the field of combating trafficking in human beings, in particular the 2000 Vienna Ministerial Council Decision No. 1, the 2002 Porto Ministerial Declaration on Trafficking in Human Beings and the 2003 Maastricht Ministerial Decision No. 2/03 which endorses the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, and establishes, under the aegis of the Permanent Council, an OSCE mechanism to provide assistance to participating States to combat trafficking in human beings, consisting of a Special Representative appointed by the Chairman-in Office, and a special unit in the Secretariat,

Recalling the 1990 Conference on the Human Dimension of the CSCE in Copenhagen, which *inter alia* declared that: “The participating States decide to accord particular attention to the recognition of the rights of the child, his civil rights and his individual freedoms, his economic, social and cultural rights, and his right to special protection against all forms of violence and exploitation”,

Recalling the principles of protection and respect for human rights as reflected in the 1989 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, and its related 2000 Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, the 2000 United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons,

Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, as well as the 1993 Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption,

Mindful of the primary responsibility of participating States in combating trafficking based on an integrated and co-ordinated approach which includes prevention of trafficking, protection of victims and prosecution of traffickers and their accomplices,

Reaffirming that the general principles of, *inter alia*, the best interests of the child, nondiscrimination, participation and survival and development provide the framework for all actions concerning children,

Dedicated to further strengthening the efforts by the OSCE to combat trafficking in human beings, and to continue an active implementation of the Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, as well as to continue the Organization’s support to the participating States, on their request, in carrying out their respective national activities in this field,

Taking into account in particular the recommendations in the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings that the OSCE shall give special attention to the issue of trafficking in children, and also recognizing the vulnerability of unaccompanied and separated children,

Mindful that participating States are committed to protect children from all forms of violence, including sexual exploitation of children, and stressing the importance of respecting their special needs for protection and assistance, and the opportunity for the child to be heard,

Stressing that measures to combat trafficking in children should have a gender perspective and be non-discriminatory,

Underlining that the best interests of the child shall be the primary consideration in decisions taken with regard to trafficked children, including through ensuring representation, as appropriate, for child victims,

Aware of the need for an effective child assistance and protection framework as well as awareness-raising to counter the demand that fosters all forms of exploitation of persons, especially women and children, and which makes children more vulnerable to being trafficked,

1. Decides to enhance OSCE efforts aimed at preventing children from being trafficked, protecting and assisting child victims of trafficking, and prosecuting those who traffic in children, taking into account the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings;
2. Encourages participating States to strengthen relevant governmental structures for children. Also encourages participating States to intensify actions, as appropriate, in line with the relevant recommendations for participating States in the OSCE Action Plan on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings to counter factors which contribute to making children particularly vulnerable to trafficking in human beings including: discrimination, based, *inter alia*, on race, sex, religion or belief, national or social origin, birth or other status; exploitation, as defined in the OSCE Action Plan on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings; poverty; lack of education and displacement;
3. Agrees to strengthen countering demand, including combating child sex tourism. In this context, also invites the participating States to consider, *inter alia*, elaboration of legal measures aimed at prosecution of their citizens for the sexual exploitation of children, including if such exploitation has taken place in another country;
4. Task the Permanent Council through the Informal Working Group on Gender Equality and anti-Trafficking, with support provided, *inter alia*, by the Special Representative on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, and other relevant OSCE structures to elaborate an addendum to the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, contributing to its implementation, on addressing the special needs of child victims of trafficking for protection and assistance, including a summary of best practices, by 31 July for further appropriate action;
5. Invites the Informal Working Group to start this work based on commitments made by participating States under existing international conventions to which they are Parties, in order to address appropriately the need to provide special protection measures for children, taking into account the best interests and welfare of the child.

Decision No. 14/04

2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality

The Ministerial Council,

Recalling that at the OSCE Istanbul Summit in 1999, the Heads of State or Government declared that “The full and equal exercise by women of their human rights is essential to achieve a more peaceful, prosperous and democratic OSCE area. We are committed to making equality between men and women an integral part of our policies, both at the level of our States and within the Organization,”*

* Charter for European Security, paragraph 23.

Recalling the 2000 Action Plan for Gender Issues* which was established “in order to ensure that the OSCE commitments concerning equality in rights and equality of opportunity for women and men are taken into account by participating States and in the practical work of OSCE institutions and field mission,”

Recognizing that equal rights of women and men and the protection of their human rights are essential to peace, sustainable democracy, economic development and therefore to security and stability in the OSCE region,

Recalling the Beijing Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly in 2000, entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twentyfirst century”,

Recalling UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000)†, which calls for full and equal participation of women in decision making with regard to conflict prevention as well as in post-conflict reconstruction, and stressing the importance of their full and equal participation and involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security,

Mindful of the need to appropriately reflect a gender perspective in the activities conducted under the auspices of the OSCE, and for participating States to take all necessary measures to encourage gender awareness raising and to promote equality in rights and full and equal participation of women and men in society, the aim being to promote the practice of gender equality and gender-mainstreaming‡ in the OSCE area, which is essential to comprehensive security,

Stressing the need for the OSCE to develop further and strengthen a continuous and sustainable gender-mainstreaming process, to promote a gender-sensitive and professional working environment and management culture, and efforts towards gender balance in staffing in particular on a professional level, in accordance with the OSCE Staff Regulations,

Decides to endorse the 2004 Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality adopted by the Permanent Council in its Decision No. 638 on 2 December 2004, and annexed to this Decision.

Annex to Decision No. 14/04

2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality

“The peace and welfare of the world require maximum participation of women on equal terms with men in all fields.”§

1. Respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy, and the rule of law is at the core of the OSCE’s comprehensive concept of security. The Charter for European Security adopted

* PC.DEC/353 of 1 June 2000.

† Adopted by the Security Council at its 4213th meeting, on 31 October 2000.

‡ “Mainstreaming a gender perspective is the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes, in all areas and at all levels. It is a strategy for making women’s as well as men’s concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres so that women and men benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated. The ultimate goal is to achieve gender equality.” See Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-Second Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/52/3/Rev.1), chapter IV, paragraph 4.

§ United Nations General Assembly resolution 34/180 of 18 December 1979 (CEDAW).

at the OSCE Istanbul Summit declares that: “The full and equal exercise by women of their human rights is essential to achieve a more peaceful, prosperous and democratic OSCE area. We are committed to making equality between men and women an integral part of our policies, both at the level of our States and within the Organization.”

2. As a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, the OSCE is a key instrument for early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation in its region. In the OSCE area, it has become increasingly evident that security, democracy, and prosperity are closely linked. Economic liberty, social justice, and environmental responsibility are indispensable for prosperity. For the Organization to carry out its tasks and achieve its goals it is crucial that, in cooperation with participating States, it invests in its human capital.

3. Effective gender-mainstreaming with the goal of achieving gender equality, is important if full use is to be made of the human capital in the OSCE area. Gender equality contributes to comprehensive security, which is a goal of OSCE activities in all three dimensions. Gender-mainstreaming is a way of contributing to attaining this goal. The gender perspective should therefore be taken into account in the Organization’s activities, projects and programmes, in order for the Organization to achieve gender equality within its own operations as well as in the participating States. It is the joint responsibility of the participating States, the Chairman-in-Office, the Secretary General, and the Heads of institutions and missions to promote equality between women and men as an integral element of policies and practices of the OSCE. In this effort it shall be borne in mind that if gender equality is to become a reality in any area and at any level of society, both men and women will benefit from such a change.

I. General Context

Status of implementation of the 2000 Action Plan

4. The 2000 OSCE Action Plan for Gender Issues* called for increased efforts to achieve equal treatment of women and men within the Organization in all areas, including personnel recruitment, and the inclusion of a gender perspective in the activities of the Organization. It succeeded in raising awareness of the need to promote gender equality within the OSCE through the activities by the Secretariat, institutions and field operations, and by participating States. There are nevertheless shortcomings in the implementation of the 2000 Action Plan, especially in the fields of training, management, and recruitment, and in the overall practice of gender-mainstreaming throughout the OSCE as well as within participating States.

5. The 2000 Gender Action Plan stipulated that opportunities for women in the OSCE should be enhanced and a professional working environment should be promoted. The Chairman-in-Office, participating States and the Secretariat were asked to take positive action to promote and appoint women candidates in the OSCE’s institutions and also in the field activities, and all participating States were called upon to make substantial efforts to nominate women, particularly at management level.

Representation of women in the OSCE continues, however, to be low, in particular at senior and policy-making levels, and has in fact decreased in recent years. There is a continuing lack of representation or under-representation of women from certain countries, in particular from participating

* Decision No. 353 by the Permanent Council on 1 June 2000 (PC.DEC/353).

States with economies in transition. Statistics indicate that women candidates may have less chance of being employed by the Organization than men.*

The biannual statistics and annual reports issued by the Secretary General on the implementation of the 2000 Action Plan for Gender Issues have not been addressed by the Permanent Council, and the implementation of the 2000 Action Plan has not been adequately monitored.

6. Another priority set in the 2000 Gender Action Plan was that all new mission staff should receive training on gender issues, and that OSCE institutions were to incorporate a gender perspective in their staff training. General training on gender awareness has been implemented and efforts have been made to provide for a professional working environment. Since 2000, every mission has nominated a mediator and annual training has been organized for these persons by the Secretariat. Nevertheless, training and sensitization of managers on gender issues, and on the responsibilities of all staff within their tasks and subject areas in this regard, has not produced the expected results, nor has the goal of a professional environment yet been attained.

7. The 2000 Gender Action Plan furthermore stipulated that a comprehensive framework would be established for gender-mainstreaming projects, and that data and research materials on gender issues would be analysed and used in the design of new programmes. This process has not been developed with due continuity. Moreover, gender advisers and focal points have not been sufficiently involved in the development of new policies and programmes.

8. Gender-mainstreaming requires consistent, systematic, attention to gender perspectives in the activities of the Organization based on a cross-dimensional approach, and also adequate monitoring and review mechanisms. A new and strengthened Action Plan is called for, setting out goals and clearly assigned accountabilities, in order to reinforce the dedicated efforts of participating States to implement their commitments.

II. Goals and Objectives

9. The 2004 Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality aims to set out the priorities of the OSCE in promoting gender equality, in the Organization and in all participating States, and to ensure the monitoring of its implementation. In order to achieve these goals, the plan will address the activities, policies, projects and programmes of the Organization concerning gender-mainstreaming, as well as assistance by the OSCE to participating States in promoting gender equality. Such assistance could be directed at the implementation of international commitments in the gender area, as well as the development of national programmes and policies.

10. The following objectives will be given priority:

(a) Within the OSCE:

* Gender-Disaggregated Statistics of the OSCE Secretariat, institutions and missions, SEC.GAL/208/03, 21 November 2003. Concerning post-table posts, women make up 44 per cent of the general service level staff, on the professional level the overall representation is 25 per cent and has in fact decreased over the last years. Of all the candidates who applied for fixed-term posts in the period of January 2003 to September 2003 (9,566) 69 per cent were men and 31 per cent women; in the same period, however, of all selected candidates (50) 72 per cent were men and only 28 per cent were women. For the 34 vacancies issued for P-posts, women constituted 33 per cent of applicants, 23 per cent of interviewed candidates and 12 per cent of selected candidates. Of all nominated candidates for secondment in the first six months of 2003 (2,135), 30 per cent (641) were women and 70 per cent (1,494) were men. However, only 10 per cent (62) of these women were deployed to Missions, while 18 per cent (272) of the nominated men were accepted and deployed.

- Providing specific training programmes for OSCE staff on gender awareness and sensitization to gender equality in their daily work, and programmes to strengthen efforts to ensure consistent gender-mainstreaming in policies and programmes, as well as review and assessment mechanisms;
- Promoting a professional and gender-sensitive management culture and working environment;
- Applying strengthened and innovative recruitment strategies in the OSCE to promote equal opportunities for all, and to ensure that well-qualified women are identified and attracted, in conformity with the Staff Regulations, reference PC.DEC/550/Corr.1 of 27 June 2003, the aim being to increase the number of women working in the OSCE at senior levels;
- Encouraging participating States to submit more female candidates for positions in the OSCE, in particular at senior and policy-making levels, the aim being to achieve a continuous improvement in the ratio between men and women at all levels;
- Achieving the effective gender-mainstreaming of OSCE activities and policies, as well as of the activities and policies of participating States.

(b) To assist the participating States in:

- Defining priority areas for OSCE structures to assist OSCE States in implementing their respective commitments;
- Outlining some best practices for the promotion of the equality of women and men in participating States;
- Highlighting and promoting the role of women in conflict prevention and peace reconstruction processes;
- Providing a framework structure to ensure that gender issues, including the implementation of this Action Plan, are regularly discussed and reviewed.

III. Promoting Gender Equality in the OSCE

(A) Gender-mainstreaming the structures and working environment, and gender mainstreaming in recruitment

Training

11. In order to achieve the objectives outlined in this Action Plan, the OSCE shall expand existing training opportunities and institute new training programmes in accordance with the OSCE training strategy for 2005–2007* and the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings.† In this context, the General Orientation Programme at the Secretariat, the Human Dimension Induction Course at the ODIHR and additional induction courses or workshops in the field shall contain two specifically tailored modules, as appropriate:

- The first module shall deal with the training of all OSCE officials in gender awareness and mainstreaming a gender perspective in their everyday work. This module, appropriately tailored to each staff category in order to meet their specific needs, shall explain the principle of gender equality, the tools that exist to achieve this goal, and the reasons why it is important for the

* SEC.GAL/118/04/Rev.5, 27 July 2004.

† MC.DEC/2/03 Annex, p.12, Awareness-raising. 8.4.: “The OSCE Training Co-ordinator, the Senior Adviser on Gender Issues and the Senior Security Co-ordinator will continue to use the induction course to develop and implement staff training on gender issues, trafficking in human beings and on relevant regulations and guidelines, in co-operation with the ODIHR, and to organize special workshops in the field. Heads of field operations will ensure that attendance at such training courses will be compulsory for all staff.”

Organization to mainstream a gender perspective in its activities. The module shall be action-oriented and interactive and include information regarding tasks and responsibilities described in this Action Plan as well as in relevant provisions, in particular those regarding accountability of all staff. All categories of staff shall be included in such training. Training can also be provided in the field if necessary, to ensure that locally-hired staff are able to attend.

(a) Specific modules on combating domestic violence and trafficking in human beings will be included in training programmes, in particular those designed for police and border monitors.

(b) Heads of institutions and missions and Directors, shall exercise leadership in facilitating staff training, to ensure equal opportunities for both women and men to participate. They will also receive information on OSCE policies concerning gender issues, in particular complaint procedures.

- The second module shall address the gender-mainstreaming of OSCE programmes, projects, and technical co-operation activities in order to ensure consistent integration of a gender equality perspective. This means reviewing and enacting policies and measures specifically for the purpose of achieving equality by actively taking gender perspectives into account at the planning, reporting, implementation and evaluation

12. Review and assessment provisions shall be included in all training programmes in order to measure their effectiveness at regular intervals.

13. The OSCE Training Co-ordinator is tasked to design and implement the staff training dimension of this action plan in close co-operation with gender units and gender focal points in the Organization and supported by the network of focal points responsible for training.

Management

14. The Secretary General, and Heads of institutions and missions shall exercise strong and active leadership in building sustainable gender awareness in the Organization and shall intensify their efforts towards achieving a gender-sensitive and professional working environment and management culture. Such a working environment shall also be promoted by all OSCE officials, in particular by staff in a supervisory role. When management positions are being filled, importance should be attached to finding people who demonstrate gender-sensitive attitudes and understanding of the importance of an inclusive corporate culture. The Director for the Department of Human Resources shall be responsible for reviewing and if necessary strengthening the policy of the OSCE against harassment, including sexual harassment. He/she will disseminate information and raise staff awareness of the problem of harassment in working life and of the measures available to combat and prevent it, and will encourage victims to come forward with their complaints.

15. Performance appraisals of managers will include an evaluation of their sensitivity to gender equality. For this purpose a gender-equality scoreboard, containing details of measures that can be compared across all services, shall be developed by the Department of Human Resources.

16. The OSCE's organizational regulations, rules, directives, and instructions shall be reviewed by participating States and/or the Secretariat, to incorporate gender-mainstreaming aspects, when called for.

17. Heads of institutions, heads of missions and directors in the Secretariat will chair regular meetings with staff to review the integration of and consideration to be paid to gender aspects in the work of their respective structure and to encourage all staff to gender-mainstream their work.

18. The Secretariat and ODIHR will continue to engage in the active exchange of information on gender-sensitive management policies with relevant international, intergovernmental and regional organizations. In particular the Secretariat will intensify interaction with the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly on gender equality. The Secretariat, institutions and missions will make this Action Plan visible.

Recruitment

19. Recruitment in the OSCE shall be based on a transparent process, subject to open competition among nationals of participating States, thereby securing the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity.

20. On recruitment, Regulation 3.01 of the OSCE Staff Regulations shall be fully implemented, including the principle of recruiting staff from all OSCE Participating States on a fair basis.

21. Participating States are encouraged to submit more women candidates for positions in the OSCE, in particular in higher-level positions where women are underrepresented; measures to this end shall include the identification of additional national recruitment sources, and the establishment of networks with professional organizations that will assist in seeking suitable candidates. More nationals of participating States, notably women from participating States with economies in transition, should be made aware of the OSCE vacancies and encouraged to make applications.

22. Participating States are to be encouraged to develop rosters of potential women candidates with a special emphasis on fields of expertise in which women are underrepresented.

23. The Chairman-in-Office and the Secretariat will be proactive in promoting the nomination of women candidates, in particular in higher-level positions, taking into account the OSCE Staff Regulations.

24. The Secretariat shall strengthen the wording of the statement in its vacancy notices encouraging women to apply.

25. The Secretariat will furthermore enhance its human resource planning in order to inform participating States as early as possible of upcoming vacancies, in order for them to be given sufficient time to search for and present qualified female candidates.

26. The Chairman-in-Office, the Secretary General, heads of institutions, and heads of missions shall seek to improve the ratio of men and women at all levels on a continuous basis. This, including the statistics on women candidates selected, will be reviewed in the annual evaluation report on gender issues in the OSCE to be presented by the Secretary General in accordance with paragraph 47 below.

27. The Department of Human Resources shall conduct regular gender-mainstreamed reviews of recruitment procedures and job specifications, in order to identify possible prejudices and obstacles against female applicants, and if necessary revise the procedures as appropriate.

28. The Department of Human Resources will seek to ensure that in recruitment for management posts, applicants of both sexes are invited for interview where possible, and that a gender-balanced shortlist is drawn up as appropriate. The shortlist of candidates invited for interview should contain information about the number of men and women who actually applied for the job.

29. Interview panels should, where possible, be gender-balanced.

30. The Department of Human Resources in the Secretariat will convene an annual coordination meeting with delegations and training/recruitment experts from capitals, to share information on profiles and skills in demand, and best practice on pre-mission training. These meetings will also discuss efforts to achieve gender balance in recruitment.

31. The Secretariat shall continue to prepare annual statistics showing the current distribution of women and men by category of posts at each level. These statistics will include institutions and missions as well as each Department and Unit in the Secretariat, and will be annexed to the Secretary General's annual evaluation report on gender issues referred to in paragraph 47 below.

(B) Mainstreaming a gender perspective into OSCE activities, policies, programmes and projects.

32. Participating States, the Secretariat, institutions and missions shall ensure that a gender perspective is integrated into OSCE activities, programmes and projects. The aim shall be to promote the practice of gender equality in the OSCE area, which is essential to comprehensive security; they shall focus in particular on women's empowerment and the participation of women as well as men in public, political and economic life in the context of democratic and economic processes in participating States. The gender-mainstreaming process shall also aim at overcoming negative stereotypes and at changing perceptions, as well as developing attitudes conducive to bringing about equality between women and men in all participating States.

33. Gender advisers in the Secretariat, institutions, and field operations shall be involved at an early stage when new directives, rules and regulations are being developed. In their regular reports to the Permanent Council, missions and institutions shall inform the Council on progress in their gender-mainstreaming efforts where appropriate, and also on problems, when they arise.

34. The Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC), and in particular the Project Co-ordinating Cell (PCC) will assist in ensuring that gender-equity analyses are made of new projects being developed by missions, institutions, and units in the Secretariat, and of existing projects when they are being evaluated.

35. The Secretariat and the institutions, when developing projects and programmes for participating States which are not hosting OSCE missions, shall take a gender perspective into account.

36. Gender-mainstreaming of OSCE activities, policies, projects and programmes in the politico-military dimension shall also take into account obligations embodied in Security Council resolution 1325 calling for increased participation of women in, *inter alia*, conflict prevention and post-conflict reconstruction processes.

37. The participating States, assisted by the Chairmanship, the Secretary General and heads of institutions, shall ensure that the planning of OSCE conferences and seminars across all three dimensions will take the gender aspect into account and, as appropriate, include related topics.

38. Institutions and missions working on gender issues should, in order to make tangible progress on gender-mainstreaming in OSCE activities, projects and programmes, develop concrete follow-up mechanisms in co-operation with participating States.

39. Missions will, where appropriate, establish internal gender working groups led by the gender focal point to design gender-mainstreaming strategies, monitor their implementation and enhance the visibility of their gender-related activities. It is the responsibility of the heads of mission to position gender focal points on a sufficiently high level and to make sure that they enjoy full access to senior management.

40. The Press and Public Information Section of the Secretariat, institutions and missions will encourage gender-balanced reporting, and highlight, as appropriate, meetings, seminars, special events, reports, case stories and developments related to the implementation of OSCE commitments on gender equality.

IV. Promoting Gender Equality in Participating States

41. Participating States, individually and collectively, bear the primary responsibility and are accountable to their citizens for the implementation of their commitments on equality of rights and equal opportunities for women and men. They have committed themselves to making equality between women and men an integral part of policies both at State level and within the Organization. They will ensure the full use of the appropriate OSCE fora for reviewing the implementation of OSCE commitments on equality between women and men.

42. Participating States are therefore recommended to:

- Ensure that the Organization develops policies which effectively promote gender equality and that new proposals and initiatives take a gender perspective into account;
- Establish or strengthen existing mechanisms for ensuring gender equality, *inter alia* by making available the services of an impartial and independent person or body, such as an Ombudsman/Human Rights Commissioner, to address gender related discrimination against individual citizens;
- Adhere to and fully implement the international standards and commitments they have undertaken concerning equality, non-discrimination and women's and girls' rights;
- Comply with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), if they are parties, or, if they have not already done so, consider ratifying or acceding to this Convention. States that have ratified or acceded to this Convention with reservations will consider withdrawing them. States parties to the CEDAW are also called upon to consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women;
- If they are parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), and/or the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), report regularly and on time to the respective bodies, and include women's organizations in the preparation of their reports;
- Take further action where necessary in order to ensure a safe environment for their citizens and the right to equal protection under the law, notably by increasing activities aimed at eliminating all forms of violence against women, including trafficking in human beings*, and encourage those who have not already done so to ratify and implement the UN Convention against

* Reference is made to the Permanent Council Decision No. 557 of 24 July 2003 on the adoption of the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings.

Transnational Organized Crime, and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children;

- Support national and international efforts to bring to justice those who have perpetrated crimes against women which under applicable rules of international law are recognized as war crimes or crimes against humanity, and ensure that existing national legislation on violence against women is enforced, and that new legislation is drafted where necessary;
- As recommended in the Guidelines on International Protection on Gender-Related Persecution within the context of Article 1A (2) of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and/or its 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees, introduce procedural practices, if States have not already done so, that ensure that proper consideration is given to women claimants in refugee status determination procedures and that the range of claims of gender-related persecution are accorded due recognition;
- Draw on the experience of the OSCE to develop cross-dimensional gender equality policies and strategies, and include in the follow-up to such policies, *inter alia*, the utilization of gender analysis and monitoring mechanisms to assess the impact of gender policies and strategies, so that constraints on their full implementation may be identified and addressed.

V. Supporting OSCE participating States in implementing relevant commitments to promoting equality between women and men

Areas of special interest to all OSCE participating States

43. The following priority areas are laid down as a basis for the OSCE Secretariat, institutions and missions to use when developing plans and programmes to assist participating States, upon their request, in implementing relevant commitments. All OSCE structures should endeavour to respect these priorities, as appropriate within their mandates. Countries not hosting missions are also urged to make full use of the expertise of the OSCE structures to assist them in promoting gender equality, as there is no country where full equality has been reached.

44. Priorities

(a) Developing projects in OSCE States not hosting missions

- In countries without missions, the ODIHR will identify projects to support measures in the areas of prevention of violence against women, promotion of women in the public, political, and economic spheres, and support for national gender-mainstreaming.

(b) Ensuring non-discriminatory legal and policy frameworks

- The ODIHR, in co-operation with other international organizations and relevant national bodies and institutions, will assist OSCE participating States in complying with international instruments for the promotion of gender equality and women's rights, and in reviewing legislation to ensure appropriate legal guarantees for the promotion of gender equality in accordance with OSCE and other commitments;
- The ODIHR will assist in the development and implementation of specific programmes and activities to promote women's rights, to increase the role of women at all levels of decision-making, and to promote equality between women and men throughout the OSCE area, particularly through education in gender awareness;
- The ODIHR will assist in the implementation and assessment of national strategies and action plans on measures to promote gender equality and gender-mainstreaming;

- The OSCE Secretariat, institutions and field operations will also assist the participating States in implementing the relevant provisions and recommendations contained in the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, and the OSCE Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti in the OSCE Area.

(c) Preventing violence against women*

- OSCE structures will continue to assist participating States in developing programmes and activities aimed at the prevention of all forms of gender-based violence;†
- OSCE structures will assist participating States with legislative initiatives to prevent violence against women, and will foster institution-building, strengthen co-ordination between government institutions and civil society, and raise awareness of the problem in general;
- OSCE structures will, in co-operation with participating States, address the gender dimension of proliferation of small arms and light weapons (SALW). SALW proliferation exacerbates violence against women, and a gender perspective should thus be taken into account in related endeavours;
- The Strategic Police Matters Unit (SPMU) will enhance its project development to assist participating States in reacting to sexual violence offences and in including such elements as special investigation techniques, and interview skills designated for use with victims of sexual assault including children, and information on referral mechanisms for victim assistance, in the police training curriculum;
- The Office of the Co-ordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA), and the Anti-Trafficking Assistance Unit (ATAU), while addressing underlying causes of trafficking in human beings, shall in co-ordination with relevant OSCE institutions and structures, assist participating States in tackling the lack of opportunities for women, female unemployment, and other gender aspects of trafficking, including the demand side of sexual and other forms of exploitation;
- The Action against Terrorism Unit (ATU) will upon request take action on the issue of the exploitation of women by terrorists to serve their own ends and propagate extremist ideologies;
- As negative gender stereotypes contribute to the persistence of violence against women, OSCE programmes, projects, and activities should aim at women's empowerment.

(d) Ensuring equal opportunity for participation of women in political and public life

- The ODIHR will assist participating States in developing effective measures to bring about the equal participation of women in democratic processes and will assist in developing best practices for their implementation;
- The ODIHR and the OSCE field operations will assist, as appropriate, in building up local capacities and expertise on gender issues as well as networks linking community leaders and politicians;
- The ODIHR will continue to assist participating States in promoting women's political participation. It will continue, as a part of its Election Observation Mission, to monitor and report on

* Article 2(b) of the United Nations Declaration on Elimination of Discrimination Against Women states: "Violence against women shall be understood to encompass but not be limited to, the following: [...] physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring within the general community, including rape, sexual abuse, sexual harassment and intimidation at work, in educational institutions and elsewhere, trafficking in women and forced prostitution."

† The United Nations resolution on "Further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action" (A/RES/S-23/3) of 16 November 2000, states (paragraph 59): "Gender-based violence, such as battering and other domestic violence, sexual abuse, sexual slavery and exploitation, international trafficking in women and children, forced prostitution and sexual harassment... are incompatible with the dignity and worth of the human person..."

women's participation in electoral processes. When possible, additionally, the ODIHR will commission and publish reports specifically analysing the situation of women in electoral processes;

- The High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM) will address specific issues relating to the participation in public and private life of women belonging to national minorities and, in policies and projects developed by his/her office, take steps necessary to counter the double discrimination suffered by these women, as appropriate within the context of his/her conflict prevention mandate;
- The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media (RFOM) will be alert to allegations of serious intolerance towards women and incitement to gender discrimination in or by the media in participating States in accordance with Chapter 6 of the mandate of the RFOM. The Representative will inform the participating States of such cases in his/her regular reports.

(e) Encouraging women's participation in conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict reconstruction

- OSCE structures will, as appropriate within their mandate, promote the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on the role of women in, *inter alia*, the prevention of conflicts and post-conflict reconstruction;
- OSCE structures will, as appropriate, assist participating States in developing programmes and projects aimed at bringing about equal opportunities for women to participate in efforts for the promotion of peace and security, including those conducted at grass-roots and regional levels. The empowerment of women in the political-military dimension is also essential to comprehensive security.

(f) Promoting equal opportunity for women in the economic sphere

- The OCEEA will take initiatives to increase awareness of women's rights in the economic sphere as described in paragraph 40.6 of the Moscow Document and, as appropriate, develop projects to implement the same;
- The OCEEA should take a gender perspective into account when implementing its tasks as outlined in the OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension, adopted by the Ministerial Council in Maastricht in 2003, and the Document of the Bonn Conference on Economic Co-operation in Europe;
- The OCEEA will upon request assist participating States in formulating their economic policies on the basis of the principles set forth in the Bonn Document and the OSCE Strategy for the Economic and Environmental Dimension. In this respect the OSCE should continue and strengthen its co-operation with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and other organizations;
- The OCEEA will, together with participating States and missions, analyse obstacles preventing women from fulfilling their potential in the economic sphere, and develop projects that will enhance the role of women in economic activities and ensure that they are not discriminated against in this field, notably regarding access to and control over such economic and financial resources as loans, property and inheritance rights;
- The OCEEA and, as appropriate, missions should promote the development of women's entrepreneurial and other work-related skills by supporting training, retraining and special education facilities, and promoting the education and training of women and men in non-traditional subjects and jobs;
- The OCEEA will encourage international donor organizations and lending institutions to support projects designed to enhance the role of women in economic activities or to ensure equality

in employment. Projects on employment issues should highlight the principle that maternity and paternity arrangements are a key element in promoting equal opportunities and responsibility-sharing between women and men;

- OSCE structures will assist participating States in ensuring that girls and boys, as well as women and men, have equal opportunities to receive education and training.

(g) Building national mechanisms for the advancement of women

- The ODIHR will continue to provide know-how and support for the building-up of democratic institutions for advancing gender equality, such as Ombudsman's offices at local and national levels, as appropriate;
- The ODIHR will facilitate dialogue and co-operation between civil society, media and government in promoting gender-mainstreaming.

(h) The Parliamentary Assembly is encouraged to:

- Continue to have on its agenda the issue of equal opportunities for men and women in national parliaments as well as within the OSCE and the OSCE Parliamentary

Assembly, having mainstreamed the discussion of gender equality in the agenda of the Assembly's Plenary Meetings;

- Further develop the current network of women parliamentarians through the work of the OSCE PA Special Representative on the Gender Issue, in order to promote the participation of women in political and public life at both the national and international levels;
- Ensure, with the assistance of the Special Representative, that it continues to put forward recommendations with regard to gender equality in its annual Declarations;
- Continue to produce, through the Gender Unit at the OSCE PA Secretariat, reports on the status of women in the OSCE area and seek to raise awareness by making such material available to all participating parliaments.

VI. General Follow-up

45. The Secretary General, heads of missions and heads of institutions, shall be accountable to the Permanent Council for the implementation of the relevant parts of this Action Plan, in accordance with their respective responsibilities.

46. The Secretary General shall before 1 October 2005, develop a plan for the implementation of measures for achieving the overall aims of this Action Plan. Heads of institutions shall also develop their own separate implementation plans by that date. These plans shall include concrete measures for implementing the 2004 Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality, measures concerning training programmes on gender-mainstreaming of the work of OSCE officials, measures for cross-dimensional gender-mainstreaming in OSCE policies, projects and programmes, and finally management and recruitment strategies, aimed at achieving gender balance at all levels.

47. The Secretary General shall report on progress in work on gender issues in the Annual Report for 2004. The Secretary General shall thereafter present an annual evaluation report on gender issues in the OSCE. This report will be presented to the Permanent Council in June each year starting in 2006. These evaluation reports will contain contributions from Departments, and from institutions and missions, on developments related to gender equality and gender-mainstreaming in the

OSCE structures, including information on the plans dealt with in paragraph 46 above. They will include analysis of achievements in light of the requirements of this Action Plan.

48. Starting in June 2006, the Permanent Council will, on the basis of the Secretary General's annual evaluation report on gender issues, hold an annual discussion especially devoted to gender issues, covering the review and if necessary the updating of policies and strategies on gender-mainstreaming and the promotion of gender equality. This discussion should also monitor implementation of this Action Plan.

49. The need to include in co-operation with host countries a gender perspective in the mandate of the respective missions may be considered as and when appropriate.

50. The next revision of the 2004 Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality will take place when the Permanent Council so decides.

51. The implementation of this Action Plan requires provision of adequate resources.

Document of the Thirteenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council

Ljubljana 2005

I. Statements and Declarations by the Ministerial Council

Ministerial Statement on the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism

1. We, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the OSCE participating States, welcome the adoption by the United Nations General Assembly of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism.
2. We pledge to apply all efforts to sign this International Convention on the day of its opening for signature at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on 14 September 2005.
3. We encourage the implementation of all the necessary measures to ratify, accept, approve or otherwise become parties to this International Convention in the shortest possible time.
4. We urge the OSCE Secretary General and the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights to offer to the requesting participating States, on their formal demand and where appropriate, technical assistance/advice on the swift ratification, acceptance or approval of this International Convention, in close co-operation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.
5. We invite the OSCE Partners for Co-operation and the Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation to join our initiative.

Ministerial Declaration on the 20th Anniversary of the Disaster at the Chernobyl Power Plant

26 April 2006 will mark the 20th Anniversary of the disaster at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant (NPP).

Commemorating this tragic day, we once again remember all the victims, including all emergency and recovery operation workers, of the twentieth century's major technological catastrophe, in terms both of scope and of consequences.

This disaster resulted in large-scale radioactive contamination of vast areas in Europe, most heavily affecting the territories of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine. The accident has had an adverse impact on the lives and health of millions of people, in particular children, and has imposed a massive burden on the economy and environment of the most affected States.

We appreciate the enormous efforts made by the national governments concerned to address the effects of the Chernobyl accident. These endeavours have been supplemented to a significant degree by the involvement of the international community, including organizations of the United Nations system, the World Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), aimed at providing assistance to mitigate the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster. We also commend the contribution made by nongovernmental organizations, private initiatives and individuals.

However, even today, the long-term consequences of the disaster, which include humanitarian, environmental, social, economic and health problems, continue to persist. Therefore, efforts need to continue to alleviate these consequences, focusing primarily on such vitally important issues as economic and environmental rehabilitation and sustainable development of the territories affected.

We are also aware that the Chernobyl NPP continues to pose a potential threat in the centre of Europe. In this regard, special attention should be focused on completing the Shelter Implementation Plan by constructing the main remaining component, the New Safe Confinement Arch. We appreciate the effort of the international community to increase financial commitments to the EBRD Chernobyl Shelter Fund to over USD 1 billion this year.

Environmental matters have always been a part of the OSCE's mandate, reflecting the Organization's comprehensive approach to security and cooperation. In the Helsinki Final Act we agreed to study, with a view to their solution, those environmental problems that, by their nature, are of a multilateral, bilateral, regional or subregional dimension; as well as to encourage the development of an interdisciplinary approach to environmental problems.

In this context, the OSCE will continue to contribute to international cooperation efforts to alleviate the consequences of the Chernobyl accident, including through participation in and support of relevant projects, and to provide appropriate assistance and expertise in consultation with the States concerned.

In commemorating this tragic event we believe that the Chernobyl disaster demonstrated how important it is for the international community to develop and apply commonly agreed policies and strategies to ensure that appropriate arrangements are in place for the prevention of, and response to, technological accidents and their consequences for human beings and the environment. We also believe that, in order to effectively tackle such challenges, concerted efforts are needed between the States concerned, the relevant international organizations, financial institutions and other interested donors.

II. Border Security and Management Concept

Framework for Co-operation by the OSCE Participating States

Chapter I: The OSCE participating States' commitments

1. Recognizing that border security and management is a matter of the national sovereignty and responsibility of States, the OSCE participating States reaffirm their commitment to promoting open and secure borders in a free, democratic and more integrated OSCE area without dividing lines. In doing so, they also commit themselves to co-operate following the principles of international law, mutual confidence, equal partnership, transparency and predictability, and pursuing a comprehensive approach in a spirit that would facilitate friendly relations between States.

2. The OSCE participating States reaffirm the obligations and commitments on borderrelated issues that they have undertaken at all levels:

2.1 At the global level: On border security and management issues, the participating States reaffirm their commitments under international law, in particular international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law, and may consider as well standards and recommendations laid down by the World Customs Organization, the International Organization for Migration, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and other relevant international organizations;

2.2 At the OSCE level: The participating States reaffirm the norms, principles, commitments and values enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act, all of which apply equally and unreservedly, each of them being interpreted taking into account the others. They reaffirm the principles and commitments contained in the Copenhagen Document 1990, the Helsinki Document 1992 and the Charter for European Security 1999. They recall the action plans, decisions and other relevant agreed OSCE documents which address borderrelated issues. In particular, strengthening OSCE capacities to promote open and secure borders and enhancing mutually beneficial inter-State co-operation are means to address the threats of terrorism, organized crime, illegal migration, and the illicit trafficking in weapons, drugs and human beings, as identified in paragraph 35 of the OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the TwentyFirst Century;

2.3 At the regional and subregional levels: In the same spirit, the participating States reaffirm their obligations and commitments in all regional and subregional formats in which they are members and undertake to promote their co-operation in all relevant organizations and agencies in order to ensure consistency in policies and standards and to avoid duplication of efforts;

2.4 Bilaterally: In a spirit of solidarity, and aiming at good neighbourly relations, the participating States will respect their bilateral agreements on borderrelated issues and undertake efforts to promote sharing of experience and good practices.

Chapter II: Main objectives of co-operation

3. Cooperation by the participating States is aimed at promoting the implementation of border-related commitments. It should foster compliance with border-related security and management standards recognized by the participating States, as well as their improvement, *inter alia*, based on sharing of good practices.

4. The participating States will promote co-operation between their border services, customs authorities, agencies issuing travel documents and visas, and law enforcement and migration agencies, as well as other competent national structures, with a view to achieving the following aims:

4.1 To promote free and secure movement of persons, goods, services and investments across borders, in conformity with relevant legal frameworks, international law and OSCE commitments, *inter alia*, through enhancing the security of travel documents and encouraging, as appropriate, circumstances that could allow liberalization of visa regimes, in the spirit of the commitments under the documents mentioned above;

4.2 To reduce the threat of terrorism, including by preventing crossborder movement of persons, weapons and funds connected with terrorist and other criminal activities;

4.3 To prevent and repress transnational organized crime, illegal migration, corruption, smuggling and trafficking in weapons, drugs and human beings;

4.4 To promote high standards in border services and competent national structures;

4.5 To promote dignified treatment of all individuals wanting to cross borders, in conformity with relevant national legal frameworks, international law, in particular human rights, refugee, and humanitarian law, and relevant OSCE commitments;

4.6 To create beneficial conditions for social and economic development in border territories, as well as for the prosperity and cultural development of persons belonging to all communities residing in border areas, with access to all opportunities;

4.7 To foster prospects for joint economic development and help in establishing common spaces of freedom, security and justice in the OSCE area;

4.8 To ensure the security of the international transport circuit for supply of commodities.

Chapter III: Principles of co-operation by the OSCE participating States on borderrelated issues

Guided by the OSCE co-operative approach,

5. The participating States agree that their common prosperity and security can be enhanced through an increase in beneficial cross-border movements of people, goods, services and investments.

6. Issues of a regulatory nature raised by cross-border movements can best be addressed through direct cooperation between the border services and competent national structures of the participating States, based on relevant agreements. This cooperation should take place at the bilateral, regional and multilateral levels.

7. Sovereign national authorities, and in particular the border services responsible on each side of the border, have the best knowledge of the issues at hand. Cross-border dialogue, transparency and confidence-building constitute the first logical steps towards generating solutions with added value to the benefit of all.

8. Borders in the OSCE are not uniform. Every border has a particular character and may call for specific policy choices. Each participating State has the sovereign right to choose how to secure and manage its borders, taking into account relevant political, military, economic and social considerations.

Chapter IV: OSCE contribution

9. In keeping with its concept of common, comprehensive, cooperative and indivisible security, the OSCE constitutes an appropriate political framework and offers the services of its structures and institutions for contributions. It acts upon the request of participating States and in a spirit of solidarity and partnership, based on mutual interest and respect. In case the OSCE offers its contribution in border areas between participating States it will act after close consultation with and taking into account the views expressed by these participating States.

10. OSCE work in support of border security and management will be based on realism and pragmatism. It will make the best use of OSCE structures and institutions, the strengthening of which should be considered. OSCE border-related activities are subject to ongoing periodic review and monitoring by the OSCE decision-making bodies and through the budgetary process.

11. The OSCE will ensure a continued political dialogue on border-related issues, through discussions in an appropriate consultative working structure on the implementation of the commitments

and the future development of co-operation by the participating States in this area, as well as on providing guidance regarding border activities to the OSCE structures and institutions.

12. The OSCE remains a forum for dialogue and conflict-resolution through peaceful dialogue. The OSCE Court of Conciliation and Arbitration is in this respect a tool available to States recognizing its jurisdiction, to be consulted and to provide confidential legal opinion upon request.

13. The possible OSCE contribution may be put into practice, *inter alia*, through the following methods:

- Exchange of information, experience and best practices;
- Establishment of “points of contact” and national focal points;
- Holding of workshops and conferences, including with the participation of experts;
- Maintaining contacts and interaction with the competent international and regional organizations.

A more detailed list of possible OSCE contributions is contained in the Annex.

Chapter V: OSCE external co-operation with international organizations and partners

14. The OSCE can offer its organizational framework for interaction on border-related issues with international regional and subregional organizations, in accordance with the Platform for Co-operative Security.

15. International co-operation and assistance could benefit from a more target-oriented and coordinated approach. The OSCE should continue political and operational coordination with other international organizations and institutions in promoting open and secure borders. Complementarity, comparative advantage and added value should guide the co-ordinated approach, *inter alia*, through concerted actions and joint deployment of international resources.

16. As a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter, the OSCE is also a forum for co-operation with subregional organizations in its area. Increased coordination on border security and management at the subregional level may constitute a stepping stone towards the OSCE-wide establishment of open and secure borders.

17. The provisions of this Concept will be shared by the Partners for Co-operation, on a voluntary basis.

Annex to Document No. 2/05: Possible OSCE Contributions

Upon the request of interested participating States and where they can provide comparative advantage and added value, the contributions of the OSCE, based on lessons learned from border-related programmes, could take, *inter alia*, the following forms:

A. Facilitation:

1. Political dialogue between participating States on border-related issues, including OSCE good offices;

2. Confidencebuilding measures in border areas, as referred to by relevant OSCE documents, as well as by decisions elaborated by the Forum for Security Cooperation;
3. Technical dialogue between national border services and competent national structures, through exchanges of information at all levels;
4. Possible mobilization and co-ordination of assistance.

B. General forms of contribution:

1. Technical assistance in the development and implementation of national strategies and action plans, based on the vision of national authorities and their existing commitments, if a State so requests;
2. Technical assistance in development, adaptation and harmonization of relevant legislation;
3. Technical assistance in enhancing the effectiveness of border structures through the sharing of best practices;
4. Technical assistance in the development and implementation of training plans and programmes through the sharing of good practices and international exchanges;
5. Overall information sharing by creating, *inter alia*, an awareness of resources that comprise all available international experience, including new technologies and knowhow, for example on rapid but effective border controls, border checkpoint construction, etc.;
6. Identification of sources for available equipment and supplies appropriate to border services, with the aim of their possible mobilization.

C. Possible specialized assistance in the following fields:

1. Combating terrorism, transnational organized crime, illegal migration and illicit trafficking in nuclear, biological, chemical and conventional weapons and their means of delivery and related materials, hazardous wastes, drugs and human beings:
 - (i) Strengthening of international exchange networks and informationsharing on the above-mentioned threats and challenges to security;
 - (ii) Crime-specific training for border services and competent national structures;
 - (ii) Identification of sources for crime-specific equipment and supplies and, if possible, mobilization of available resources;
 - (iii) Technical and non-technical means of detection of illegal or false documents aiming at improving the security of travel documents and visas;
 - (iv) Encouragement for the conclusion and implementation of agreements on cross-border co-operation;
 - (v) Promotion of the implementation and development of multilateral international norms and practices, in conformity with international legal frameworks, regarding extradition and other forms of legal cooperation on criminal matters related to terrorism and other serious crimes, on aspects related to border security and management;

(vi) Enhancement of co-operation aimed at preventing and countering the threat of illicit trafficking in drugs.

2. Free and secure movement of persons:

(i) Technical assistance and expert advice on exit and entry procedures, including on simplification of visa procedures, as appropriate;

(ii) Expert advice on enhancing the security of travel documents;

(iii) Facilitation of free and secure movement of persons across borders;

(iv) Promotion and expert advice by the OSCE structures and institutions on the rights and development interests of persons belonging to all communities living in border areas without prejudice toward persons belonging to national minorities;

(v) Awareness-raising on the rights of migrants and asylum seekers.

3. Economic and environmental field:

(i) Sharing of best practices on border-crossing and customs procedures for import, export and transit, in particular to ensure the security of the international transport circuit;

(ii) Promotion of economic cross-border cooperation and facilitation of local border trade;

(iii) Fostering of cross-border cooperation on environmental issues that have an impact on local community development;

(iv) Facilitation of cross-border cooperation in case of natural disasters or serious accidents in border zones;

(v) Ensuring of the security of the international transport circuit for the supply of commodities, including through the establishment of a system for providing preliminary information on goods and vehicles transferred across borders.

III. Decisions of the Ministerial Council

Decision No. 2/05

Migration

The Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming the commitments related to migration, and in particular regarding migrant workers, and other relevant commitments, especially those recognized in the Helsinki Final Act (1975), the Madrid Document (1983), the Vienna Final Document (1989), the Copenhagen Document (1990), the Charter of Paris for a New Europe (1990), the Moscow Document (1991), the Helsinki Document (1992), the Budapest Document (1994) and documents adopted by the Ministerial Council in Maastricht (2003) and Sofia (2004),

Recognizing the increasing importance of migration, as well as the challenges and opportunities that it presents to participating States,

Further recognizing that migration is becoming a more diverse and complex phenomenon, which needs to be addressed in a comprehensive manner and therefore requires a crossdimensional approach at the national, regional and international levels,

Recognizing that all States should adopt effective national frameworks in order to manage migration,

Underlining that migration is inherently a transnational issue requiring co-operation between States,

Acknowledging that migration constitutes an important economic, social and human factor for host countries as well as for countries of origin,

Acknowledging also that successful integration policies that include respect for cultural and religious diversity and promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms are a factor in promoting stability and cohesion within our societies,

Determined to fight illegal migration and to address its root causes,

Bearing in mind the different approaches to migration issues by the OSCE participating States, and drawing on their experience and best practices,

Taking into account the initiatives taken and the work done by the OSCE during 2005 in addressing the issue of migration and integration, in particular, the Human Dimension Seminar on Migration and Integration, the Thirteenth OSCE Economic Forum and the 2005 Mediterranean Seminar,

Welcoming the existing co-operation between the OSCE, in particular, the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and the Office of the Coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA), and relevant international organizations and institutions,

Considering that the OSCE, within its comprehensive approach to security, could contribute, *inter alia*, by:

- Working in synergy and developing a stronger partnership with international bodies having a specific focus on migration,
- Facilitating dialogue and co-operation between participating States, including countries of origin, transit and destination in the OSCE area, as well as the OSCE Partners for Co-operation and Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation,
- Assisting the participating States, upon their request, to develop effective migration policies and to implement their relevant OSCE commitments,
- Inviting participating States to consider becoming parties to relevant international instruments,

Tasks the Permanent Council to follow up the work initiated in 2005 and to report to the Fourteenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council;

Tasks the Secretary General as well as relevant OSCE institutions and structures, to continue their work on migration issues in all three dimensions.

Decision No. 3/05

Combating Transnational Organized Crime

The Ministerial Council,

1. Reaffirming the participating States' commitment to preventing and combating organized crime, in particular as recognized in the Charter for European Security (1999), the Bucharest Plan of Action for Combating Terrorism (2001), the OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the TwentyFirst Century (2003) and the OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension (2003),

2. Reiterating the grave concern expressed in the Follow-up to the Outcome of the Millennium Summit (2005 World Summit Outcome) over the negative effects of organized crime on peace, security and stability, which is a major impediment to the prosperity and sustainable development of the participating States,

3. Underscoring links that exist between transnational organized crime and other threats, such as illicit drugs, terrorism, illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, as well as in sensitive materials and technologies, trafficking in human beings, smuggling of migrants, cyber crime, corruption and illegal migration in the context of organized crime and money laundering,

4. Recognizing that the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and its Protocols, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 15 November 2000 in New York, mark a major step forward in international cooperation against transnational organized crime and provide the opportunity for a global response,

5. Recognizing the ongoing work of the OSCE in the areas linked to combating organized crime,

6. Convinced that the OSCE concept of comprehensive security is well placed to enhance the ability of all participating States to tackle the threat of organized crime, and that the OSCE may provide a relevant framework for promoting the fight against organized crime and acknowledging the important work done by relevant international organizations and institutions, in particular United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,

- Urges participating States to enhance cooperation between themselves and the UNODC, the Council of Europe and other relevant international organizations;
- Invites the OSCE participating States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 15 November 2000 in New York, and to fully implement their obligations under these instruments thereafter;
- Tasks the Secretary General with providing the requesting participating States with support for the mobilization of technical assistance, including the necessary expertise and resources, from relevant competent international organizations for the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols in support of and in close consultation with the Conference of Parties and the UNODC;
- Recalls that preventing and combating organized crime require a coherent approach by the participating States, in promoting the implementation of their own relevant national legislation and programmes, in particular in the field of criminal justice, consistent with the rule of law and OSCE participating States' commitments;

- Tasks the Permanent Council to carry forward co-operation between participating States and to work on designing, with the support of the Secretary General and the relevant OSCE institutions, possible measures and forms of assistance that could be available to requesting participating States with a view to improving and promoting the functioning of criminal justice systems, *inter alia*, legislation, law enforcement, prosecution, administration of justice, international legal co-operation, including extradition, and the penal system, in consultation with the UNODC, the Council of Europe and other pertinent international organizations;
- Invites the OSCE Partners for Co-operation and Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation to voluntarily implement the relevant provisions of this decision.

Decision No. 4/05

Enhancing Legal Co-operation in Criminal Matters to Counter Terrorism

The Ministerial Council,

Determined to reinforce OSCE counter-terrorism activities in accordance with international law and in line with existing OSCE commitments,

Recalling United Nations Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001), 1566 (2004) and 1624 (2005), which call upon all States to become party as soon as possible to the relevant international conventions and protocols relating to terrorism, and to co-operate fully in the fight against terrorism, as well as relevant OSCE counter-terrorism commitments,

Recalling also United Nations Security Council resolution 1631 (2005), in particular where it urges “all relevant regional and subregional organizations to enhance the effectiveness of their counter-terrorism efforts within their respective mandates, including with a view to develop their capacity to help Member States in their efforts to tackle the threats to international peace and security posed by acts of terrorism”,

Welcoming the ongoing efforts within the United Nations to finalize, on an expedited basis, the draft comprehensive convention on terrorism,

Recognizing that the above-mentioned conventions and protocols represent a universal legal regime against terrorism and, in the absence of bilateral treaties on mutual legal assistance and extradition, could together with the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo convention) serve as a basis for legal co-operation,

Noting links that exist between terrorism and transnational organized crime,

Noting the importance of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,

Noting with appreciation the OSCE Secretariat’s initiative taken at the request of the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate in developing a programme on enhancing legal co-operation in criminal matters related to terrorism in the OSCE area and organizing as the first step the Expert Workshop on this issue, held in Vienna on 15 April 2004,

Noting also the good working collaboration between the OSCE and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), as well as the valuable technical assistance tools developed by the UNODC for

implementing the universal anti-terrorism conventions and protocols and promoting legal co-operation in criminal matters, in particular those related to terrorism,

Taking into account the recommendations made by participants in the 2005 Annual Security Review Conference with regard to further developing co-operation with thUNODC, supporting its efforts aimed at strengthening the legal regime against terrorism and promoting its technical assistance tools, in particular the Mutual Legal Assistance Request Writer Tool software, including through facilitating training and disseminating best practices for caseworkers,

Decides that the participating States should co-operate actively and fully among themselves, in accordance with applicable rules under domestic and international law, in efforts to find and to bring to justice perpetrators, organizers, supporters and sponsors of terrorist acts, on the basis of the principle to *extradite or prosecute*;

Invites participating States to consider the expert suggestions contained in the report on the OSCE Expert Workshop on Enhancing Legal Co-operation in Criminal Matters Related to Terrorism (SEC. GAL/111/05 of 18 May 2005), as a scale of options for improving international legal co-operation;

Tasks the Secretary General and relevant institutions to assist requesting participating States to fulfil their commitments related to the fight against terrorism. The OSCE will continue to collaborate with the UNODC in strengthening the legal regime against terrorism by promoting implementation of the universal anti-terrorism instruments, and facilitating international legal co-operation in criminal matters;

Tasks the Secretary General to organize in 2006, in co-ordination with the Chairmanship-in-Office and in co-operation with the UNODC, an OSCE expert workshop in Vienna, with the aim to promote the UNODC technical assistance tools for advancing international legal co-operation in criminal matters casework, in particular the Mutual Legal Assistance Request Writer Tool software, including through facilitating training and disseminating best practices for caseworkers;

Tasks the Secretary General to organize for requesting participating States, in close co-operation with the UNODC, national training workshops for prosecutors and judicial officials on issues of extradition and mutual legal assistance in criminal matters, in particular those related to terrorism.

Decision No. 10/05

Tolerance and Non-Discrimination: Promoting Mutual Respect and Understanding

The Ministerial Council,

Recognizing that respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law is at the core of the OSCE comprehensive concept of security,

Recalling its commitments in the field of tolerance and non-discrimination enshrined in the 1975 Helsinki Final Act, the 1990 Charter of Paris for a New Europe, the 1999 Charter for European Security, Decision No. 4/03 on tolerance and non-discrimination, adopted at the 11th Ministerial Council Meeting (Maastricht, 2003), and Decision No. 12/04 on tolerance and nondiscrimination, adopted at the 12th Ministerial Council Meeting (Sofia, 2004),

Recalling the OSCE's focus on promoting tolerance and non-discrimination, embodied in the 2003 Vienna Conferences on Anti-Semitism and on Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, the

April 2004 Berlin Conference on Anti-Semitism, the June 2004 Paris Meeting on the Relationship Between Racist, Xenophobic and Anti-Semitic Propaganda on the Internet and Hate Crimes, the September 2004 Brussels Conference on Tolerance and the Fight Against Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, and the June 2005 Cordoba Conference on Anti-Semitism and on Other Forms of Intolerance and recalling the outcomes of those conferences,

Reaffirming its determination to implement the existing OSCE commitments in the fields of tolerance and non-discrimination and freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief, and recalling other relevant international obligations,

Emphasizing the need for consistently and unequivocally speaking out against acts and manifestations of hate, particularly in political discourse, and working in favour of tolerance, mutual respect and understanding,

Recalling the importance of promoting and facilitating intercultural and interfaith dialogue and partnerships aimed at tolerance, mutual respect and understanding, at both the national and the international levels,

Noting with appreciation the announcement of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the establishment of the "Alliance of Civilizations", as well as the establishment of the Alliance of Civilizations High-Level Group of Eminent Persons and expressing interest in the outcome of this initiative,

Recalling Permanent Council Decisions Nos. 607, 621 and 633 and the declarations made by the OSCE Chairman in Office in 2004 – "Berlin Declaration", "Brussels Declaration" and "Paris Conclusions",

Appreciating the work of the three Personal Representatives of the Chairman in Office as part of the overall effort of the OSCE in combating discrimination and promoting tolerance, mutual respect and understanding and in awareness-raising,

1. Appreciates the declaration made by the OSCE Chairman in Office at the OSCE Conference on Anti-Semitism and on Other Forms of Intolerance held in Cordoba on 8 and 9 June 2005 – "Cordoba Declaration";

2. Welcomes the creation of the ODIHR Programme on Tolerance and Non-Discrimination;

3. Rejects the identification of terrorism and violent extremism with any religion or belief, culture, ethnic group, nationality or race;

4. Decides that the OSCE should continue to raise awareness and develop measures to counter prejudice, intolerance and discrimination, while respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief, for all without distinction as to *inter alia* race, colour, sex, language, religion or belief, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status;

5. Decides that the participating States while implementing their commitments to promote tolerance and non-discrimination will focus their activities in such fields as, *inter alia*, legislation, law enforcement, education, media, data collection, migration and integration, religious freedom, inter-cultural and inter-faith dialogue, and commit to:

5.1. Consider increasing their efforts to ensure that national legislation, policies and practices provide to all persons equal and effective protection of the law and prohibit acts of intolerance and discrimination, in accordance with relevant OSCE commitments and their relevant international obligations;

5.2 Strengthen efforts to provide public officials, and in particular law enforcement officers, with appropriate training on responding to and preventing hate crimes, and in this regard, to consider setting up programmes that provide such training, and to consider drawing on ODIHR expertise in this field and to share best practices;

5.3 Encourage public and private educational programmes that promote tolerance and non-discrimination, and raise public awareness of the existence and the unacceptability of intolerance and discrimination, and in this regard, to consider drawing on ODIHR expertise and assistance in order to develop methods and curricula for tolerance education in general, including:

- Fighting racial prejudice and hatred, xenophobia and discrimination;
- Education on and remembrance of the Holocaust, as well as other genocides, recognized as such in accordance with the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, and crimes against humanity;
- Education on anti-Semitism in order to ensure a systematic approach to education, including curricula related to contemporary forms of anti-Semitism in participating States;
- Fighting prejudice, intolerance and discrimination against Christians, Muslims and members of other religions;

5.4 Consider developing, in close co-operation with civil society, concrete measures which do not endanger freedom of information and expression, in order to counter xenophobic stereotypes, intolerance and discrimination in the media and to encourage programmes to educate children and youth about prejudice or bias they may encounter in the media or on the Internet;

5.5 Strengthen efforts to collect and maintain reliable information and statistics on hate crimes and legislation within their territories, to report such information periodically to the ODIHR, and to make this information available to the public and to consider drawing on ODIHR assistance in this field, and in this regard, to consider nominating national points of contact on hate crimes to the ODIHR;

5.6 Continue, with the support of relevant OSCE structures, institutions and field operations if necessary, to address the issue of migration and integration with respect for cultural and religious diversity as part of the overall efforts by the OSCE to promote tolerance, mutual respect and understanding and to combat discrimination, as well as to promote respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;

5.7 Follow up on the work done so far by the OSCE to promote tolerance and nondiscrimination, including through expert-level implementation-focused thematic meetings in 2006, and to consider the possibility of an OSCE conference in 2007;

6. Tasks the ODIHR to:

6.1 Assist participating States upon their request in developing appropriate methodologies and capacities for collecting and maintaining reliable information and statistics about hate crimes and violent manifestations of intolerance and discrimination, with a view to helping them to collect comparable data and statistics;

6.2 Continue its co-operation with other OSCE structures and institutions, as well as with the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (UNCERD), the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR), the European Commission

against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC), the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research, and with other relevant institutions and civil society, including non-governmental organizations;

6.3 Through its Advisory Panel of Experts on Freedom of Religion or Belief, to continue providing support to the participating States, upon their request, in their efforts to promote freedom of religion or belief, and to share the Panel's conclusions and opinions with OSCE participating States, both bilaterally and at relevant OSCE conferences and events;

7. Decides to make an appropriate contribution to the "Alliance of Civilizations" initiative through the promotion of inter-cultural and inter-religious dialogue and the advancement of mutual understanding and respect as well as human rights throughout the OSCE area and in this regard tasks:

7.1 The OSCE Chairman-in-Office to inform the Secretary-General of the United Nations of this decision and of the interest of the OSCE to support the "Alliance of Civilizations" initiative;

7.2 The Secretary General, drawing on the expertise of the OSCE structures and institutions, in particular the ODIHR, to provide in co-operation with participating States an OSCE contribution to the "Alliance of Civilizations" initiative and to bring it to the attention of the Alliance of Civilizations HighLevel Group by the end of June 2006.

Decision No. 11/05

Promoting of Human Rights Education and Training in the OSCE Area

The Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming the commitments of the participating States in the field of human rights education and training, in particular the commitments deriving from the 1975 Helsinki Final Act, the 1990 Copenhagen Document, the 1991 Moscow Document, the 1999 Charter for European Security, the 2003 OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the TwentyFirst Century and all other relevant OSCE agreed documents and decisions,

Recognizing that the promotion of human rights through education and training in the whole OSCE area could be viewed in the context of the OSCE's comprehensive concept of security and is vital for the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as for the promotion of tolerance and non-discrimination,

Acknowledging the added value of multifaceted cooperation, including consultation, cooperation and coordination with relevant international and regional organizations, as well as the benefits that countries can derive from each other's experiences and capabilities in the field of human rights education and training,

Taking into account the efforts of other international organizations, including the UN's World Programme for Human Rights Education, the Council of Europe's Programme on Education for Democratic Citizenship as well as its youth programme All Different, All Equal, and the EU's European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights, as well as programmes undertaken at the national level,

Recognizing the contribution of the ODIHR and other OSCE structures, institutions and field operations, in promoting human rights education and training, in cooperation with participating States,

Dedicated to further strengthening the efforts by the OSCE to promote human rights education and training programmes in the OSCE area, as well as to extend the Organization's support to participating States upon their request in carrying out their respective national programmes in the field of human rights education,

Invites participating States with the involvement of civil society to further enhance systematic human rights education and training programmes designed to promote respect for the inherent dignity of all human beings, and to make human rights a reality for each person in every community and in society at large;

Decides to enhance the OSCE's efforts in co-operation with other international organizations and non-governmental organizations in taking necessary measures aimed at promoting human rights education and training, with special emphasis on the young people in the OSCE area;

Tasks the ODIHR, drawing on the relevant expertise and experience acquired by the OSCE structures, institutions and field operations, as well as the OSCE participating States:

- To produce a compendium of best practices for participating States on enhancing the promotion of human rights education and training, including the promotion of tolerance, mutual respect and understanding, and non-discrimination in the OSCE area.

Decision No. 12/05

Upholding Human Rights and the Rule of Law in Criminal Justice Systems

The Ministerial Council,

Recognizing that full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and the development of societies based on pluralistic democracy and the rule of law is a prerequisite for achieving a lasting peace, security, justice and stability,

Reaffirming the rule of law commitments contained in the 1975 Helsinki Final Act, the 1989 Concluding Document of Vienna, the 1990 Copenhagen Document, and the 1991 Moscow Document, those undertaken at the 1994 OSCE Summit in Budapest, and other relevant OSCE commitments and recalling relevant international obligations, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment,

Reiterating that the activity of the government and the administration as well as that of the judiciary will be exercised in accordance with the system established by law and in line with relevant OSCE commitments and international obligations of the participating States, and that respect for that system must be ensured,

Considering that the rule of law does not mean merely a formal legality which assures regularity and consistency in the achievement and enforcement of democratic order, but justice based on the recognition and full acceptance of the supreme value of the human personality and guaranteed by institutions providing a framework for its fullest expression,

Recognizing that rule of law must be based on respect for internationally recognized human rights, including the right to a fair trial, the right to an effective remedy, and the right not to be subjected to arbitrary arrest or detention,

Recognizing that an impartial and independent judiciary plays a vital role in ensuring due process and protecting human rights before, during and after trials,

Recognizing that defence lawyers play a critical role in ensuring the right to a fair trial and in the furtherance and protection of other human rights in the criminal justice system,

Underlining the need to speak out publicly against torture, and recalling that all forms of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment are and shall remain prohibited at any time and in any place whatsoever and can thus never be justified, and stressing the need to strengthen procedural safeguards to prevent torture as well as to prosecute its perpetrators, thereby preventing impunity for acts of torture, and calling upon participating States to give early consideration to signing and ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture,

Decides to:

- Increase attention to and follow up on the issues of the rule of law and due process in criminal justice systems in 2006, *inter alia*, by encouraging participating States to improve the implementation of existing commitments, also drawing on the expertise of the ODIHR, and in close co-operation with other relevant international organizations in order to avoid unnecessary duplication;

Tasks the ODIHR and other relevant OSCE structures to:

- Assist the participating States to share with one another successful examples, expertise and good practices to improve criminal justice systems;
- Assist the participating States upon their request to strengthen the institutional capacity of defence lawyers to protect and defend the rights of their clients.

Decision No. 13/05

Combating Trafficking in Human Beings

The Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming Ministerial Council Decisions Nos. 2/03 and 13/04, as well as other OSCE commitments to combat trafficking in human beings in all its forms and for all purposes, by adhering to which, the participating States have clearly demonstrated a political will to eliminate this contemporary form of enslavement that violates human dignity and undermines the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Recalling the international obligations taken by those OSCE participating States which have signed and ratified the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Supplementary Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, as well as other relevant international treaties to which they are parties,

Noting the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings as the first regional treaty in this field which is mainly focused on the protection of victims of trafficking, as well as on the prevention of this horrendous crime and the prosecution of its perpetrators,

Welcoming progress achieved by participating States in the implementation of the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings as a comprehensive tool-kit for assisting both

authorities and civil society to prevent such trafficking, prosecute perpetrators of the crime and protect its victims,

Drawing attention to the need to enhance the abovementioned measures, develop strong anti-trafficking networks which would function multilaterally, regionally and bilaterally, and effectively implement the commitments taken, with full support and assistance provided to the participating States, upon their request, by the OSCE structures, institutions and field operations,

Reiterating the unique role of the OSCE as a catalyst in joint efforts by international organizations aimed at combating trafficking in human beings of all forms, and commending the initiatives taken by the OSCE Special Representative on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings under the auspices of the “Alliance against Trafficking in Persons”,

Decides:

1. To endorse the Addendum to the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings: Addressing the Special Needs of Child Victims of Trafficking for Protection and Assistance, adopted by Permanent Council Decision No. 685 on 7 July 2005, thus effectively responding to the needs of the most vulnerable and unprotected victims of trafficking in human beings;
2. To continue to pay closer attention to the escalating threat of human trafficking, and to pursue a multidimensional and victim-centred approach to issues related to combating trafficking in human beings as an aspect of organized crime, criminality and corruption, within the OSCE concept of comprehensive security;
3. To task the OSCE anti-trafficking mechanism to report to the Permanent Council in June each year, starting in June 2006, on progress achieved in work on trafficking issues in the OSCE. These reports will also contain contributions from other OSCE structures, institutions and field operations on developments related to trafficking in human beings throughout the OSCE region and will include an analysis of achievements in the light of the objectives set out in the 2003 OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings.

Decision No. 14/05

Women in Conflict Prevention, Crisis Management and Post-Conflict Rehabilitation

The Ministerial Council,

Recalling the OSCE’s comprehensive approach to security in addressing new threats and challenges and its commitment to gender mainstreaming, in line with the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality,

Recalling that the OSCE, as a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, is a key instrument for early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation in its region,

Recognizing that the knowledge, skills and experience of both women and men are essential to peace, sustainable democracy, economic development and therefore to security and stability in the OSCE region,

Further recognizing that United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security links gender equality and security, focusing on the role of women in matters of peace and security at all levels,

Reaffirming the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,

Emphasizing the importance of women's full and equal participation in all phases of conflict prevention, resolution and peace-building,

Acknowledging the need for concrete action by the OSCE to integrate women into conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation through its activities, *inter alia*, by:

1. Ensuring proactive implementation throughout the Organization of the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality, adopted by Permanent Council Decision No. 638 of 2 December 2004,
2. Integrating into the activities of the OSCE, as appropriate, the relevant parts of UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on the role of women in all levels of conflict prevention, crisis management and resolution, and postconflict rehabilitation,
3. Encouraging participating States to develop national rosters of potential women candidates (as called for in the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality, paragraph 22) and take active steps to ensure that women are fully informed of and encouraged to apply for positions in the area of conflict prevention and postconflict rehabilitation processes, in particular for senior management positions,
4. Calling on participating States to nominate more women as heads of institutions and missions, and to other senior positions in the OSCE,
5. Actively encouraging the recruitment of women to OSCE field presences, in particular to management positions, with the goal of having a substantial number of field presences headed by women,
6. Calling on participating States and OSCE structures, as appropriate, to support and encourage training and educational programmes focusing on women and girls, as well as projects aimed at women's participation in building sustainable peace; to empower women's organizations; to support women's peace initiatives through the media and workshops on human rights and gender equality; and to raise awareness among women concerning the importance of their involvement in political processes,
7. Calling on participating States and OSCE structures, as appropriate, to develop specific policies to encourage the full and equal participation of women and women's organizations in conflict prevention, conflict resolution and post-conflict rehabilitation, as well as to encourage and support the sharing of experiences and best practices and, further, to engage with women's peace initiatives,
8. Calling on participating States to take into account the important role and the particular needs of women and girls in implementing government policies on protection and durable solutions including voluntary return, resettlement, rehabilitation, (re)integration or repatriation of refugees and internally displaced persons in safety and dignity,

9. Recommending that participating States regularly evaluate their efforts at gender mainstreaming in conflict prevention, conflict management and rehabilitation processes, and make such evaluations public, to be used for gendersensitive training purposes, and in implementation of relevant commitments as well as to increase awareness of their importance,

Decides to:

- Task the Secretary General in his annual progress report on the implementation of Permanent Council Decision No. 638 on the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality with making specific references to the implementation in the Organization of the parts of UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) that are relevant to the OSCE;
- Task the Secretariat, in the context of the objectives of the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality, with developing in co-operation with participating States, further measures to substantially increase the number of women in the OSCE Secretariat, institutions and field operations, in particular at senior and policymaking levels;
- Task the OSCE structures and institutions with developing or adjusting relevant projects, strategies and initiatives, and conducting other activities, including exchanging information with the UN in order to fulfil the commitments contained in this decision;
- Invite OSCE participating States and the OSCE institutions to report at the Annual Security Review Conference also on the progress achieved in implementing the commitments contained in this decision.

Decision No. 15/05

Preventing and Combating Violence against Women

The Ministerial Council,

Recognizing that respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law is at the core of the OSCE's comprehensive concept of security,

Reaffirming the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,

Reaffirming that States have an obligation to exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate and punish the perpetrators of violence against women and girls and to provide protection to the victims, and that failure to do so violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Recalling UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security, which calls for, *inter alia*, the full respect for and protection of the rights of women and girls during and after armed conflict and an end to impunity for perpetrators of gender-based violence,

Reaffirming the strong commitments of the OSCE participating States in the fields of human rights, gender equality, tolerance and nondiscrimination, combating trafficking in human beings and improving the situation of Roma and Sinti,

Deeply concerned at the particular targeting or vulnerability to violence and hence the need for protection of girls and some groups of women, such as women belonging to minority groups,

indigenous women, refugee and internally displaced women, migrant women, women living in rural or remote communities, destitute women, women in institutions or in detention, women with disabilities, elderly women, widows, women in situations of armed conflicts and women who are otherwise discriminated against, including on the basis of HIV status,

Emphasizing the commitment to gender mainstreaming in the OSCE Action Plan of 2004 for the Promotion of Gender Equality and the specific provisions regarding the prevention and elimination of violence against women in participating States,

Expressing its deep concern at the persisting level of violence against women and girls in the OSCE region, as well as the human and political costs of this phenomenon and recognizing that violence against women constitutes a threat to human security,

1. Urges participating States, with the support and assistance of the OSCE, to take all necessary legislative, policy and programmatic monitoring and evaluation measures to promote and protect the full enjoyment of the human rights of women and to prevent and combat all forms of gender-based violence against women and girls;

2. Calls on participating States to comply with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, if they are parties, and, if they have not already done so, to consider ratifying or acceding to these Conventions; and calls upon States that have ratified or acceded to these Conventions to withdraw reservations that are contrary to the object and purpose of the Conventions;

3. Calls on participating States to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography and, where appropriate, the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings;

4. Notes with regret that female victims of violence are too often left without protection and assistance and urges participating States:

(i) To ensure that all female victims of violence will be provided with full, equal and timely access to justice and effective remedies; medical and social assistance, including emergency assistance; confidential counselling; and shelter;

(ii) To adopt and implement legislation that criminalizes gender-based violence and establishes adequate legal protection;

(iii) To provide in a timely manner physical and psychological protection for victims, including appropriate witness protection measures;

(iv) To investigate and prosecute the perpetrators, while addressing their need for appropriate treatment;

(v) To promote the full involvement of women in judicial, prosecutorial and law enforcement institutions and to ensure that all relevant public officials are fully trained and sensitized in recognizing, documenting and processing cases of violence against women and children;

(vi) To meet the special needs for protection and assistance of girl victims of violence

5. Notes that violence against women and girls often remains unreported and unrecorded and is therefore not adequately reflected in statistics, and encourages participating States to support efforts

to raise awareness; to make significant additional efforts to collect, analyse and disseminate comparable data; and to support specialized NGOs and research on the issue;

6. Calls upon participating States to take measures to strengthen the economic independence of women, including ensuring non-discriminatory employment policies and practices, providing equal access to education and training, equal remuneration for equal work, increased work and educational opportunities, equal access to and control over economic resources with a view to reducing women's vulnerability to all forms of violence including domestic violence and trafficking in human beings;

7. Urges participating States to take all necessary steps to prevent genderbased violence against women and girls during and after armed conflict and emergencies, including the bringing to justice of perpetrators of crimes, and to take special measures to address the needs of women and girls in the post-conflict environment;

8. Acknowledges the inclusion of gender-related crimes in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and in the Elements of Crimes, adopted by the Assembly of State Parties to the Rome Statute in September 2002, and the elaboration of the circumstances in which such crimes can constitute crimes against humanity and/or war crimes;

9. Encourages the dissemination of the relevant case-law of the existing ad hoc International Criminal Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda and full cooperation with those jurisdictions;

10. Decides to intensify the co-operation of the OSCE with the relevant structures of the United Nations, the Council of Europe, the European Union and other international organizations, as well as with civil society and relevant nongovernmental organizations, to promote the prevention of and the fight against all forms of violence against women and girls;

11. Tasks the Permanent Council to encourage the development by relevant OSCE institutions and structures of programmes, projects and policies to assist participating States, at their request, in combating violence against women and girls and providing assistance for victims;

12. Requests that the Secretary General pay specific attention to reporting on the implementation of this decision in the Annual Report to the Permanent Council on the 2004 Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality.

Decision No. 16/05

Ensuring the Highest Standards of Conduct and Accountability of Persons Serving on International Forces and Missions

The Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming the OSCE commitments to combat trafficking in human beings, in particular 2000 Vienna Ministerial Council Decision No. 1, 2002 Porto Ministerial Declaration and Maastricht Ministerial Decision No. 2/03 and the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, as well as its addendum "Addressing the Special Needs of Child Victims of Trafficking for Protection and Assistance",

Recalling the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime, and its comprehensive definition of trafficking in persons,

Reiterating that trafficking in human beings, a contemporary form of slavery, seriously undermines the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Concerned that military and civilian personnel serving on international peacekeeping forces or other international missions, including contractors, as well as field presences of international organizations including the OSCE could be a contributing factor to the demand side of the trafficking cycle,

Welcoming the efforts of the United Nations as well as other international organizations to develop and enforce “zero-tolerance” policies to prevent trafficking in human beings by both forces and other staff, which, combined with education and training, are required,

Recalling the ongoing activities in all relevant international organizations aimed at the development of common standards and best practices to prevent and combat trafficking in human beings,

Concerned about reports of misconduct by military and civilian personnel serving on international peace-keeping forces or other international missions, including reports of engaging in trafficking in human beings as defined in the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, strongly condemning such acts, and noting that they have a detrimental effect on the fulfilment of mission mandates,

Concerned also about reports of misconduct by military and civilian personnel serving on international peacekeeping forces or other international missions including reports of sexually exploiting and abusing local and refugee populations, as well as reports of cases of forced labour, strongly condemning such acts, and noting that they have a detrimental effect on the fulfilment of mission mandates,

Emphasizing the need for more information and awareness-raising concerning these issues among personnel serving on international missions,

Taking note of efforts by the United Nations aimed at ensuring that personnel serving on peacekeeping forces or other international missions are held to the highest standard of conduct and accountability,

1. Calls on participating States to improve, where necessary, measures to prevent military and civilian personnel deployed abroad to peacekeeping forces or other international missions, as well as OSCE officials, from engaging in trafficking in human beings or exploiting victims of trafficking. In this regard, the participating States will seek to ensure that their national laws, regulations, and other relevant documents can be enforced with respect to their nationals who are serving on peacekeeping forces or other international missions, with a view to ensuring the highest standards of conduct and accountability;

2. Calls on participating States with deployed military and civilian personnel to assist, within their competence and respective mandates, responsible authorities in the host country in their efforts to combat trafficking in human beings. Each participating State will take into account policies and consequences regarding trafficking in human beings when instructing its military and civilian personnel to be deployed abroad;

3. Calls on participating States to take appropriate action necessary to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse, as well as cases of forced labour, by military and civilian personnel deployed by them who are serving on peacekeeping forces or other international missions, to enforce relevant standards of conduct in this regard, and to ensure that any such cases are properly investigated and appropriately punished;
4. Reaffirms the importance of implementing the Code of Conduct for OSCE Officials and Staff Instruction No. 11 addressing trafficking in human beings, and instructs the Secretary General, drawing on the expertise of the OSCE Special Representative on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and the Anti-Trafficking Assistance Unit, to update these documents to make them in line with this decision, and to circulate them to the participating States for comments and discussion prior to issuance;
5. Invites the governments of the OSCE Partners for Cooperation also to commit to the same principles as are set forth in this decision and to that end tasks the OSCE Special Representative on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and the OSCE Secretary General to share relevant information and materials with the OSCE Partners for Cooperation;
6. Tasks the OSCE Special Representative on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings to share with relevant international organizations OSCE training materials and other information that could assist in combating trafficking in human beings;
7. Tasks the OSCE Secretary General to report annually to the Permanent Council on the implementation of this decision in regard to the Code of Conduct for OSCE Officials and Staff Instruction No. 11, in accordance with provision III 11.1 of the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings.

Decision No. 17/05

Strengthening the Effectiveness of the OSCE

The Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming its full adherence to the norms, principles and commitments in all three dimensions of the OSCE comprehensive approach to security agreed since the 1975 Helsinki Final Act and the 1990 Charter of Paris for a New Europe,

Recognizing the role of the Organization as a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter,

Recalling that all OSCE commitments apply equally, and to all participating States,

Emphasizing the role of the Organization as a forum for political dialogue, as a key instrument for early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation, and as a norm-setting body with its institutions and field operations, as well as its instruments and mechanisms,

Reaffirming the importance of all three dimensions of the OSCE approach to security as well as its cross-dimensional character,

Determined to strengthen confidence between participating States and to reinforce the sense of common purpose, by means of inclusive political dialogue on an equal footing, as well as assistance provided in a co-operative manner,

Recognizing the need to further focus the work of the Organization in those areas, where it has comparative advantages and can add value, while retaining its comprehensive approach to security,

Bearing in mind the need to ensure that basic priorities and action plans have a longterm perspective and are in line with the evolving security environment,

Determined to strengthen the effectiveness of the Organization operating on the basis of sovereign equality of States and of decision-making by consensus, in order to improve transparency and to foster the sense of ownership of all participating States,

Determined to make an effective gender mainstreaming an integral part of all policies, activities and programmes in the OSCE,

Recalling the Ministerial Council Decision No. 16/04 on the Establishment of a Panel of Eminent Persons on Strengthening the Effectiveness of the OSCE,

Commending the Panel for its determination and efforts, resulting in the report titled Common Purpose, Towards a More Effective OSCE (CIO.GAL/100/05 of 27 June 2005), and taking into account recommendations contained therein,

Taking also into account other contributions, including those by the Parliamentary Assembly, as well as the outcome of the High-Level Consultations held in Vienna on 12 and 13 September 2005, as set out by the Chairmanship in its Perception Paper (CIO.GAL/132/05 of 16 September 2005),

Considering that further efforts are needed for appropriate action on recommendations of the Panel of Eminent Persons,

1. Tasks the Permanent Council with continuing work on the basis of the report of the Panel of Eminent Persons and the outcome of the High-Level Consultations and reporting to the Ministerial Council in 2006 on:

- Rules of procedure;
- Improving the consultative process, including considering a committee structure;
- Considering ways to improve the planning and efficiency of OSCE conferences;
- Strengthening the efficiency, effectiveness and transparency of the Organization's activities, including their budgetary and extra-budgetary financing, and their evaluation and assessment;
- Considering ways to further enhance the role of the Secretary General, while supporting him in the full use of his mandate, including through further strengthening the co-operation with the heads of institutions and of field operations;
- Modernizing the Secretariat, taking into account also proposals by the Secretary General and participating States, to further improve its capacity to support the Chairmanship-in-Office and the participating States and to co-ordinate OSCE activities;
- Strengthening the effectiveness of the OSCE institutions and field operations;
- Examining the possibility of providing the OSCE with legal status and granting privileges and immunities, taking into consideration advice of legal experts;

- Further improving the programme planning, so that it may better reflect the Organization's priorities;
 - Considering ways of further improving the professionalism of OSCE personnel and the management of its human resources, with due regard to the gender and geographical balance;
 - Considering the possibility of thematic missions in an OSCE-wide or subregional context;
2. Tasks the ODIHR to submit, for discussion, to the next Ministerial Council, a report on:
- Implementation of existing commitments,
 - Possible supplementary commitments,
 - Ways of strengthening and furthering its election-related activities,
 - Improving the effectiveness of its assistance to participating States,

taking into account and answering questions put by participating States and in close consultation with them.

Document of the Fourteenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council

Brussels 2006

I. Statements and Declarations by the Ministerial Council

Brussels Declaration on Criminal Justice Systems

We, members of the Ministerial Council, reaffirm the commitments related to the administration of criminal justice, especially those contained in the Helsinki Final Act (1975), the Vienna Final Document (1989), the Copenhagen Document (1990), the Charter of Paris for a New Europe (1990), the Moscow Document (1991), the Budapest Document (1994), and the Charter for European Security (1999).

We recall Ministerial Council Decisions No. 3/05 on combating transnational organized crime and No. 12/05 on upholding human rights and the rule of law in criminal justice systems (Ljubljana, 2005).

We further recall the proceedings of the Human Dimension Seminar on Upholding the Rule of Law and Due Process in Criminal Justice Systems (Warsaw, May 2006).

We also recall relevant UN instruments, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

We recall the commitment of the participating States to ensure the independence of the judiciary.

We recognize that nothing in this document shall undermine or diverge from participating States' existing commitments or obligations under international law, while we also acknowledge that each participating State, consistent with its legal tradition, determines the appropriate ways to implement them in its national legislation.

We consider that:

- Judicial independence is a prerequisite to the rule of law and acts as a fundamental guarantee of a fair trial;
- Impartiality is essential to the proper discharge of the judicial office;
- Integrity is essential to the proper discharge of the judicial office;
- Propriety, and the appearance of propriety, are essential to the performance of all the activities of a judge;
- A guarantee of equality of treatment to all before the courts is essential to the due performance of the judicial office;

- Competence and diligence are prerequisites to the due performance of the judicial office.
- We consider that:
- Prosecutors should be individuals of integrity and ability, with appropriate training and qualifications;
- Prosecutors should at all times maintain the honour and dignity of their profession and respect the rule of law;
- The office of prosecutor should be strictly separated from judicial functions, and prosecutors should respect the independence and the impartiality of judges;
- Prosecutors should, in accordance with the law, perform their duties fairly, consistently and expeditiously, and respect and protect human dignity and uphold human rights, thus contributing to ensuring due process and the smooth functioning of the criminal justice system.

We consider that:

- Law enforcement officials should at all times fulfil the duty imposed upon them by law, by serving the public and by protecting all persons against illegal acts, consistent with the high degree of responsibility required by their profession;
- In the performance of their duty, law enforcement officials should respect and protect human dignity and maintain and uphold the human rights of all persons;
- Law enforcement officials should use force only to the extent necessary and appropriate to accomplish their mission and to ensure the safety of the public;
- Law enforcement officials, as members of the broader group of public officials or other persons acting in an official capacity, should not inflict, instigate, encourage or tolerate any act of torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;
- No law enforcement official should be punished for not obeying orders to commit or conceal acts amounting to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;
- Law enforcement officials should be cognizant and attentive to the health of persons in their custody and, in particular, should take immediate action to secure medical attention whenever required.

We consider that:

- All necessary measures should be taken to respect, protect and promote the freedom of exercise of the profession of lawyer, without discrimination and without improper interference from the authorities or the public;
- Decisions concerning the authorization to practice as a lawyer or to join the profession should be taken by an independent body. Such decisions, whether or not they are taken by an independent body, should be subject to a review by an independent and impartial judicial authority;
- Lawyers should not suffer or be threatened with any sanctions or pressure when acting in accordance with their professional standards;
- Lawyers should have access to their clients, including in particular to persons deprived of their liberty, to enable them to counsel in private and to represent their clients according to established professional standards;
- All reasonable and necessary measures should be taken to ensure the respect of the confidentiality of the lawyer-client relationship. Exceptions to this principle should be allowed only if compatible with the rule of law;

- Lawyers should not be refused access to a court before which they are qualified to appear and should have access to all relevant evidence and records when defending the rights and interests of their clients in accordance with their professional standards.

We consider that the enforcement of custodial sentences and the treatment of prisoners must take account of the requirements of safety, security and discipline, while also ensuring prison conditions which do not violate human dignity and which offer meaningful occupational activities and appropriate treatment programmes to inmates, thus preparing them for their reintegration into society.

We call on the participating States to fully implement their commitments and international obligations to ensure fair and effective operation of their criminal justice systems.

Brussels Ministerial Statement on Supporting and Promoting the International Legal Framework against Terrorism

We, the members of the Ministerial Council of the OSCE, reaffirm our strong determination to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, as a crime that has no justification, whatever its motivation or origin and to continue and reinforce OSCE counterterrorism activities in line with existing OSCE commitments.

We emphasize that measures to conduct this fight must be undertaken with full respect for the rule of law, and in accordance with our obligations under international law, in particular international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law.

We are convinced of the importance of reinforcing the international legal framework against terrorism, comprised of the universal conventions and protocols related to the prevention and the suppression of terrorism, relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions, the recently adopted United Nations Global CounterTerrorism Strategy, as well as regional and bilateral legal instruments related to terrorism.

We call on the OSCE participating States to implement the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions regarding the fight against terrorism.

We welcome the significant progress achieved in the participating States' compliance with the Bucharest Ministerial commitment to become party to the 12 antiterrorism conventions and protocols, with 46 participating States being party to all 12 instruments that are currently in force.

We call on those OSCE participating States which have not yet done so to make every effort to become party without delay to the universal conventions and protocols against terrorism currently in force, and to implement them, in particular through criminalization of related offences in their national legislation.

We reiterate our call on the OSCE participating States to consider becoming parties to the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, as well as the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and support continuing efforts to adopt a comprehensive convention on international terrorism on terms that advance the international community's counterterrorism objectives.

We call on participating States to consider becoming parties to regional and subregional legal instruments related to terrorism or legal cooperation in criminal matters adopted by organizations to which we belong, as well as – whenever appropriate to fill gaps in existing legal instruments – to

conclude bilateral agreements on mutual legal assistance and extradition, in order to be able to cooperate fully, in accordance with the rules applicable under domestic and international law, in efforts to find and to bring to justice perpetrators, organizers, supporters and sponsors of terrorist acts, on the basis of the principle to *extradite or prosecute*.

We will continue exchanging information, including through the Permanent Council and the Forum for Security Cooperation, on progress achieved in becoming party to international, regional and bilateral legal instruments against terrorism and on legal cooperation in criminal matters, as well as on developments in the national legislation related to terrorism.

We welcome work done so far by the OSCE structures, institutions and field presences, in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Council of Europe and other relevant regional organizations, to strengthen the legal regime against terrorism by promoting the implementation of participating States' obligations under the universal and regional antiterrorism instruments to which they are party, and facilitating international legal cooperation in criminal matters, and encourage them to continue to do so.

We will also continue to develop interaction and dialogue on the issues of supporting and promoting the international legal framework against terrorism with the Mediterranean and Asian Partners for Cooperation.

Ministerial Statement on Migration

1. We, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the OSCE participating States, welcome the report prepared on the OSCE work in the area of migration since 2005 and express our appreciation and continued support for the work carried out on migration and integration issues in all three dimensions of the OSCE and affecting all countries, including those of origin, destination and transit.

2. Bearing in mind the relevance migration has acquired for international and national affairs, we reaffirm Ministerial Council Decision No. 2/05 on migration and request the Permanent Council and relevant OSCE structures, within their existing mandates, to continue to consider relevant migration and integration issues as part of its comprehensive approach to security.

3. The UN HighLevel Dialogue on International Migration and Development, *inter alia*, explored the relationship between these two complex phenomena, underscored that migration can be a positive force for the development in all countries, and confirmed the importance of ensuring co-ordination between the relevant international and regional organizations operating in these fields.

4. Owing to globalization and increasing mobility, dialogue and cooperation between governments at the bilateral, regional and international levels have become increasingly important for effectively addressing the opportunities and challenges of international migration within and between all countries, including those of origin, transit and destination.

5. As the phenomenon of migration has been growing, both in scope and in complexity, we encourage all relevant OSCE institutions and structures, within their existing mandates, to continue their work on migration and integration issues in all three dimensions, in particular on the potential contribution of migration to sustainable development and codevelopment; promoting integration with respect for cultural and religious diversity; addressing forced migration while respecting relevant international legal obligations, and combating illegal migration as well as trafficking in human beings and the exploitation, discrimination, abuse and manifestation of racism directed towards migrants, with special attention to women and children; and facilitating dialogue, partnership and

cooperation between the OSCE participating States and the Partners for Cooperation on migration-related issues.

6. We acknowledge the good interorganizational work done in producing the OSCE/IOM/ILO Handbook on Establishing Effective Labour Migration Policies in Countries of Origin and Destination and promoting improved migration management through a range of activities. The Handbook is an effective tool for capacitybuilding, which is a key element in preparing government institutions to put in place a system of migration management in order to oversee migration flows.

II. Decisions of the Ministerial Council

Decision No. 3/06

Combating Trafficking in Human Beings

The Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming the commitments that the participating States have adhered to in the field of combating trafficking in human beings,

Reaffirming the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, including its Addendum Addressing the Special Needs of Child Victims of Trafficking for Protection and Assistance (PC.DEC/557/Rev.1 of 7 July 2005),

Recalling Decision No. 2/03 of the Eleventh Ministerial Council Meeting in Maastricht on combating trafficking in human beings, which established, under the aegis of the Permanent Council, the OSCE mechanism to provide assistance to participating States to combat trafficking in human beings,

Reaffirming the importance of having an appropriate structure with adequate administrative and financial resources that can operate at the political level,

1. Decides that the OSCE mechanism to provide assistance to participating States to combat trafficking in human beings, established under the aegis of the Permanent Council, shall be changed to form an integral part of the Secretariat. The structure will be headed by a prominent personality, who will act as a Special Representative and represent the OSCE at the political level, and will consist of contracted and seconded staff, including those of the present Anti-Trafficking Assistance Unit, appointed or assigned in accordance with the OSCE Staff Regulations and Rules;

The structure shall:

- (a) Assist OSCE participating States in the implementation of commitments and full usage of recommendations set forth in the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, including its Addendum Addressing the Special Needs of Child Victims of Trafficking for Protection and Assistance;
- (b) Ensure coordination of the OSCE's efforts in combating trafficking in human beings across all three dimensions of the OSCE and act as a focal point for the OSCE's efforts in this area;
- (c) Strengthen cooperation among the relevant authorities of the participating States and between the OSCE and other relevant organizations;
- (d) Raise the public and political profile of combating trafficking in human beings;

(e) Operate in the whole OSCE area and as appropriate, assist the participating States, in a spirit of cooperation and following consultations with the relevant authorities of the participating States concerned, in aiming at the implementation of their commitments in combating human trafficking;

(f) Provide and facilitate advice and technical assistance in the field of legislation as well as policy development, together, as necessary, with other OSCE structures engaged in this field;

(g) Be ready to offer advice to senior level authorities representing the legislative, judicial, and executive branches in participating States and discuss with them the implementation of the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, including its Addendum, and commitments in the field of combating trafficking in human beings. In specific cases calling for special attention, seek direct contacts, in an appropriate manner with the participating State concerned and discuss the providing of advice and concrete assistance, if needed;

(h) Cooperate with national co-ordinators, national rapporteurs or other national mechanisms established by participating States for coordinating and monitoring the antitrafficking activities of State institutions. It will also cooperate with relevant nongovernmental organizations in the participating States. Furthermore, it will assume responsibility within the OSCE for hosting and facilitating meetings for the exchange of information and experience between national coordinators, representatives designated by participating States, or experts on combating trafficking in human beings;

(i) Closely cooperate, in a coordinating role and in full respect of their mandates, with the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and other OSCE institutions, relevant structures of the Secretariat including the Office of the Coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA), the Strategic Police Matters Unit (SPMU), the Senior Gender Adviser, as well as, where appropriate, the OSCE field operations. Drawing on the expertise within the OSCE, the OSCE structures that undertake activities in this field will closely consult with each other and the Special Representative in order to avoid duplication, ensure complementarity and coherence and, as appropriate, seek to develop an integrated approach;

(j) Cooperate and seek synergies with relevant international actors, including regional organizations, intergovernmental agencies and non-governmental organizations; continue to convene, chair and organize joint initiatives of the Alliance against Trafficking in Persons;

2. Calls on the Secretary General and the Chairmanship-in-Office to consult each other regarding the appointment of a prominent personality with relevant professional and political expertise:

- The Secretary General will appoint the personality as co-ordinator at the D2 level, with the consent of the Chairmanship, in accordance with Decision No. 15/04 of the Twelfth Ministerial Council Meeting in Sofia;
- The Chairmanship-in-Office will confer on the co-ordinator the functions and title of Special Representative for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in order to enable the incumbent to adequately represent the OSCE at the political level. The participating States will be consulted in accordance with Decision No. 8 of the Tenth Ministerial Council Meeting in Porto;

3. Affirms that the Special Representative will be politically accountable to, and will report regularly and when appropriate to the Permanent Council after consultation with the Chairmanship-in-Office and the Secretary General, as well as in accordance with Decision No. 13/05 of the Thirteenth Ministerial Council Meeting in Ljubljana;

4. Agrees that from 2007 onwards the funding modalities will be changed, so that the current programme in the Unified Budget entitled “Special Representative on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings” will be part of the Main Programme now entitled “AntiTrafficking Assistance Unit”;

5. Decides that this decision amends Decision No. 2/03 of the Eleventh Ministerial Council Meeting in Maastricht and, if necessary, may be amended by the Permanent Council.

Decision No. 5/06

Organized Crime

The Ministerial Council,

Reiterating its grave concern about the negative effects of organized crime on peace, stability and security,

Concerned that organized crime is becoming increasingly efficient at exploiting our globalized economies and open societies and is representing a growing multidimensional challenge to all participating States throughout the whole OSCE area,

Concerned that organized crime commands vast wealth and can wield tremendous power, potentially undermining the democratic values in our societies and threatening the safety and security of ordinary citizens directly and indirectly,

Concerned also by the challenges and threats posed by the links between organized crime, trafficking in human beings, weapons and illicit drugs, corruption and terrorism as well as other forms of transnational and domestic criminal activity,

Convinced that addressing organized crime must remain a central element in our policies to provide safety and security to our citizens, both domestically and through international co-operation,

Underscoring that organized crime can best be fought through democratic institutions that respect human rights and the rule of law, and are accountable to citizens and civil society,

Emphasizing the key role played by an efficient and effective criminal justice system in upholding public safety and security,

Recognizing that policies and activities regarding the criminal justice system should comprise and integrate, *inter alia*, crime prevention, law enforcement, the police, the judicial system, the prosecution, defence lawyers and penal systems,

Recognizing that efficient and effective criminal justice systems can only be developed on the basis of the rule of law and on the protection of human rights and that the rule of law itself requires the protection of such criminal justice systems,

Recognizing that efficient and effective criminal justice systems based on the rule of law are a prerequisite for combating organized crime, trafficking in human beings, illicit drugs and weapons, terrorism, corruption and other forms of transnational and domestic criminal activity and that specialist responses to these security challenges must take place within the overall framework of a criminal justice system,

Recognizing the continued relevance of the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice and of the role of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in supporting their use and application and welcoming increasing cooperation between the OSCE Secretariat, the UNODC and the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,

Recognizing the activities of other United Nations bodies and other international fora in the field of the rule of law,

Recognizing the importance of the implementation of the obligations under the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo Convention) and, as appropriate, its supplementing protocols and under the United Nations Convention against Corruption, as ways for both addressing organized crime and corruption and for fostering international cooperation in criminal matters,

Taking note of the relevant Conventions and their protocols, elaborated in the framework of the Council of Europe,

Taking note of the outcome of the OSCE seminars and workshops held in 2005 and 2006 on international legal cooperation in criminal matters, on prevention of terrorism, on illicit drugs and other forms of trafficking,

Recognizing the need for the OSCE to focus on enhancing international legal cooperation and on improving criminal justice systems as part of its overall security agenda, in coordination with the United Nations and other multilateral forums,

1. Urges participating States to continue to address organized crime as an important threat and, where possible, to strengthen the implementation of their respective international obligations and OSCE commitments in all areas of their criminal justice systems;
2. Recommends to consider adopting, as appropriate, national plans addressing security-related issues, and to apply an integrated approach, mindful of the fact that every element of the criminal justice system impacts on the other elements;
3. Invites participating States to consider undertaking self-assessments of their criminal justice systems, using, as appropriate, instruments available from international organizations, such as the UNODC/OSCE assessment toolkits and making, if necessary, best use of other tools available, including from the Council of Europe (CEPEJ) and other organizations, academia or bar associations;
4. Urges participating States to pay due attention to the integrity and professionalism of law enforcement agencies and prosecution authorities, the efficient administration of justice and proper management of the court system, the independence of the judiciary and the proper functioning of the penitentiary system and to explore ways of alternatives to imprisonment;
5. Recommends, as part of policy planning in preventing and fighting organized crime, the improvement of data collection and analysis, the national development and use of risk and threat assessments, and the promotion of the exchange of information and best practices to the extent not already under way;
6. Recommends increasing national efforts at international co-operation, coordination and information exchange as an important step in countering transnational organized crime;
7. Urges participating States to enhance international legal cooperation in criminal matters, *inter alia*, through considering becoming parties to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo Convention), as appropriate the supplementing protocols thereto, the UN Convention against Corruption, and through implementing their obligations under these and

other multilateral and bilateral legal cooperation instruments to which they are a party including through appropriate utilization of the relevant articles on mutual legal assistance and extradition;

8. Urges participating States to consider accession to the Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons (Strasbourg, 21 November 1983) and its 1997 Additional Protocol, as appropriate, and to consider entering into bilateral agreements complementing this Convention, facilitating the transfer of sentenced persons;

9. Supports international police co-operation and takes note of the outcome of the OSCE chiefs of police meeting held in Brussels on 24 November 2006, including the suggestion to meet regularly, when such meetings are coordinated with and take into account other police chiefs' meetings;

10. Recommends undertaking efforts at outreach to the population, including cooperation between law enforcement authorities and civil society organizations, so that citizens may become more aware of their civil rights, develop greater trust in the criminal justice system as the guarantor of these rights, and feel comfortable when approaching the relevant authorities;

11.(a) Tasks the Secretary General and the relevant OSCE executive structures, within their respective mandates, with giving enhanced attention in their policies and activities to the key role of criminal justice systems in institution-building and in the promotion of the rule of law, as well as with co-operating and co-ordinating more closely in order to take better into account the interaction between the components of those systems;

(b) Tasks the Secretary General and the relevant OSCE executive structures, within their respective mandates, with building on and consolidating the existing knowledge and experience on criminal justice and organized crime;

(c) Tasks the Secretary General to support and promote international legal cooperation in criminal matters between participating States, also taking into account the framework provided by the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and supporting its Conference of Parties and to continue co-operating with the UNODC in matters including combating organized crime and illicit drugs;

(d) Tasks the Secretary General and the ODIHR to brief the participating States regularly and to present a joint written report to the participating States before the summer recess in 2007, on the implementation of the abovementioned tasks;

(e) Tasks the Permanent Council to take note of the above-mentioned report and to consider, if appropriate, a possible follow-up;

(f) Tasks the Secretary General and the relevant OSCE executive structures including ODIHR, as appropriate in coordination and cooperation with other international organizations and institutions, to stand ready to respond to project proposals and requests for cooperation from participating States and to consider facilitating training programmes, all within their respective mandates and as contributions are available for this purpose;

(g) Underlines the importance of increased coherence and continuity of the efforts of all concerned OSCE bodies as well as reinforced co-operation with specialized agencies. In this respect, tasks the Secretary General to enhance co-ordination of these activities, within available resources and mandates. Invites the participating States to extend support to these activities.

Decision No. 7/06

Countering the Use of the Internet for Terrorist Purposes

The Ministerial Council,

Recalling its previous decision on this issue (MC.DEC/3/04),

Remaining gravely concerned with the growing use of the Internet for terrorist purposes as outlined in the aforementioned decision and beyond,

Reaffirming in this context the importance of fully respecting the right to freedom of opinion and freedom of expression, which include the freedom to seek, receive and impart information, which are vital to democracy and in fact are strengthened by the Internet (PC.DEC/633 of 11 November 2004) and the rule of law,

Recognizing that United Nations Security Council resolution 1624 (2005) calls upon States to take measures that are necessary and appropriate, and in accordance with their obligations under international law, to prohibit by law incitement to commit a terrorist act or acts and to prevent such conduct,

Reaffirming our commitments under the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, in particular “to coordinate efforts at the international and regional level to counter terrorism in all its forms and manifestations on the Internet” and “to use the Internet as a tool for countering the spread of terrorism, while recognizing that States may require assistance in this regard”,

Noting the observation in the report by the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee (S/2006/737 of 15 September 2006) that several States reported they are studying the application of the prohibition on incitement in their national legislation to the Internet,

Noting recent developments, in particular the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism, regarding the obligations of States parties to this Convention to criminalize public provocation to commit a terrorist offence and recruitment and training for terrorism,

Recalling the Council of Europe’s Convention on Cybercrime (2001), the only legally binding multilateral instrument that specifically addresses cybercrime by, *inter alia*, providing for a common legal framework for international co-operation between States parties to this Convention in combating cybercrime, and its Additional Protocol concerning the criminalization of acts of a racist and xenophobic nature committed through computer systems,

Recognizing the commitment by the G8 Summit (St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, 16 July 2006) to effectively counter attempts to misuse cyberspace for terrorist purposes, including incitement to commit terrorist acts, to communicate and plan terrorist acts, as well as recruitment and training of terrorists, and in particular noting the role of the G8 24/7 Computer Crime Network for countering criminal conduct in cyberspace,

Recalling the results of the OSCE Special Meeting on the Relationship between Racist, Xenophobic and Anti-Semitic Propaganda on the Internet and Hate Crimes (Paris, 15 and 16 June 2004), as well as the outcomes of the OSCE Expert Workshop on Combating the Use of the Internet for Terrorist Purposes (Vienna, 13 and 14 October 2005) and the OSCE Council of Europe Expert Workshop on Preventing Terrorism: Fighting Incitement and Related Terrorist Activities (Vienna, 19 and 20 October 2006), and relevant work done by the OSCE Secretariat and institutions, in particular by the Representative on Freedom of the Media and the ODIHR,

Taking into account different national approaches to defining “illegal” and “objectionable” content and different methods of dealing with illegal and objectionable content in cyberspace, such

as the possible use of intelligence collected from Internet traffic and content to closing websites of terrorist organizations and their supporters,

Concerned with continued hacker attacks, which though not terrorism related, still demonstrate existing expertise in the field and thus providing a possibility of terrorist cyber attacks against computer systems, affecting the work of critical infrastructures, financial institutions or other vital networks,

1. Decides to intensify action by the OSCE and its participating States, notably by enhancing international co-operation on countering the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes;
2. Calls on participating States to consider taking all appropriate measures to protect vital critical information infrastructures and networks against the threat of cyber attacks;
3. Calls on participating States to consider becoming party to and to implement their obligations under the existing international and regional legal instruments, including the Council of Europe's Conventions on Cybercrime (2001) and on the Prevention of Terrorism (2005);
4. Encourages participating States to join the G8 24/7 Computer Crime Network and to nominate an appropriate unit/contact person for this network for the purpose of streamlining international law enforcement co-operation on combating the criminal misuse of cyberspace and in criminal cases that involve electronic evidence, as appropriate;
5. Calls on participating States, when requested to deal with content that is illegal under their national legislation and is hosted within their jurisdiction, to take all appropriate action against such content and to co-operate with other interested States, in accordance with their national legislation and the rule of law, and in line with their international obligations, including international human rights law;
6. Invites participating States to increase their monitoring of websites of terrorist/violent extremist organizations and their supporters and to invigorate their exchange of information in the OSCE and other relevant fora on the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes and measures taken to counter it, in line with national legislation, while ensuring respect for international human rights obligations and standards, including those concerning the rights to privacy and freedom of opinion and expression, and the rule of law. Duplication of efforts with ongoing activities in other international fora should be avoided;
7. Recommends participating States to explore the possibility of more active engagement of civil society institutions and the private sector in preventing and countering the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes;
8. Encourages participating States to participate in the May 2007 "OSCE political conference on public-private partnership in countering terrorism" in Vienna that will focus on the vital role the private sector, including businesses, civil society and the media, can play in co-operating with governments to prevent and combat terrorism;
9. Tasks the Secretary General to promote, notably through the OSCE CounterTerrorism Network, the exchange of information on the threat posed by the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes, including incitement, recruitment, fund raising, training, targeting and planning terrorist acts, and on legislative and other measures taken to counter this threat.

Decision No. 13/06

Combating Intolerance and Discrimination and Promoting Mutual Respect and Understanding

The Ministerial Council,

Recalling that respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law is at the core of the OSCE comprehensive concept of security,

Recognizing that manifestations of discrimination and intolerance threaten the security of individuals and societal cohesion, and may give rise to widescale conflict and violence,

Acknowledging that the promotion of a culture of mutual respect, understanding and equality and the pursuit of equal opportunities for effective participation in democratic societies requires a systematic, comprehensive and longterm approach,

Deeply concerned by racist, xenophobic and discriminatory public discourse,

Reaffirming the need for determination by the participating States in combating all acts and manifestations of hate, including hate crimes, recognizing that the efforts required to address them often involve a common approach, while at the same time recognizing the uniqueness of the manifestations and historical background of each form,

Recalling its commitments in the field of tolerance and non-discrimination enshrined in the 1975 Helsinki Final Act, the 1990 Charter of Paris for a New Europe, the 1991 Document of the Cracow Symposium on the Cultural Heritage of the CSCE Participating States, the 1999 Charter for European Security, as well as in the decisions of the OSCE Ministerial Council adopted at Porto (MC(10).DEC/6), Maastricht (MC.DEC/4/03), Sofia (MC.DEC/12/04) and Ljubljana (MC.DEC/10/05),

Recalling the OSCE's increased focus on combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding, embodied in the 2003 Vienna Conferences on Anti-Semitism and on Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, the April 2004 Berlin Conference on Anti-Semitism, the June 2004 Paris Meeting on the Relationship between Racist, Xenophobic and Anti-Semitic Propaganda on the Internet and Hate Crimes, the September 2004 Brussels Conference on Tolerance and the Fight against Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, and the June 2005 Cordoba Conference on Anti-Semitism and on Other Forms of Intolerance and recalling the outcomes of those conferences,

Reaffirming its determination to implement the existing OSCE commitments in the fields of tolerance and non-discrimination and noting the contribution of the 2006 tolerancerelated implementationfocused thematic meetings on InterCultural, InterReligious and InterEthnic Understanding (Almaty), on Education to Promote Mutual Respect and Understanding and to Teach about the Holocaust (Dubrovnik) and on Hate Crimes Data Collection (Vienna),

Recognizing the work of the three Personal Representatives of the Chairman in Office in support of the overall effort of the OSCE to combat intolerance and discrimination and wishing a review of their contribution to this overall effort by the Chairman-in-Office, in consultation with the participating States, during the course of 2007,

Acknowledging the essential role civil society can play in combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding,

Being alarmed at any rise of political parties, movements and groups advocating violence,

Also being concerned, in this context, at violent manifestations of extremism associated with racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism, aggressive nationalism and neoNazism,

Recalling the contribution of the OSCE to the UN Alliance of Civilizations Initiative with the goal of forging collective political will and mobilizing concerted action at the institutional and civil society levels to promote mutual respect and understanding, and noting the HighLevel Group's report, presented to the UN SecretaryGeneral on 13 November 2006 in Istanbul, which aims at establishing, under the auspices of the UN, partnerships between international organizations that share the goals of the Alliance of Civilizations,

1. Decides to convene, during the first half of 2007, a HighLevel Conference on Combating Discrimination and Promoting Mutual Respect and Understanding, following up on the 2005 Cordoba Conference on Anti-Semitism and Other Forms of Intolerance and welcomes the offer by Romania to host that Conference;
2. Tasks the Permanent Council to consider ways to further strengthen the effectiveness, coherence and consistency of the work of the OSCE in combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding, from 2007 onwards, with a view towards more effective implementation of commitments;
3. Encourages the participating States to recognize the positive contribution that all individuals can make to the harmonious pluralistic character of our societies by promoting policies focusing on equality of opportunity, rights, access to justice and public services, and on fostering dialogue and effective participation;
4. Commits to raise awareness of the value of cultural and religious diversity as a source of mutual enrichment of societies and to recognize the importance of integration with respect for cultural and religious diversity as a key element to promote mutual respect and understanding;
5. Calls upon the participating States to address the root causes of intolerance and discrimination by encouraging the development of comprehensive domestic education policies and strategies as well as through increased awarenessraising measures that:
 - Promote a greater understanding of and respect for different cultures, ethnicities, religions or beliefs;
 - Aim to prevent intolerance and discrimination, including against Christians, Jews, Muslims and members of other religions;
 - Promote remembrance and education about the tragedy of the Holocaust, as well as other genocides, recognized as such in accordance with the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, and crimes against humanity;
6. Acknowledges the important contribution youth can make to the fight against intolerance and discrimination and encourages the continuation and further development of good practice activities such as human rights education at an early age throughout the OSCE region and to organize an OSCE youth event in 2007 taking into account the experience and expertise of other relevant international and regional organizations in this field in order to avoid duplication;

7. Decides to promote capacitybuilding of law enforcement authorities through training and the development of guidelines on the most effective and appropriate way to respond to biasmotivated crime, to increase a positive interaction between police and victims and to encourage reporting by victims of hate crime, i.e., training for frontline officers, implementation of outreach programmes to improve relations between police and the public and training in providing referrals for victim assistance and protection;

8. Deplores racist, xenophobic and discriminatory public discourse, and stresses that political representatives can play a positive role in the overall promotion of mutual respect and understanding and have a significant impact in defusing tensions within societies, by speaking out against hate-motivated acts and incidents and by recognizing the positive contributions that all individuals can make to a harmonious pluralistic society;

9. Recognizes the essential role that the free and independent media can play in democratic societies and the strong influence it can have in countering or exacerbating misperceptions, prejudices and in that sense encourages the adoption of voluntary professional standards by journalists, media selfregulation and other appropriate mechanisms for ensuring increased professionalism, accuracy and adherence to ethical standards among journalists;

10. Underlines the crucial importance of States enacting a sound legal framework ensuring equality before the law and adequate judicial protection and pursuing strategic policies and plans that facilitate nondiscrimination and equal opportunities;

11. Encourages the participating States to step up their efforts in implementing their commitments to collect and maintain reliable data and statistics on hate crimes which are essential for effective policy formulation and appropriate resource allocation in countering hate-motivated incidents and, in this context, also invites the participating States to facilitate the capacity development of civil society to contribute in monitoring and reporting hate-motivated incidents and to assist victims of hate crimes;

12. Decides that the participating States should engage more actively in encouraging civil society's activities through effective partnerships and strengthened dialogue and cooperation between civil society and State authorities in the sphere of promoting mutual respect and understanding, equal opportunities and inclusion of all within society and combating intolerance, including by establishing local, regional or national consultation mechanisms where appropriate;

13. Encourages the OSCE executive structures, within their existing mandates, to incorporate elements combating intolerance and discrimination and the promotion of mutual respect and understanding into their current and future activities throughout the OSCE region;

14. Encourages the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), based on existing commitments, including through cooperation with relevant OSCE executive structures:

(a) To further strengthen the work of its Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Programme, in particular its assistance programmes, in order to assist participating States upon their request in implementing their commitments;

(b) To further strengthen the work of the ODIHR's Advisory Panel of Experts on Freedom of Religion or Belief in providing support and expert assistance to participating States;

(c) To continue its close cooperation with other relevant intergovernmental agencies and civil society working in the field of promoting mutual respect and understanding and combating intolerance and discrimination, including through hate crime data collection;

(d) To continue to serve as a collection point for information and statistics on hate crimes and relevant legislation provided by participating States and to make this information publicly available through its Tolerance and NonDiscrimination Information System and its report on Challenges and Responses to Hate-Motivated Incidents in the OSCE Region;

(e) To strengthen, within existing resources, its early warning function to identify, report and raise awareness on hate-motivated incidents and trends and to provide recommendations and assistance to participating States, upon their request, in areas where more adequate responses are needed;

15. Encourages the Representative on Freedom of the Media, within available resources, to consider reviewing best practices in matters of his/her competency relating to combating intolerance;

16. Looks forward to UN action on the report of the High Level Group of the Alliance of Civilizations Initiative with a view to considering an appropriate OSCE contribution towards its implementation.

Decision No. 14/06

Enhancing Efforts to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, including for Labour Exploitation, through a Comprehensive and Proactive Approach

The Ministerial Council,

Seriously concerned that all forms of trafficking in human beings remain widespread in the OSCE region and beyond, in spite of intensified national and international efforts to counter the phenomenon,

Considering that trafficking in human beings is a grave and heinous crime that violates human dignity and undermines the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and that feeds organized criminal networks,

Recognizing that law enforcement, prosecution of perpetrators, protection, rehabilitation, integration and reintegration of victims as appropriate, including their effective access to justice, as well as prevention, including by measures directed at the demand side, are important to effectively combat trafficking in human beings,

Underscoring that the complexity of trafficking in human beings requires a multidimensional and multi-actor response that should be coordinated at the national, regional and international levels,

Reiterating the support of the participating States for the ratification and implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo Convention), and its supplementing Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children,

Reaffirming the significance of the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, including its Addendum Addressing the Special Needs of Child Victims of Trafficking for Protection and Assistance endorsed by the Ministerial Council in Ljubljana in 2005, and its implementation by participating States,

Taking note of the outcome of the November 2006 Conference on Human Trafficking for Labour Exploitation/Forced and Bonded Labour, Prosecution of Offenders, Justice for Victims,

Recalling the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, in particular articles 6 and 7 on the right to work and to the enjoyment of just and favourable conditions of work,

1. Calls on the participating States to continue engaging at a senior political level with the Special Representative on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings to enhance the implementation of the OSCE anti-trafficking commitments;

2. Urges the participating States to promote a comprehensive approach to combating all forms of trafficking in human beings through national, regional and international arrangements, cooperation and coordination between law enforcement personnel, labour inspectorates, social protection units, medical institutions, immigration and border service officials, civil society organizations, victim support services, and the business community and any other relevant actors, also including a gender-sensitive approach. To this end, the participating States are recommended to establish National Referral Mechanisms (NRMs), as well as to appoint national coordinators;

3. Urges the participating States, with the support of the OSCE structures and institutions if requested, to improve research and the system of data collection and analysis, with due regard to the confidentiality of data, and where possible to disaggregate statistics by sex, age, and other relevant factors as appropriate, in order to better assess the character and scope of the problem and develop effective and well-targeted policies on trafficking in human beings. To this end, participating States are recommended to consider appointing National Rapporteurs or similar independent monitoring mechanisms;

4. Urges the participating States, in cooperation with international organizations and NGOs when appropriate, to seek to diminish the risk for repatriated victims to be re-trafficked, particularly by addressing factors that make persons more vulnerable to trafficking in human beings such as poverty, discrimination, lack of access to education and economic opportunities, sexual abuse, and domestic violence and by conducting risk assessments to ensure that return of victims is done with due regard for their safety;

5. Underlines the importance of providing effective access to justice for victims of trafficking in human beings, including in the areas of counselling and information about their legal rights in a language that they can understand, as well as in providing the possibility to obtain compensation for damage suffered and calls on the participating States to implement their obligations under the relevant provisions of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo Convention) and its supplementing Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children;

6. Encourages the participating States to combat trafficking in human beings for labour exploitation in a more proactive manner, including by:

(a) Ensuring that their national criminal legislation trafficking in human beings for labour exploitation complies with the requirements of the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children supplementing the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. To this end the participating States are encouraged to ensure that such crimes can be appropriately identified and prosecuted;

(b) Ensuring that minimum labour standards are reflected in their labour laws, and that their labour laws are enforced, in order to reduce the potential of trafficking in human beings for labour exploitation;

(c) Conducting training programmes for relevant officials, as well as other persons likely to come into contact with presumed trafficking victims, such as health workers, social workers, labour

inspectors, and others, in order to improve their ability to identify trafficking victims and refer them to assistance and protection services;

(d) Ensuring that information campaigns to raise awareness of trafficking do not contribute to further stigmatizing vulnerable groups which may lead to greater vulnerability to human rights abuses;

(e) Promoting outreach strategies, including in cooperation with relevant NGOs, to provide information on trafficking in human beings for labour exploitation to migrant communities and to persons working in low wage labour and particularly vulnerable sectors such as agriculture, construction, garment or restaurant industries, or as domestic servants, in order to improve victims' access to assistance and justice and encourage persons with information on possible trafficking situations to refer victims to such assistance and to report to appropriate authorities for investigation when there are reasonable grounds to believe that a crime has occurred;

(f) Developing and using advanced investigative methodology, in particular to allow cases of trafficking to be identified and prosecuted without relying only on victim testimony;

(g) Sharing current operational best practices in police investigations of trafficking in human beings for labour exploitation, and ensuring that police working on trafficking in human beings have regular contact with their counterparts in other agencies responsible for investigating labour conditions as appropriate and have a multidisciplinary approach to identifying and protecting the rights of victims of trafficking for labour exploitation;

7. Tasks the Permanent Council to consider ways to further strengthen efforts to combat trafficking in human beings, including for labour exploitation, taking into consideration the relevant OSCE commitments, the Action Plan on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and the outcome of the November 2006 Conference on Human Trafficking for Labour Exploitation/Forced and Bonded Labour, Prosecution of Offenders, Justice for Victims.

Decision No. 15/06

Combating Sexual Exploitation of Children

The Ministerial Council,

Recognizing that sexual exploitation of children is a grave and largescale problem throughout the OSCE region and beyond, with multiple, interlinked manifestations of all forms of sexual exploitation of children, including prostitution, child pornography, trafficking in children for sexual exploitation, sex tourism and forced marriages of children,

Recognizing that sexual exploitation of children violates human dignity and undermines the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Considering that sexual exploitation of children constitutes a grave and heinous crime, in many cases involving organized crime, that must be prevented, investigated, prosecuted and penalized with all available means,

Underlining the need to address the broad range of factors that make children vulnerable to sexual exploitation, including economic disparities, lack of access to education, and discrimination, including gender-related discrimination, as well as the need to counter demand for child pornography and sex tourism and to prevent the actions of perpetrators,

Considering that sexual exploitation of children is increasing and spreading through the use of new technologies such as the Internet,

Reaffirming all relevant OSCE commitments,

Taking note of the Resolution on Combating Trafficking and the Exploitation of Children in Pornography, adopted by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in Brussels at its 15th Annual Session,

Mindful of the relevant provisions of pertinent international instruments, including the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the UN Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, as well as the decisions and recommendations of pertinent international bodies,

Taking into account the provisions of the Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime (2001) relating to child pornography,

Recalling the Declaration and the Agenda for Action of the First World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, which took place in Sweden in 1996, and the Yokohama Global Commitment adopted at the Second World Congress in Japan in 2001,

Taking note of the recommendations from the United Nations SecretaryGeneral's Study on Violence against Children* as well as the work of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography,

1. Condemns the sexual exploitation of children in all its forms, *inter alia*:

(a) Through child prostitution and child pornography, including through offering, obtaining, procuring, providing, or recruiting a child for such purposes, or profiting from exploiting a child for such purposes;

(b) When use is made of coercion, force, fraud, or threats, abuse of trust, authority or influence over a child, or the offering or giving of money or other forms of remuneration/consideration in exchange for sexual activities, including during times of armed conflict or in post-conflict situations;

(c) The production, distribution, dissemination or transmission, offering or otherwise making available of all forms of child pornography (via computer systems, the Internet or by other means);

(d) The intentional acquisition and possession of child pornography;

(e) Trafficking of children for sexual exploitation;

2. Calls on the participating States to conform their legislation on this subject to their relevant international commitments and obligations;

3. Urges the participating States to adopt a holistic approach towards the problem of sexual exploitation of children, addressing root and contributing factors, including the demand that fosters all forms of sexual exploitation of children, and to develop comprehensive and proactive strategies and measures aimed at preventing and combating the sexual exploitation of children;

* UNGA A/61/299 distributed on 29 August 2006. The SecretaryGeneral's report on Violence against Children was presented on 11 October 2006, to the 3rd Committee of the General Assembly (<http://www.violencestudy.org>), by the Independent Expert, Paulo Sergio Pinheiro (<http://www.violencestudy.org/a30>).

4. Strongly urges the participating States to take all legal measures to prosecute the sexual exploitation of children, imposing penalties that are effective, proportionate and dissuasive. In this regard, encourages the participating States to consider legal measures that would allow them to prosecute their citizens for serious sexual crimes against children, even if these crimes are committed in another country;
5. Calls upon the participating States to enhance the ability of law enforcement to proactively investigate and prosecute offenders;
6. Calls on the participating States to facilitate legal protection, assistance, appropriate medical care, rehabilitation and reintegration programmes for child victims of sexual exploitation and, where appropriate, to ensure the safe return of trafficked children;
7. Calls on the participating States to raise awareness at all levels of society on the problem of the sexual exploitation of children;
8. Advises the participating States to develop compatible and exchangeable data registration systems specific to the sexual exploitation of children, with due regard for the confidentiality of personal data, and to promote comprehensive data collection mechanisms and research on the sexual exploitation of children;
9. Supports measures by the participating States, in collaboration with nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and appropriate representatives of relevant sectors of the economy, such as the travel, hospitality or media industries, to eliminate demand for sexual exploitation of children;
10. Urges increased cooperation among the participating States for the detection, investigation, prosecution and punishment of those responsible for the sexual exploitation of children;
11. Recommends that the participating States establish training programmes concerning sexual exploitation of children for personnel, including those working in the areas of justice, policing, tourism, transport, social work, health care, civil society, religious organizations, and education;
12. Advocates that relevant authorities in the participating States, in accordance with national legislation concerning the protection of personal data, work with Internet service providers, credit-card companies, banks and other corporations as well as relevant NGOs, to ensure information related to the sexual exploitation of children is tracked and reported;
13. Recommends the creation of telephone or Internet hotlines, possibly in collaboration with NGOs, to which individuals can confidentially report instances of sexual exploitation of children, so that such reports can be investigated by law enforcement, and so that victims and their families can receive appropriate support;
14. Takes note of civil society initiatives to combat the sexual exploitation of children, including, *inter alia*, the Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism drawn up by ECPAT (End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking in Children for Sexual Purposes);
15. Tasks the OSCE executive structures, within their existing mandates, to examine ways of ensuring appropriate training and awareness raising regarding the problem of sexual exploitation of children for OSCE officials keeping in mind the Code of Conduct for OSCE Officials and Staff Instruction No. 11 addressing trafficking in human beings;

16. Encourages relevant OSCE executive structures, within their existing mandates, to devote attention to the area of sexual exploitation of children, including links to trafficking in persons, and emphasizes the need for them and the participating States to cooperate with other international organizations, NGOs and civil society in combating the sexual exploitation of children.

Decision No. 17/06

Improvement of the Consultative Process

The Ministerial Council,

Bearing in mind the comprehensive approach of the OSCE to security, covering the politico-military, economic and environmental, and human dimensions, while recognizing the need for a cross-dimensional perspective, both in terms of conceptual approach and programme activities,

Taking note of the recommendation of the Panel of Eminent Persons for introducing a committee structure in order to make the consultative and decision-making process more participatory, interactive and transparent, involving all the participating States more actively and effectively, and for broadening the ownership of the participatory process,

Recalling Ljubljana Ministerial Council Decision No. 17/05 on strengthening the effectiveness of the OSCE,

Recognizing the need for improved consultations and dialogue, also with a view to preparing debates, conclusions and decisions in the Permanent Council,

Mindful of the desirability to avoid setting up working groups and to discourage the creation of additional bodies,

Desiring to enhance cooperation, to address new threats to security more effectively and to provide a comprehensive and more effective framework for political dialogue among all the participating States,

Decides to establish the following committees as informal subsidiary bodies of the Permanent Council:

A Security Committee (...)

An Economic and Environmental Committee, which will subsume the existing Economic and Environmental Subcommittee of the Permanent Council (...)

A Human Dimension Committee, which will perform the following tasks:

- Discuss human dimension issues, including implementation of the commitments of the participating States;
- Support the preparation of the Human Dimension Implementation Meetings and other human dimension meetings;
- Consider, when so requested by the Chairmanship in consultation with participating States, cross-dimensional issues with a particular connection to the human dimension;

- Discuss recommendations to the Permanent Council on the programme of work, including actions to follow up on recommendations made at the human dimension meetings;

Further decides that:

At the beginning of each year, the Chairmanship, in consultation with the participating States, will further clarify the tasks of the above-mentioned Committees and establish a work programme reflecting the objectives and priorities of the Organization, also taking into account the need to ensure adequate coverage of the cross-dimensional issues under consideration.

(...)

The above-mentioned Committees will meet in an informal format and will report, provide advice, make recommendations and prepare relevant decisions for the Permanent Council through the Preparatory Committee. The relevant provisions of the OSCE Rules of Procedure, in particular Chapter V(A), will apply to the work of the Committees.

(...)

As a rule, each Committee will meet at least once a month. At the initiative of the Chairmanship, or of the chairperson of the Committee, or at the request of one or more participating States, each Committee may meet as frequently as necessary, based on the need for consultations or the necessity to prepare for decision-making by the Permanent Council. The Chairmanship and chairpersons of the Committees will avoid convening meetings of informal subsidiary bodies simultaneously.

The Committees will examine issues within their competence at the request of the Chairmanship, the Permanent Council or one or more participating States.

Paragraphs 6 to 9 of Chapter V(A) of the OSCE Rules of Procedure will apply with regard to participation in meetings of the three newly established Committees in the same way as they apply to participation in meetings of the Preparatory Committee.

The Secretariat of the OSCE will provide support for the activities of the Committees.

This decision will be applicable for a period of one year from 1 January 2007. It will be subject to review by the Permanent Council at the end of 2007, with a view to deciding on its possible extension taking into account the experience gained with the new structure.

Decision No. 19/06

Strengthening the Effectiveness of the OSCE

The Ministerial Council,

Taking into account the recommendations issued by the Panel of Eminent Persons (CIO.GAL/100/05 of 27 June 2005),

In fulfilment of Ministerial Council Decision No. 17/05 on strengthening the effectiveness of the OSCE,

Reaffirming its full adherence to OSCE norms, principles and commitments, as enshrined in particular in the 1975 Helsinki Final Act and the 1990 Charter of Paris for a new Europe, and which apply equally, and to all participating States,

Underlining the role of the Organization as a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter and as a key instrument for early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation,

Reaffirming OSCE's comprehensive approach to security and the importance of all three dimensions, the politicomilitary, the economic and environmental, and the human dimensions, while keeping in mind that many of its activities are of a cross dimensional nature,

Recognizing the common challenges of the participating States and the need to cooperate in a spirit of partnership and common purpose,

Calling on participating States to make full use of the Organization as a forum for political dialogue,

Encouraging the participating States to take advantage, as appropriate, of the assistance offered by the institutions and the field operations of the OSCE to implement their commitments,

Confirming its determination to strengthen the effectiveness of the OSCE and to keep the Organization and its working practices continuously in line with the requirements of the time and the evolving challenges, pursuing in particular the following objectives:

- Better focusing and prioritizing the work of the Organization in those areas where it has a comparative advantage,
- Ensuring the longterm coherence of priorities and action plans in accordance with OSCE commitments and decisions,
- Improving the transparency and the effectiveness of the decisionmaking process based on sovereign equality of States and the rule of consensus,
- Fostering among the participating States the sense of common purpose and of shared responsibilities,

Section 1: Report of the Permanent Council

1. Thanks the Permanent Council for the work carried out under Ministerial Council Decision No. 17/05 paragraph 1, and takes note of the report issued under the responsibility of the Chairmanship (MC.GAL/2/06);

(...)

Section 2: Report of the ODIHR

1. Thanks the ODIHR for the work carried out under Ministerial Council Decision No. 17/05 paragraph 2 and takes note of its report issued on 10 November 2006;

2. Recognizes that the ODIHR, in implementing its mandate, has demonstrated its ability to assist participating States in fulfilling their human dimension commitments;

3. Reminds the participating States that they should keep their legislation and practices in line with OSCE commitments;

4. Takes note of the assessment regarding the present state of implementation of existing commitments by participating States and emphasizes, in particular, that participating States themselves are responsible for the effective implementation of their commitments undertaken in the OSCE. The ODIHR, in this respect, plays an important role in assisting them;
5. Tasks the Permanent Council, taking into account the recommendations by ODIHR and other relevant OSCE institutions, to address the implementation challenges in the areas outlined in the report, considering making better use of ODIHR assistance;
6. Takes note of the suggestions in the report relating to new commitments and requests the Permanent Council to advise on them, in time for the Ministerial Council meeting in Madrid in 2007;
7. Recognizes ODIHR's expertise in assisting the participating States through its election-related activities, including reviewing election legislation and carrying out election observations;
8. Commits to further develop OSCE's election related activities, and in this context, reaffirms the provisions of the Document of the Copenhagen Meeting on the Human Dimension of the CSCE (1990) as the corner stone of the common OSCE commitments of the participating States to protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms, including those that are necessary for achieving democratic elections;
9. Notes that relevant provisions of the Budapest Summit Declaration (1994), the Lisbon Summit Declaration (1996), the Istanbul Summit Declaration (1999), the Charter for European Security (1999) and subsequent decisions of the Ministerial Councils of Porto (2002) and Maastricht (2003) have supplemented those commitments;
10. Reaffirms the commitments of the participating States to invite observers to elections from other participating States, the ODIHR, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and appropriate institutions and organizations that wish to observe;
11. Emphasizes that the participating States can themselves effectively contribute to enhance the integrity of the electoral process by seconding observers;
12. Recognizes the ongoing need to ensure accountability, objectivity, transparency and professionalism of election observation;
13. Agrees that ODIHR should put into practice the improvements and recommendations concerning election related activities, including as contained in the report, and particularly as listed below, and will regularly submit reports on their implementation, through its Director, for review by the Permanent Council as appropriate:
 - To further strengthen the observation methodology and assistance programmes;
 - To ensure as wide as possible geographical coverage in ODIHR's election activities;
 - To further diversify the participation of short-term, long-term and "core team" observers based on increased support of a wider range of participating States, by encouraging the participating States to contribute to the diversification fund, by supporting national training efforts and by developing OSCEwide networks of election observation practitioners;
 - While maintaining the highest professional standards, to further increase the transparency of recruitment of members of observation teams, including by active advertising, training, competitive procedures and open rosters for heads of election observation missions and "core team"

members, which are regularly communicated to participating States and available through publicly accessible databases;

- To give utmost attention to the independence, impartiality and professionalism of ODIHR's election observation;
- To enhance the linguistic inclusiveness and ensure that languages used would not affect in any way the effectiveness of the observation;

14. Stresses that election observation is a common endeavour involving the OSCE/ODIHR, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and other parliamentary institutions;

15. Recognizes that close cooperation with the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly considerably enhances the visibility of the OSCE's election observation efforts, and calls on the ODIHR to continue to work in partnership with the Parliamentary Assembly on election observation missions on the basis of the 1997 Co-operation Agreement;

16. Welcomes the suggestions of further efforts to increase the effectiveness of the ODIHR's assistance provided to the participating States at their request and including by making better use of the Human Dimension meetings.

Document of the Fifteenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council

Madrid 2007

I. Statements and Declarations by the Ministerial Council

Ministerial Statement on Supporting the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy

1. We, the members of the Ministerial Council of the OSCE, remain concerned about the persistent terrorist threat in the OSCE area.
2. We reaffirm the existing OSCE counter-terrorism commitments and the intention to maintain our counter-terrorist activities as priorities for the OSCE.
3. We recognize the leading role of the United Nations in the international efforts against terrorism and support the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy adopted on 8 September 2006 by the UN General Assembly, which we look upon as providing guidance for OSCE counter-terrorism activities, since the Strategy outlines a comprehensive global approach towards countering terrorism by addressing not only its manifestations, but also the conditions conducive to its spread, within a framework based on human rights and the rule of law and complying with all obligations under international law, in particular international human rights law, refugee law and humanitarian law.
4. We recall the comprehensive global approach of the Strategy towards countering terrorism by addressing not only its manifestations, but also the conditions conducive to its spread, including but not limited to, prolonged unresolved conflicts, dehumanization of victims of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, lack of rule of law and violations of human rights, ethnic, national and religious discrimination, political exclusion, socioeconomic marginalization and lack of good governance, while recognizing that none of these conditions can excuse or justify acts of terrorism.
5. We note that the UN General Assembly encourages regional organizations “to support the implementation of the Strategy, including through mobilizing resources and expertise”.
6. We recall the commitment to implement all UN Security Council resolutions related to international terrorism, recognizing that many States continue to require assistance in their implementation.
7. We support the OSCE Secretariat’s work to promote the implementation of the Strategy, in particular the annual high-level consultations between representatives of the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe and the United Nations (Vienna, February 2007) in the “Tripartite-Plus” format, as well as the roundtables for counter-terrorism practitioners from regional organizations and counterterrorism centres in Copenhagen (July 2006) and Vilnius (June 2007), organized by the OSCE Action against Terrorism Unit.

8. We are satisfied that the OSCE approach to the fight against terrorism corresponds to that of the UN Strategy, because, among other things, it promotes the rule of law, respect for human rights and effective criminal justice systems, all of which constitute the fundamental basis of our common fight against terrorism, and that all our counter-terrorist activities could be seen as a contribution to the Strategy's implementation. The OSCE, in particular its participating States, assisted when necessary by the Secretariat, institutions and field presences, will continue to implement counter-terrorism commitments and could focus, albeit not exclusively, on the following activities:

9. The OSCE will continue promoting the international legal framework against terrorism, in particular the universal anti-terrorism conventions and protocols, encouraging participating States to become parties to them and to implement their obligations under these instruments;

10. After conducting, in the period 2005–2007, in co-operation with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), a number of workshops at the OSCE-wide, subregional and national levels, aimed at enhancing international legal co-operation in criminal matters related to terrorism on the basis of the principle of *extradite or prosecute*, and recognizing the emphasis the UN Strategy places on prosecution and related judicial co-operation, the Secretariat will continue its legal co-operation programme with particular – though not exclusive – attention to training assistance to judicial officials at the subregional and national levels;

(...)

12. Having developed a comprehensive programme on travel document security, which fully corresponds to the call of the UN Strategy to step up efforts and co-operation to improve security of manufacturing and issuing of identity and travel documents, the OSCE Action against Terrorism Unit will strengthen its efforts to facilitate the deployment of technical platforms for accessing Interpol's stolen and lost travel documents database at border control points, will encourage States to report data on lost and stolen documents to Interpol, and will continue to promote technological upgrades of travel documents and the implementation of a comprehensive and secure handling and issuance process, in line with ICAO standards, that protects identity and strengthens civil registry systems which would respect the principle of non-discrimination;

13. Participating States will co-operate fully in the fight against terrorism, in accordance with their obligations under international law, in order to find, deny safe haven to and bring to justice, on the basis of the principle of *extradite or prosecute*, any person who supports, facilitates, participates in or attempts to participate in the financing, planning, preparation or perpetration of terrorist acts or provides safe havens. Participating States will take appropriate measures in conformity with the relevant provisions of national and international law, including international standards of human rights, before granting refugee status, for the purpose of ensuring that the asylum seeker has not planned, facilitated or participated in the commission of terrorist acts. They will ensure, in conformity with international law, that refugee status is not abused by the perpetrators, organizers or facilitators of terrorist acts, and that claims of political motivation are not recognized as grounds for refusing requests for the extradition of alleged terrorists;

14. Remaining seriously concerned about the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes, the OSCE participating States will continue the exchange of information about this threat, and take other measures in accordance with Ministerial Council Decision No. 7/06 on countering the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes;

15. The OSCE will support efforts by the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee/ CounterTerrorism Committee Executive Directorate to advance implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1624 (2005);

16. The OSCE will continue its participation in processes for the resolution of protracted conflicts, which are among the conditions conducive to terrorism;

17. The OSCE will continue its activities in countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism. Intolerance and discrimination must be addressed and countered by the OSCE's participating States and OSCE's executive structures within their respective mandates. The Permanent Council, with the support of the Secretariat and institutions, will consider in 2008 how the OSCE, with a multidimensional approach, could contribute to the development of a better understanding of the phenomena of violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, through sharing of national experiences;

(...)

19. The OSCE will remain committed to the promotion of public-private partnerships in countering terrorism and will continue involving the private sector (civil society and the business community) in its counter-terrorism activities;

(...)

21. Working in close co-operation with UNODC, the OSCE will remain seized of the threat of illicit drugs, following up on activities successfully carried out in 2006 and 2007 on this issue;

22. The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights will continue to assist participating States, at their request, in ensuring that their counterterrorism initiatives are human rights compliant, pursuant to their OSCE commitments. The ODIHR will continue to offer technical assistance and advice on the human rights aspects of the drafting and implementation of national legislation aimed at countering the threats posed by terrorism, violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, and will continue to facilitate dialogue between State and non-governmental actors with a view to exploring areas of cooperation and mutual assistance;

23. The OSCE institutions will continue their overall effort aimed at combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding, *inter alia* through projects and programmes involving all sectors of society;

24. The OSCE will continue addressing the issue of solidarity with the victims of terrorism, drawing, *inter alia*, on Permanent Council Decision No. 618 on solidarity with victims of terrorism and taking note of the High-Level Meeting on Victims of Terrorism held in Vienna in September 2007.

25. We reiterate that the OSCE, including its Secretariat, institutions and field presences, is ready to work closely with the United Nations system, and other international and regional organizations for the implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The OSCE will continue supporting the UN in its counter-terrorism efforts and will cooperate with other international and regional organizations active in this area, facilitating their capacity-building assistance to participating States, supporting and promoting their counterterrorism and security standards, identified as best practices for countering terrorism as well as contributing to networking between counter-terrorism practitioners from participating States and international and regional organizations to bring about better cooperation and synergies in their work, thus making its contribution to the global effort against terrorism.

II. Decisions of the Ministerial Council

Decision No. 8/07

Combating Trafficking in Human Beings for Labour Exploitation

The Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming our determination to combat all forms of trafficking in human beings, as well as reaffirming the commitments that the participating States have undertaken in the field of combating trafficking in human beings and the resolve to implement them,

Recalling the tasking of the Brussels Ministerial Council Decision No. 14 to consider ways to further strengthen efforts to combat trafficking in human beings, including for labour exploitation (MC.DEC/14/06),

Reaffirming furthermore the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, which provides participating States with a comprehensive toolkit for combating all forms of trafficking in human beings by protecting victims, preventing trafficking in human beings and prosecuting those who facilitate or commit the crime,

Reiterating the support of the participating States for the ratification and implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its supplementing Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children,

Seriously concerned that trafficking in human beings remains widespread in the OSCE region and beyond, despite national and international efforts to prevent it and to bring to justice those responsible,

Recognizing the need to strengthen further the framework of OSCE commitments to address the challenges of trafficking for labour exploitation,

Recognizing the vulnerability of children to trafficking for labour exploitation and the special needs of child victims,

Emphasizing that policies and practices to address trafficking for labour exploitation, which arises within the formal and informal economy, should be comprehensive and therefore include enforcement of labour laws,

Underlining that measures to address trafficking for labour exploitation should be formulated with and encourage greater participation of labour actors, including workers and employers organizations, labour administrators and inspectors,

Reaffirming the OSCE commitments concerning travel document security,

Recognizing that persons with irregular immigration status are likely to be more vulnerable to trafficking for labour exploitation,

Reaffirming the need to ensure respect for human rights and in this context recalling the core international human rights instruments of the United Nations, including, as they may apply to those particularly vulnerable to trafficking for labour exploitation,

Recognizing the challenges of identification of and assistance to victims, including their uncertainty regarding their eventual residential status, and that might arise out of the use of intimidation and the exploitation of victim's fears by traffickers, and recognizing the need for complaints procedures that encourage victims to come forward,

Calls on participating States to:

1. Ensure that victims of trafficking for labour exploitation have access to justice;
2. In conformity with domestic law and international obligations, provide a reflection delay and grant temporary or permanent residence permits to victims of trafficking, allow for the provision of work permits to victims during their stay, and raise awareness of such opportunities;
3. Ensure the provision of assistance to victims of trafficking for labour exploitation, and in particular access to shelter, healthcare, legal assistance and social assistance taking into consideration the recommendations in Part V of the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings and its Addendum Addressing the Special Needs of Child Victims of Trafficking for Protection and Assistance, and raise awareness about the availability of such services;
4. Provide increased efforts and more effective procedures to identify victims of trafficking and, in this respect, provide training and resources necessary for this task to their labour inspectors and, where appropriate, step up inspections in sectors vulnerable to labour exploitation;
5. Support and promote partnerships between civil society, including NGOs, and State agencies with a labour protection mandate to monitor working conditions, to provide, among others, assistance to victims and prevent trafficking for labour exploitation and violation of labour laws, including through targeted awareness-raising programmes or voluntary codes of conduct;
6. Consider allowing, in accordance with national law, for alternate representation for victims of trafficking for labour exploitation in proceedings where the victim is unable to do so;
7. Consider elaborating or strengthening their legislation that offers victims of trafficking for labour exploitation the possibility of obtaining compensation for damage suffered, including, where appropriate, restitution of wages owed to them;
8. Increase multi-agency cooperation and interaction on labour trafficking issues among their labour and immigration officials, law enforcement, judicial officials and social services providers, including through the establishment or strengthening, as appropriate, of national referral mechanisms as recommended in the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings;
9. Ensure that civil society organizations, which legally provide assistance to victims of trafficking for labour exploitation, are not penalized or criminalized for providing such assistance;
10. Provide, in accordance with the basic principles of their legal system, for the possibility, where appropriate, of not imposing penalties on victims for their involvement in unlawful activities, to the extent that they have been compelled to do so;
11. Ensure effective complaint procedures where individuals can report in a confidential manner circumstances that might be indicative of a situation of trafficking for labour exploitation, such as exploitative working and living conditions;

12. Develop indicators taking into account, as appropriate, those developed by the ILO Committee of Experts to ensure consistency and transparency in the identification of victims of trafficking for labour exploitation and in the detection of situations of trafficking for labour exploitation;
13. Consider further expert discussion of how to distinguish cases of trafficking for labour exploitation from other situations of irregular employment;
14. Ensure effective and proportionate sanctions against those who facilitate trafficking for labour exploitation, including exploitative employers;
15. Ensure effective sanctions when employers or recruitment agencies create situations of debt bondage;
16. Develop programmes to curb the fraudulent recruitment used by some employment agencies that can make persons more vulnerable to being trafficked;
17. Consider ensuring that contractors who knowingly use subcontractors involved in trafficking for labour exploitation can be held accountable for that crime;
18. Consider providing training for judges, prosecutors, police officers and labour inspectors concerning trafficking for labour exploitation, from the perspectives of both prosecution and victim protection, and in this respect, ensure, where necessary, adequate resources are provided;
19. Target awareness-raising campaigns in countries of origin, transit and destination, directed in particular at groups vulnerable to trafficking for labour exploitation;
20. Intensify efforts to prevent child labour, by considering signing and ratifying the ILO Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labour, 1999, if they have not already done so, and if they are already parties to it, by implementing its provisions;
21. Increase co-operation at an international level by sharing information and best practices on combating trafficking for labour exploitation, and examining ways to strengthen collaboration concerning law enforcement as well as victim protection and reintegration assistance in situations of repatriation;
22. Improve data collection and analysis of the nexus between trafficking for labour exploitation and migration and share such information with other OSCE participating States.

Decision No. 9/07

Combating Sexual Exploitation of Children on the Internet

The Ministerial Council,

Alarmed that the growth of the Internet has generated an enormous global expansion of the viewing and distribution of child pornography and of its profits, including for criminal organizations,

Reaffirming participating States commitment to implement Brussels Ministerial Council Decision No. 15/06 and taking note of the efforts of the OSCE executive structures to assist participating States in this regard,

Taking into account the proceedings of the 20 and 21 September 2007 experts meeting on the sexual exploitation of children on the Internet and of the 18 and 19 October 2007 Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on combating the sexual exploitation of children,

Determined to combat this growing phenomenon, including through increasing OSCE activity to address it, decides to:

1. Encourage participating States that have not already done so to establish a national operational centre, or other structure as appropriate, to increase co-ordination and to involve to the extent possible public private partnership in order to more effectively address issues related to sexual exploitation of children;
2. Call on participating States that have not already done so to collect and store information, in accordance with national provisions on the protection of personal data, on persons convicted of child sexual exploitation or abuse in order to facilitate the apprehension of perpetrators and monitoring of their probation, and to develop, where appropriate, instruments to enable the exchange of information internationally among law enforcement agencies pertaining to sex offenders' convictions and disqualifications;
3. Encourage participating States that have not already done so to establish a system that allows law enforcement to work with public broadcasting and quickly send out a public alert when a child is found missing, when appropriate;
4. Urge participating States that have not already done so to consider criminalizing the intentional acquisition and possession of child pornography, given that the viewing and possession of child pornography stimulates the growth of this illicit industry;
5. Advocate that participating States that have not already done so set up specific national hot-lines for the reporting of child abuse, including sexual exploitation of children on the Internet;
6. Call on participating States to support, as appropriate, increased data collection and research on sexual exploitation of children and child pornography on the Internet in order to better understand the scope and trends of the problem and thereby increase the effectiveness of programmes to combat it;
7. Advocate that participating States, in accordance with national legislation concerning the protection of personal data, work not only on a national basis but also on an international basis with Internet service providers, credit-card companies, banks and other relevant corporations to prevent the use of the Internet for sexual exploitation of children and to impede payment methods in order to make the crime less profitable in order to address demand for child pornography on the Internet;
8. Reiterate our call on the participating States to facilitate legal protection, assistance, appropriate medical care, rehabilitation and reintegration programmes for child victims of sexual exploitation and, where appropriate, to ensure the safe return of children trafficked internationally;
9. Urge OSCE participating States to further enhance specialized training for law enforcement, teachers and health professionals, as appropriate, on combating child pornography on the Internet, including by taking advantage of existing programmes such as that offered by the International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children, and tasks the relevant OSCE executive structures to facilitate contacts in this regard;

10. Task the relevant OSCE executive structures to assist OSCE participating States, on their request, with the implementation of this decision and Ministerial Council Decision No. 15/06, within available resources and without prejudice to existing activities;
11. Task, within existing resources, the OSCE Secretariat to set up within the POLIS website of its Strategic Police Matters Unit a multilingual section devoted to combating sexual exploitation of children on the Internet, and in this regard the POLIS section should create an expert forum that would facilitate access of participating States' law enforcement agencies to best practices and available investigative techniques or software, access to legislative drafting assistance or legislative models, and provide awareness-raising information and web links for the public;
12. Task the OSCE Secretariat to organize in 2008 an OSCE on-line workshop through the POLIS website on sexual exploitation of children on the Internet, funded with extrabudgetary contributions;
13. Task the Secretary General, in consultation with the participating States, to consider ways to increase OSCE expertise on the issue, within existing resources and with due regard to the activities of other international organizations;
14. Invite OSCE Partners for Co-operation to voluntarily share the commitments of the participating States on combating sexual exploitation of children.

Decision No. 10/07

Tolerance and Non-Discrimination: Promoting Mutual Respect and Understanding

The Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming that respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law is at the core of the OSCE comprehensive concept of security, and that tolerance and non-discrimination are important elements in the promotion of human rights and democratic values,

Reaffirming that manifestations of discrimination and intolerance threaten the security of individuals and societal cohesion and reiterating that they may give rise to widescale conflict and violence,

Concerned by hate crimes throughout the OSCE region and acknowledging the need for co-operation to combat effectively such crimes, and taking note of the ODIHR's report on "Hate Crimes in the OSCE Region: Incidents and Responses", as tasked by participating States,

Recognizing the role that national parliaments play by enacting hate crime and antidiscrimination legislation, as well as serving as a forum for a national debate, and recognizing also the role that the Parliamentary Assembly plays in raising awareness of existing OSCE commitments in the field of tolerance and non-discrimination,

Highlighting the work of the three Personal Representatives of the Chairman in Office in support of the overall effort of the OSCE to combat intolerance and discrimination, and looking forward to the conclusions of the review by the Chairman in Office, in consultation with the participating States,

Underscoring that the primary responsibility for addressing acts of intolerance and discrimination rests with participating States, including their political representatives,

Reaffirming its commitment to raise awareness of the value of cultural and religious diversity as a source of mutual enrichment of societies and to recognize the importance of integration with respect for cultural and religious diversity as a key element to promote mutual respect and understanding,

Acknowledging the important role youth can play in fostering mutual respect and understanding between cultures and religions contributing to the promotion of democracy, human rights and fundamental freedoms, and in this regard taking note of the Youth Forum held in Madrid on 5 and 6 November 2007,

Recognizing that manifestations of intolerance and discrimination can undermine the efforts to protect the rights of individuals, including migrants, refugees and persons belonging to national minorities and stateless persons,

Recognizing the importance of freedom of religion or belief and education on tolerance and non-discrimination as a means to promote mutual respect and understanding and in this regard taking note of the presentation of the “Toledo Guiding Principles on Teaching about Religions and Beliefs in Public Schools”,

Reiterating the interest of the OSCE in the Alliance of Civilizations initiative with a view to considering an appropriate OSCE contribution to the implementation phase of the High-Level Group’s report,

Noting the appointment of the United Nations High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations and his presentation of the Implementation Plan (2007–2009) to the Group of Friends Ministerial Meeting in September 2007 in New York, as well as the upcoming First Annual Forum of the Alliance in Madrid in January 2008,

Recalling the OSCE commitments on promoting tolerance and nondiscrimination, as undertaken by previous Ministerial Councils, and taking note of the outcomes of the various conferences focusing on tolerance and nondiscrimination,

Appreciating the OSCE High Level Conference on Combating Discrimination and Promoting Mutual Respect and Understanding, follow-up to the 2005 Cordoba Conference on Anti-Semitism and Other Forms of Intolerance, held in Bucharest in June 2007, and noting the Declaration made by the Chairman-in-Office – Bucharest Declaration,

Recalling furthermore the OSCE Chairmanship Conference on Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims held in Cordoba in October, and noting the “Chairmanship Cordoba Declaration on Combating Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims”,

Acknowledging the specificity of different forms of intolerance, while at the same time recognizing the importance of taking a comprehensive approach and addressing crosscutting issues in such fields as, *inter alia*, legislation, law enforcement, data collection and monitoring of hate crimes, education, media and constructive public discourse and the promotion of intercultural dialogue, in order to effectively combat all forms of discrimination,

1. Calls for continued efforts by political representatives, including parliamentarians, strongly to reject and condemn manifestations of racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism, discrimination and intolerance, including against Christians, Jews, Muslims and members of other religions, as well as violent manifestations of extremism associated with aggressive nationalism and neo-Nazism, while continuing to respect freedom of expression;

2. Underlines the continued need for participating States to collect and maintain reliable data and statistics on hate crimes and incidents, to train relevant law enforcement officers and to strengthen cooperation with civil society;
3. Encourages the promotion of educational programmes in the participating States in order to raise awareness among youth of the value of mutual respect and understanding;
4. Reiterates the recognition of the essential role that the free and independent media can play in democratic societies and the strong influence it can have in countering or exacerbating misperceptions and prejudices and in that sense continues to encourage the adoption of voluntary professional standards by journalists, media self-regulation and other appropriate mechanisms for ensuring increased professionalism, accuracy and adherence to ethical standards among journalists;
5. Calls on participating States to increase their efforts, in co-operation with civil society to counter the incitement to imminent violence and hate crimes, including through the Internet, within the framework of their national legislation, while respecting freedom of expression, and underlines at the same time that the opportunities offered by the Internet for the promotion of democracy, human rights and tolerance education should be fully exploited;
6. Calls for a strengthened commitment to implement the Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE Area;
7. Calls on participating States to protect migrants legally residing in host countries and persons belonging to national minorities, stateless persons and refugees from racism, xenophobia, discrimination and violent acts of intolerance and to elaborate or strengthen national strategies and programmes for the integration of regular migrants, which also requires active engagement of the latter;
8. Encourages participating States to share best practices in their legislation, policies and programmes that help to foster inclusive societies based on respect for cultural and religious diversity, human rights and democratic principles;
9. Commits to ensure efficient follow-up on the work done so far by the participating States and relevant OSCE institutions, particularly ODIHR through its Tolerance and NonDiscrimination programme, to promote within their mandates tolerance and nondiscrimination, underlining the importance of implementing the existing OSCE commitments taking into account the experience and expertise of other relevant international and regional organizations in this field in order to avoid duplication, and shall consider future conferences at the political level, possibly at regular intervals, with implementation meetings in 2008;
10. Encourages the establishment of national institutions or specialized bodies by the participating States which have not yet done so, to combat intolerance and discrimination as well as the development and implementation of national strategies and action plans in this field, drawing on the expertise and assistance of the relevant OSCE institutions, based on existing commitments, and the relevant international agencies, as appropriate;
11. Decides to consider an appropriate OSCE contribution to the implementation phase of the Alliance of Civilizations' High-Level Group recommendations, taking into account the Implementation Plan prepared by the United Nations High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations, and recommends that the OSCE Secretary General, in consultation with the Chairman-in-Office, attends the upcoming first Annual Forum of the Alliance in Madrid and reports on its outcome to the participating States.

Document of the Sixteenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council

Helsinki 2008

I. Statements and Declarations by the Ministerial Council

Ministerial Declaration on the Occasion of the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

We, the members of the Ministerial Council of the OSCE, reaffirm our strong commitment to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (“the Universal Declaration”), adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 10 December 1948.

On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration, we recommit ourselves to act in conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

In the spirit of the Helsinki Final Act, we underline the principles guiding relations between participating States enshrined therein, in particular the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

We stress that all human rights are universal.

We remain committed to respecting the inherent dignity of the human being, as recognized in the Universal Declaration and relevant OSCE documents to which we have agreed.

We declare that the rights contained in the Universal Declaration remain relevant.

We reaffirm to ensure the full implementation of the OSCE human dimension commitments. All OSCE commitments without exception apply equally to each participating State.

We reaffirm the inseparable connection between ensuring respect for human rights and maintaining peace, justice, wellbeing for peoples and stability, as recognized by the OSCE concept of common and comprehensive security.

Taking into account the principles guiding relations between participating States enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act, we reaffirm that the commitments undertaken in the field of the OSCE human dimension are matters of direct and legitimate concern to all participating States and do not belong exclusively to the internal affairs of the State concerned as stipulated in the 1991 Moscow document.

We recognize the valuable contribution of the OSCE in promoting and protecting the rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration. We recognize, in particular, the work of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) in assisting the participating States, in accordance with its mandate, in implementing human dimension commitments.

On the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media, we recognize the work of this institution in promoting independent and pluralistic media essential to a free and open society and accountable systems of government. We call on participating States and Partners for Cooperation to create an environment where free and independent media can flourish.

On the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the High Commissioner on National Minorities, we recognize the role played by the High Commissioner.

We remain committed to undertake to build, consolidate and strengthen democracy in our countries.

We remain committed to the rule of law and equal protection under the law for all, based on respect for human rights and effective, accessible and just legal systems.

We stress that everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person; no one shall be held in slavery, and no one shall be subjected to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

We recognize that human rights are best respected in democratic societies, where decisions are taken with maximum transparency and broad participation. We support a pluralistic civil society and encourage partnerships between different stakeholders in the promotion and protection of human rights.

We reiterate that everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief; freedom of opinion and expression, freedom of peaceful assembly and association. The exercise of these rights may be subject to only such limitations as are provided by law and consistent with our obligations under international law and with our international commitments.

Ministerial Declaration on the 60th Anniversary of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide

We, the members of the Ministerial Council of the OSCE, mark the 60th anniversary of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 9 December 1948 (hereinafter referred to as the Convention).

We acknowledge that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights recognized the inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family as the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world and we also reiterate relevant commitments enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act.

We reaffirm the significance of the Convention as an important international instrument for the prevention and punishment of the crime of genocide.

We call upon the participating States, which have not yet done so, to consider becoming Parties to the Convention as early as possible and be part of this global framework to prevent and punish the crime of genocide. We further call upon the State-Parties to increase and intensify their activities aimed at the full implementation of their obligations under the Convention.

We note that in adopting the Convention, the United Nations recognized that the crime of genocide was an odious scourge which had inflicted great losses on humanity and was convinced that

international cooperation was required to facilitate the speedy prevention and punishment of the crime of genocide.

We recognize that genocide is one of the most serious crimes under international law which is condemned by international community as a whole and can never be justified.

II. Decisions of the Ministerial Council

Decision No. 5/08

Enhancing Criminal Justice Responses to Trafficking in Human Beings through a Comprehensive Approach

The Ministerial Council,

Highlighting its serious concern that trafficking in human beings remains widespread in the OSCE region,

Considering that trafficking in human beings is a grave and heinous crime that violates human dignity and undermines the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and that feeds organized criminal networks,

Taking note of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings,

Reaffirming all OSCE commitments to combat trafficking in human beings with special regard to the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, including its Addendum on Addressing the Special Needs of Child Victims of Trafficking for Protection and Assistance (the OSCE Action Plan), and the need for their implementation,

Reiterating the important role of the Special Representative and Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (Special Representative) in assisting the participating States to implement the OSCE commitments on combating human trafficking,

Reiterating its concern that, despite sustained measures taken at the international, regional and national levels, the number of victims of human trafficking which have been identified and assisted remains limited, and few traffickers have been brought to justice,

Recognizing that providing victims of human trafficking with adequate protection and assistance and enhancing victim identification are among the prerequisites for an effective criminal justice response, including the prosecution of traffickers and their accomplices, to human trafficking,

Reiterating that the commitment to combat this crime applies equally to countries of origin, transit and destination,

Reaffirming our support for efforts by the participating States in cooperation with international and regional organizations, nongovernmental organizations and other relevant bodies to consider a comprehensive, coordinated and integrated approach to combating trafficking in human beings, which includes, *inter alia*, measures for preventing trafficking in human beings, protecting and assisting victims, with full respect for their human rights, and prosecuting traffickers, as

well as to combating the activities of transnational criminal organizations and others that profit from the trafficking in human beings,

Taking note of the OSCE Conference on Successful Prosecution of Human Trafficking: Challenges and Good Practices that took place in Helsinki, on 10 and 11 September 2008,

Determined to enhance effective criminal justice responses to trafficking in human beings,

1. Encourages those participating States that have not yet done so to ensure that all forms of trafficking in human beings as defined in the OSCE Action Plan are criminalized in their national legislation and that perpetrators of human trafficking do not enjoy impunity;

2. Encourages the participating States to ensure that training on combating trafficking in human beings is included in the curricula for law enforcement personnel and that specialized anti-trafficking training is provided for relevant officials in national prosecution services and the judiciary. Each participating State will take into account policies and consequences regarding trafficking in human beings when instructing its military and civilian personnel to be deployed abroad;

3. Urges the participating States to ensure that law enforcement agencies and where appropriate the judiciary cooperate with each other and with other bodies including social services, and where appropriate with relevant civil society organizations in order to enhance identification of victims of human trafficking;

4. Encourages the participating States where appropriate and where provided for by their respective laws to ensure that civil society organizations engaged in protecting the rights of victims of trafficking have a possibility to provide assistance and support to victims also during criminal proceedings, and in this context, to consider establishing cooperation between law enforcement agencies and civil society organizations;

5. Calls on the participating States to ensure that, when authorities have reasonable

grounds to believe that a person is a victim of human trafficking, that person will not be deported until the identification process has been adequately completed, and that person has been given appropriate assistance, including, if required under domestic law, an appropriate recovery and reflection period during which deportation shall not be enforced;

6. Encourages the participating States to ensure that victims of human trafficking have access without undue delay to secure accommodation, psychological and medical treatment and counselling regarding their legal rights and the services available to them;

7. Calls on the participating States that have not yet done so to provide for special measures of protection and assistance for child victims of human trafficking throughout criminal proceedings, in accordance with the principles of the best interest of the child, nondiscrimination, participation and the opportunity for the child to be heard;

8. Urges the participating States that have not yet done so to ensure that investigations into or prosecution of human trafficking shall not be dependent upon a report or accusation by a victim;

9. Calls on the participating States to continue their efforts to ensure that victims of human trafficking are treated in a manner that respects the full enjoyment of human rights without threat

of intimidation or harassment, and to recognize victims' need to have adequate time to recover from trauma;

10. Encourages the participating States to take measures in accordance with the conditions under their respective laws so that victims of human trafficking have the possibility of obtaining fair and appropriate compensation for damage they have suffered, and to claim damages during criminal and/or civil proceedings as appropriate;

11. Calls for increased cooperation by national law enforcement and prosecution agencies with relevant international bodies, including Interpol and Europol, and with the law enforcement agencies of other participating States, for example, through the use of liaison officers or joint investigative teams, where doing so would enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of criminal justice responses;

12. Urges the participating States to intensify measures to disrupt trafficking networks, including by means of financial investigations, investigations of money laundering connected to human trafficking and the freezing or confiscation of the assets of human traffickers;

13. Tasks the Special Representative within existing resources as a part of regular reporting to the Permanent Council to recommend, in cooperation with the participating States, ways to further enhance criminal justice responses to trafficking in human beings.

Decision No. 6/08

Enhancing OSCE Efforts to Implement the Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE Area

The Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming the OSCE's commitments regarding Roma and Sinti, especially those in the 2003 Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE Area,

Recognizing the important framework the Action Plan provides for the promotion and protection of the human rights of Roma and Sinti people by the participating States,

Calling upon the participating States to enhance their efforts to ensure that Roma and Sinti people are able to participate fully in societies and to take measures to eradicate discrimination against them,

Reminding that racism and discrimination continue to affect Roma and Sinti across the OSCE area and that participating States have committed themselves to strengthen their policies and the practical measures they undertake to counter these phenomena,

Recalling the importance of Roma culture and language as a part of the cultural heritage of many countries and as an integral element of Roma and Sinti identity,

Noting the ODIHR's Status Report 2008 (Status Report) on the Implementation of the Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE Area as a means for supporting the effective implementation of OSCE commitments related to Roma and Sinti,

Reiterating the input of the ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues in the process of regular review and assessment of the implementation of the Action Plan,

Recalling the importance of relevant OSCE institutions and structures in supporting the implementation of the Action Plan and also stressing the importance of effective coordination and cooperation within the OSCE,

Taking note of the Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting that took place on 10 and 11 July 2008 on sustainable policies for Roma and Sinti integration,

Determined to enhance OSCE efforts to implement the Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE Area,

1. Urges the participating States to provide for equal access to education and to promote early education for Roma and Sinti children, as an instrument for preventing social exclusion and marginalization and for effecting a longterm improvement in the situation of Roma and Sinti. In this context, underlines that educational policies should aim to integrate Roma and Sinti people into mainstream education;

2. Calls upon the ODIHR, within existing resources, to assist participating States upon their request in promoting access of Roma and Sinti children to early education. In this regard, urges participating States when appropriate to undertake awareness raising initiatives, also including Roma and Sinti communities, on the benefits of early education;

3. Calls on the participating States, in cooperation with Roma and Sinti people to step up their efforts in raising awareness among Roma and Sinti of the importance of school enrolment and continuous school attendance;

4. Encourages the participating States to take into consideration Roma and Sinti issues when reviewing their legislation and policies affecting Roma and Sinti, especially in the priority areas of the 2003 Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE Area;

5. Calls for appropriate national authorities relevant to the situation of Roma and Sinti, such as those relating to minorities, access to health services, education, housing, antidiscrimination work, police and media, to enhance their efforts to ensure the implementation of OSCE commitments within national legislation on equality and nondiscrimination. In this context, special attention should be paid to the situation of Roma women and girls;

6. Encourages the participating States who have not yet done so to put in place institutional frameworks involving Roma and relevant governmental bodies, at appropriate levels in order to facilitate the implementation of policies and programmes aimed at improving the situation of Roma and Sinti;

7. Encourages participating States to reinforce their efforts to actively engage Roma and Sinti communities in policy making concerning Roma and Sinti and to promote effective participation by Roma and Sinti in public and political life;

8. Calls for continued coordination and cooperation within existing resources within the OSCE and with relevant international actors such as the Council of Europe and the European Union when appropriate;

9. Calls for enhanced efforts to raise awareness of OSCE commitments on Roma and Sinti and in this regard stresses the value of reporting by the Director of ODIHR as part of his regular reporting to the Permanent Council on the status of implementation of the Action Plan, as stipulated in Chapter X, articles 133 and 134 of the Action Plan itself.

Decision No. 7/08

Further Strengthening the Rule of Law in the OSCE Area

The Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming the OSCE participating States' commitments to the rule of law and to the Principles Guiding Relations between participating States in the 1975 Helsinki Final Act, as well as to the fulfilment in good faith of obligations under international law and reiterating the OSCE participating States' determination to foster strict respect for these principles,

Recalling the OSCE documents adopted in Vienna 1989, Copenhagen 1990, Moscow 1991, Budapest 1994 and Istanbul 1999 and Ljubljana Ministerial Council Decision No. 12/05 on Upholding human rights and the rule of law in criminal justice systems,

Recalling also the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and taking note of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,

Recalling also other relevant United Nations documents affirming, *inter alia*, the need for universal adherence to and implementation of the rule of law at both the national and international levels, the commitment to an international order based on the rule of law and international law,

Underlining the importance we attach to human rights, the rule of law and democracy, which are inter-linked and mutually reinforcing,

Underlining also the importance of the rule of law as a cross-dimensional issue for ensuring the respect for human rights and democracy, security and stability, good governance, mutual economic and trade relations, investment security and a favourable business climate as well as its role in the fight against corruption, organized crime and all kinds of illegal trafficking including in drugs and weapons as well as trafficking in human beings, thus serving as a basis for political, economic, social and environmental development in the participating States,

Underlining also the importance of the rule of law in the implementation of OSCE decisions and documents in the politico-military sphere,

Taking into account activities related to the rule of law of relevant OSCE executive structures, in particular, the Secretariat, the ODIHR and the OSCE field operations, to assist participating States to enhance rule of law capacities, and taking also into account the role of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly to promote respect for the rule of law in the OSCE area,

Taking into account relevant OSCE events concerning rule of law, in particular the 2008 OSCE Human Dimension seminar on the issue of Constitutional Justice as well as relevant Supplementary Human Dimension Meetings,

Taking into account participating States' ongoing and envisaged bilateral activities regarding the rule of law,

Underlining the importance of providing the OSCE with a legal personality, legal capacity, privileges and immunities and thus strengthening the legal framework of the OSCE,

1. Calls on the OSCE participating States to honour their obligations under international law and to observe their OSCE commitments regarding the rule of law at both international and national levels, including in all aspects of their legislation, administration and judiciary;
2. Calls on participating States to contribute, where appropriate, to OSCE projects and programmes supporting the rule of law;
3. Encourages the relevant OSCE executive structures, in accordance with their mandates and within existing resources, in cooperation with relevant international organizations, to further identify and use synergies in assisting participating States, upon their request, in strengthening of the rule of law;
4. Encourages participating States, with the assistance, where appropriate, of relevant OSCE executive structures in accordance with their mandates and within existing resources, to continue and to enhance their efforts to share information and best practices and to strengthen the rule of law, *inter alia* in the following areas:
 - Independence of the judiciary, effective administration of justice, right to a fair trial, access to court, accountability of state institutions and officials, respect for the rule of law in public administration, the right to legal assistance and respect for the human rights of persons in detention;
 - Honouring obligations under international law as a key element of strengthening the rule of law in the OSCE area;
 - Adherence to the principle of peaceful settlement of disputes;
 - Respect for the rule of law and human rights in the fight against terrorism according to their obligations under international law and OSCE commitments;
 - Prevention of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, including through cooperation with the applicable intergovernmental bodies;
 - Efficient legislation and an administrative and judicial framework in order to facilitate economic activities, trade and investments in participating States and between them;
 - Respect for the rule of law with regard to the protection of the natural environment in the OSCE area;
 - Awareness-raising for issues related to the rule of law in courts, law enforcement agencies, police and penitentiary systems as well as in training for legal professionals;
 - Education on the rule of law as well as interaction and exchange opportunities for legal professionals, academics and law students from different participating States in the OSCE region;
 - The role of constitutional courts or comparable institutions of the participating States as an instrument to ensure that the principles of the rule of law, democracy and human rights are observed in all state institutions;
 - The provision of effective legal remedies, where appropriate, and the access thereto;
 - The observation of rule of law standards and practices in the criminal justice system;
 - The fight against corruption;
5. Tasks the relevant OSCE executive structures, in close consultation and cooperation with participating States and within existing resources, to organize a seminar focussing on rule of law in 2009 which could serve as a platform for exchanging best practices between the participating States on issues related to the rule of law.

Decision No. 8/08

OSCE Contribution to the Implementation Phase of the Alliance of Civilizations Initiative

The Ministerial Council,

Recognizing the need to promote mutual understanding and cooperative relations among nations across cultures and civilizations,

Resolved to counter radicalization and violent extremism that lead to terrorism,

Underlining the role of the OSCE as a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter,

Highlighting the continued interest of the OSCE in the “Alliance of Civilizations” initiative, established under the auspices of the United Nations, in line with the Ljubljana, Brussels and Madrid Ministerial Council decisions,

Reiterating our commitments to combating intolerance and discrimination and to promoting mutual respect and understanding,

Recalling the initial contribution of the OSCE to the Alliance of Civilizations initiative, presented to the UN Secretary General in 2006,

Taking into account the Implementation Plan prepared by the United Nations High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations initiative,

Decides, within existing resources, to:

1. Authorize the OSCE Secretary General to follow the evolution of the Alliance of Civilizations, to consider cooperation on Alliance of Civilizations projects in areas of common interest and mutual benefit that advance implementation of OSCE commitments, and tasks him to report to participating States;
2. Recommend that the OSCE Secretary General, in consultation with the Chairman in Office, attends the upcoming Second Forum Meeting of the Alliance of Civilizations initiative, to be held on 2 and 3 April 2009 in Istanbul, and reports on its outcome to the participating States.

Decision No. 10/08

Further Promoting the OSCE's Action in Countering Terrorism

The Ministerial Council,

Reemphasizing the OSCE participating States' determination to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, as a crime that has no justification, whatever its motivation or origin, and to conduct this fight with respect for the rule of law and in accordance with their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law,

Reaffirming the existing OSCE counterterrorism commitments and the intention to maintain counterterrorism activities among the priorities of the OSCE,

Reaffirming the OSCE participating States' support for the UN Global CounterTerrorism Strategy,

Welcoming the G8 Leaders' Statement on CounterTerrorism adopted on 9 July 2008 at the Hokkaido Toyako Summit,

Reiterating the need to address conditions that may foster and sustain terrorism, in particular by fully respecting democracy and the rule of law, by allowing all citizens to participate fully in political life, by preventing discrimination and encouraging intercultural and interreligious dialogue in their societies, by engaging civil society in finding common political settlement for conflicts, by promoting human rights and tolerance and by combating poverty,

Recalling, *inter alia*, the Sofia Ministerial Statement on Preventing and Combating Terrorism (2004), the Brussels Ministerial Statement on Supporting and Promoting the International Legal Framework against Terrorism (MC.DOC/5/06) and the Madrid Ministerial Statement on Supporting the United Nations Global CounterTerrorism Strategy (MC.DOC/3/07),

Recalling the Madrid Ministerial Council Decision No. 5/07 on PublicPrivate Partnerships in Countering Terrorism and the Madrid Ministerial Council Decision No. 6/07 on Protecting Critical Energy Infrastructure from Terrorist Attack,

Taking note of the Followup OSCE PublicPrivate Partnership Conference: Partnership of State Authorities, Civil Society and the Business Community in Combating Terrorism, organized in Vienna on 15 and 16 September 2008, which contributed to identifying possible areas for further cooperation in the field of publicprivate partnerships in countering terrorism,

Taking note of the Workshop on Preventing Violent Extremism and Radicalization that Lead to Terrorism, held on 24 October 2008 in Vienna which identified a need for better understanding of the phenomena and for multidimensional responses,

Taking note of the Workshop on Enhancing Legal Cooperation in Criminal Matters related to Terrorism, held on 1 and 2 April 2008 in Ankara, Turkey, which underlined the need to enhance cooperation in this regard,

Taking note also of the 2008 OSCE Sub-Regional Central Asian Public Private Partnership Conference, held on 4 and 5 November 2008 in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic, which showed the importance of the development of publicprivate partnerships for countering terrorism at the regional and subregional level,

Taking note of the review carried out in the UN system of the implementation of the UN Global CounterTerrorism Strategy, which provides guidance for the OSCE's counterterrorism activities, and its contribution to invigorating global counterterrorism efforts,

1. Calls upon the participating States and the OSCE executive structures to continue their efforts aimed at actively contributing to the implementation of the UN Global CounterTerrorism Strategy and other UN counterterrorism documents;
2. Calls upon the participating States to continue promoting publicprivate partnerships with civil society, media, the business community and industry in countering terrorism, including through

the dissemination of lessons learned and exchange of relevant information and national best practices both at the OSCE and national, subregional and regional levels, where appropriate;

3. Tasks the Secretary General and relevant OSCE executive structures to support the organization in 2009 of expertlevel seminars, workshops and simulations, within available resources, that would encourage publicprivate partnership initiatives in such areas as cooperating with civil society and the media in countering terrorism, promoting intercultural and interreligious dialogue in countering terrorism, protecting nonnuclear critical energy infrastructure from terrorist attacks, and combating the financing of terrorism and money laundering, especially with regard to the implementation of the Financial Action Task Force's (FATF) Special Recommendations on Terrorist Financing;

4. Calls upon the OSCE participating States to make use of the OSCE executive structures in countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism in their respective countries. To this end, participating States are encouraged to continue to exchange ideas and national best practices about their strategies and measures to counter violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism as well as to enhance their cooperation with media, the business community, industry and civil society;

5. Tasks the Secretary General, in consultation with relevant OSCE executive structures, to prepare a report, within existing resources, on their counterterrorism activities. The report should reflect existing mandates and OSCE commitments in the counterterrorism area and should assess OSCE counterterrorism activities, taking into account OSCE capacities and resources, and be submitted to participating States by 1 April 2009 for further discussion in relevant bodies. Thereafter, as provided for in MC(10).DEC/3, the participating States will review implementation of OSCE commitments in combating terrorism at the 2009 Annual Security Review Conference;

6. Encourages the Partners for Cooperation to voluntarily implement the provisions of this decision and invites them to participate in the activities to be carried out in the framework of this decision.

Document of the Seventeenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council

Athens 2009

I. Statements and Declarations by the Ministerial Council

Ministerial Declaration on the OSCE Corfu Process: Reconfirm-Review-Reinvigorate Security and Co-operation from Vancouver to Vladivostok

1. We, the Foreign Ministers of the 56 participating States of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, meet, for the second time this year after our informal meeting in Corfu, to mark the significant progress that we have achieved together since the reunification of Europe and the elimination of Europe's old divisions. We reconfirm that the vision of a free, democratic and more integrated OSCE area, from Vancouver to Vladivostok, free of dividing lines and zones with different levels of security remains a common goal, which we are determined to reach.

2. To achieve this goal, much work remains to be accomplished. We continue to be seriously concerned that the principles of the Helsinki Final Act and OSCE commitments are not fully respected and implemented; that the use of force has not ceased to be considered as an option in settling disputes; that the danger of conflicts between States has not been eliminated, and armed conflicts have occurred even in the last decades; that tensions still exist and many conflicts remain unresolved; that stalemates in conventional arms control, resolution of disagreements in this field, resumption of full implementation of the CFE Treaty regime, and restoration of its viability require urgent concerted action by its States Parties; and that our common achievements in the fields of the rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms need to be fully safeguarded and further advanced. This is occurring at a time when new emerging transnational threats require, more than ever, common responses.

3. We recognize that these security challenges, further accentuated by the ongoing international financial and economic crisis, should be tackled with a renewed commitment to achieve results through multilateral dialogue and co-operation. At this stage, our highest priority remains to re-establish our trust and confidence, as well as to recapture the sense of common purpose that brought together our predecessors in Helsinki almost 35 years ago. In this context, we welcome the dialogue on the current and future challenges for security in the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian area, initiated at the 2008 Helsinki Ministerial Council and launched by the Greek Chairmanship in June 2009 as the "Corfu Process", aimed at achieving the aforementioned goals. We consider the first ever OSCE Informal Ministerial Meeting in Corfu, with broad participation, as a milestone in this process, where we expressed our political will to confront security challenges, in all three OSCE dimensions.

4. The Corfu Process has already improved the quality and contributed to the revitalization of our political dialogue in the OSCE on security and co-operation from Vancouver to Vladivostok. We are committed to continue and further develop this process, setting ambitious, concrete and pragmatic goals, while also focusing on the key issues identified in our work so far. The OSCE, due to

its broad membership and its multidimensional approach to common, comprehensive, co-operative and indivisible security, provides the appropriate forum for this dialogue. We welcome the valuable contributions of all relevant organizations and institutions dealing with security, on the basis of the Platform for Co-operative Security.

5. The dialogue within the Corfu Process will be grounded in the OSCE and in the principles of equality, partnership, co-operation, inclusiveness and transparency. It will aim at addressing disagreements openly, honestly and in an unbiased manner, acknowledging our diversities and concerns, in a spirit of mutual respect and understanding. It will build on three basic guidelines:

(a) Adherence to the concept of comprehensive, co-operative and indivisible security, as enshrined in the OSCE fundamental documents;

(b) Compliance with OSCE norms, principles and commitments in all three OSCE dimensions, in full and in good faith, and in a consistent manner by all;

(c) Determination to strengthen partnership and co-operation in the OSCE area, as well as to enhance the effectiveness of the OSCE and its contribution to security in our common space.

6. The Corfu Process will be taken forward by our Permanent Representatives to the OSCE in Vienna, in accordance with the decision we are adopting today. We remain committed to provide strong political impetus to the Corfu Process, and we are looking forward to reassessing its progress in 2010, in the format and level that we will deem appropriate, taking into consideration the results we achieve.

(...)

Ministerial Declaration on the Sixty-Fifth Anniversary of the end of the World War II

The year 2010 marks the sixty-fifth anniversary of the end of the battles of the World War II, which caused unprecedented suffering and destruction. That war proved to be one of the greatest tragedies to afflict the peoples of Europe and the world. It lasted for six and a half years and took tens of millions of lives. The war brought about violations of human rights and freedoms as well as crimes against peace, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

We mourn all people who lost their lives, as victims of the war, the Holocaust, occupations and acts of repression. We honour veterans and all those who fought for the victory of humanity against fascism, dictatorship, oppression and aggression. Time will not diminish the meaning of their sacrifice and we will never forget their heroic exploits.

Resolved to prevent the recurrence of such a European and international catastrophe, our countries made a clear and unequivocal commitment to peace, security and democracy, in particular by founding the United Nations and through the establishment of regional organizations. Today we are proud of our common achievements and we hail the progress that has been made in the past sixty-five years in overcoming the tragic legacy of World War II, towards achieving global peace and security, reconciliation, international and regional co-operation and the promotion of democratic values, human rights and fundamental freedoms. We stress the important role that the CSCE and OSCE have played in this regard in the past decades.

Recalling the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris for a New Europe, the Charter for European Security, and other agreed OSCE documents we should not tolerate dividing lines and we shall spare no effort to avoid the emergence of new ones in the OSCE area, and to eliminate sources of hostility, tensions and confrontation. We reiterate our position that within the OSCE no State or

group of States can consider any part of the OSCE area as its sphere of influence. We are determined to continue our collective efforts with a view of creating a common and indivisible space of security in the OSCE area, based on democracy, the rule of law, economic prosperity, social justice, and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the rights of persons belonging to national minorities. This

remains our common purpose.

An honest and thorough research on the history of World War II contributes to reconciliation.

We have learned from history the danger of intolerance, discrimination, extremism and hatred on ethnic, racial and religious grounds. We are committed to combat these threats, including through the OSCE, and we reject any attempts to justify them.

We strongly condemn any denial of the Holocaust. We condemn all forms of ethnic cleansing. We confirm our adherence to the UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide adopted on 9 December 1948 and call on the participating States to take every possible action to ensure that attempts to commit genocide are prevented today and in the future. The perpetrators of such crimes should be brought to justice.

The lessons of the World War II are still of relevance today, when we need to unite our efforts and resources to address threats and challenges to our common security and stability and to defend our common principles. New times have brought new threats and challenges, one of the most dangerous of which is terrorism. We will fight this and other threats to security together, *inter alia*, through the OSCE.

We are convinced that the peaceful resolution of all existing conflicts, the observance of the norms of international law, the aims and principles of the UN Charter, the fulfilment of commitments contained in the Helsinki Final Act and other agreed OSCE documents are the best way to pay tribute to those who struggled for peace, freedom, democracy and human dignity, to commemorate all victims of World War II, to overcome the past, and to save present and future generations from the scourge of war and violence.

Ministerial Declaration on the Occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the Adoption of the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

1. We, the members of the Ministerial Council of the OSCE, reaffirm our strong commitment to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, adopted by the UN General Assembly on 10 December 1984, to which all OSCE participating States have become parties.

2. On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the adoption of this Convention we reaffirm that, as also set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, no one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

3. We recognize that torture is a most serious crime and affirm that freedom from torture and other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment is a non-derogable right, which protects the inherent dignity and integrity of the human person.

4. We strongly condemn all forms of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, which are and shall remain prohibited at any time and in any place whatsoever and can never be justified.
5. We are seriously concerned that torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment still take place in many parts of the world, including in OSCE participating States.
6. We therefore pledge to uphold the absolute prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment as set forth in the Convention, to implement fully and in good faith its provisions, and to act in full conformity with all its principles.
7. We call upon the participating States, which have not yet done so, to give early consideration to becoming parties to the Optional Protocol to the Convention.
8. We also reaffirm our determination to implement fully our common OSCE commitments to eradicate torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.
9. We shall intensify our efforts to take persistent, determined and effective measures to prevent and combat torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and to ensure full rehabilitation of torture victims.
10. We recognize the valuable contribution of the OSCE in promoting the principles and provisions laid down in the Convention.
11. We consider it important to co-operate fully to this end with the applicable international inter-governmental bodies.
12. We commend the persistent efforts of civil society working to prevent torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and to alleviate the suffering of victims.

II. Decisions of the Ministerial Council

Decision No. 1/09

Furthering the Corfu Process

The Ministerial Council,

Commending the initiative of the Greek Chairmanship for launching a wide-ranging and open Vienna-based dialogue on the key issues of wider European security, initiated on the basis of the outcome of our informal Ministerial meeting in Corfu,

Encouraged by the positive spirit of this dialogue and taking into account the many proposals put forward by the delegations in the course of this dialogue,

Recognizing the need to continue the Corfu process and deepen the dialogue in order to promote understanding and enhance confidence; also, to take forward proposals aimed at strengthening the OSCE's capabilities for addressing security threats and at delivering concrete results, in the context of ensuring a comprehensive and balanced approach to security,

To this end, decides:

1. To task the OSCE Chairmanship in 2010, in close consultation with the successive FSC Chairmanships, to continue the informal, regular and open dialogue, in the framework of the Corfu Process, through regular informal meetings, at the level of permanent representatives, reinforced by capitals, as appropriate, in order to extend the areas of agreement and contribute to consensus building.

Taking into account the initial assessment of the main threats and challenges to our security and co-operation, identified in the Corfu Process so far, the future dialogue will focus on issues pertaining to:

- Implementation of all OSCE norms, principles and commitments;
- Role of the OSCE in early warning, conflict prevention and resolution, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation;
- Role of the arms control and confidence – and security-building regimes in building trust, in the evolving security environment;
- Transnational and multidimensional threats and challenges;
- Economic and environmental challenges;
- Human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as democracy and the rule of law;
- Enhancing the OSCE's effectiveness;
- Interaction with other organizations and institutions, on the basis of the 1999 Platform for Co-operative Security.

In the framework of the Corfu Process, participating States may raise any issue they consider pertinent.

2. Based on the results of the informal meetings of the permanent representatives, the OSCE Chairmanship, in close consultation with the FSC Chairmanship, will submit, by the end of June 2010, an interim report summarizing proposals put forward by the participating States within the Corfu Process, to a joint reinforced meeting of the Permanent Council and the Forum for Security Co-operation, for further consideration and possible decisions.

3. That the PC and the FSC, within their mandates and, as necessary, jointly, will examine the interim report and consider actions, on the proposals therein, as appropriate.

4. Upon request, the OSCE executive structures will provide, within their mandates, assistance and expert input, as appropriate. The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly may also contribute to the Corfu Process.

The Chairmanship, after close consultation with participating States, will invite the OSCE Partners for Co-operation, international, regional and subregional organizations and institutions, as well as representatives of the academic and NGO communities to contribute to the discussions, on an ad hoc basis.

5. The engagement of the Permanent Council and the Forum for Security Co-operation in the Corfu Process will not detract from their mandates, regular agendas and activities.

Decision No. 2/09

Further OSCE Efforts to Address Transnational Threats and Challenges to Security and Stability

The Ministerial Council,

Recognizing that the evolving security environment in the 21st century, along with the process of globalization, create new threats and challenges to security and stability of transnational and multidimensional nature, which require comprehensive, multidimensional and collective responses,

Reaffirming that strict compliance with the international law and principles of the Charter of the United Nations remains the focus of efforts to prevent and combat threats to stability and security and that the UN Security Council bears primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security and continues to play a crucial role in contributing to security and stability in the world,

Confident that the OSCE can make a real contribution to the development of co-operative responses to these challenges, drawing upon its broad membership, its thematic expertise and its signature concept of common, comprehensive, co-operative and indivisible Commending the active role played by the OSCE across its region in the field of transnational threats through its Secretariat, institutions and field operations as important instruments in assisting all participating States to implement their commitments in all three dimensions, and reaffirming the importance of strengthening co-operation with the Parliamentary Assembly on all relevant issues,

Reaffirming that respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law is at the core of the OSCE's comprehensive concept of security, and recognizing that strong democratic institutions and the rule of law play an important role in preventing transnational threats from arising,

Considering that inter-State and intra-State conflicts throughout the OSCE area may give rise to instability and other types of risks and threats, such as terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, excessive and destabilizing accumulation and uncontrolled spread of SALWs, human rights violations, mass expulsion, deterioration of the socio-economic situation and illegal migration,

Recognizing that non-compliance with international law and with OSCE norms and principles, as well as a range of factors within the politico-military, economic and environmental and human dimensions lie behind the immediate causes of violent conflicts,

Commending the OSCE's contribution to global counter-terrorism efforts, in particular in support of the UN efforts and through close co-operation with other international and regional organizations, as well as the OSCE's pioneering programmes in such areas as countering the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes; promoting public-private partnerships to counter terrorism; enhancing travel document security and legal co-operation in criminal matters related to terrorism; countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism; protecting critical energy infrastructure from terrorist attacks,

Taking note of the OSCE's contribution to international efforts to fight organized crime, including illicit traffic in narcotic drugs, smuggling of migrants, illegal migration and trafficking in human beings, as well as other transnational threats through the provision of relevant law enforcement expertise and assistance to the participating States,

Recalling our commitment to enhance the OSCE's role in civilian police-related activities as an integral part of the organization's efforts in conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation; and taking note of the OSCE's police-related activities, including providing capacity building, democratic police training and training in key policing skills,

Taking note of the progress achieved in the OSCE border security and management activities on the basis of the 2005 OSCE Border Security and Management Concept, and reaffirming the importance of strengthening OSCE capacities to promote open and secure borders and enhancing mutually beneficial inter-State co-operation, where appropriate, as a means to address the threats of terrorism, organized crime, illegal migration, and the illicit trafficking in weapons, drugs and human beings,

Commending the progress achieved in the implementation of MC.DEC/4/07 on OSCE engagement with Afghanistan and calling for intensified implementation of this decision,

Mindful that threats to security and stability in the OSCE region are more likely to arise as destabilizing consequences of developments that cut across the politico-military, economic and environmental and human dimensions,

Bearing in mind that transnational threats to participating States can also stem from areas adjacent to the OSCE region, and as such require responses that are closely co-ordinated with the OSCE Partners for Co-operation and relevant international and regional organizations,

Reaffirming the continued relevance of the 2003 OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the 21st century, which provides a multidimensional, comprehensive and co-operative basis for OSCE activities in this regard,

Commending the ongoing work of the Permanent Council and the Forum for Security Co-operation to address transnational threats, within their respective mandates,

Recognizing the willingness of participating States to promote a comprehensive OSCE approach to enhancing cyber security, as evidenced by the results of the March 2009 OSCE workshop on this issue,

Appreciating the efforts of the Secretariat in assisting the participating States to address transnational threats and challenges in the economic and environmental dimension, including on such issues as illegal migration, good governance, transport, energy security, and security implications of environmental challenges,

Reaffirming that practices related to discrimination and intolerance, that can have their root in issues such as ethnic and religious tensions, aggressive nationalism, chauvinism and xenophobia, and may also stem from racism, anti-Semitism and violent extremism, as well as lack of respect for the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, both threaten the security of individuals and may give rise to wider-scale conflict and violence,

Recognizing that the problem of refugees and internally displaced persons throughout the OSCE area, including resulting from conflicts, violations of human rights and natural or human-made disasters, requires enhanced co-operation of all participating States and concerted action,

Recognizing the importance of the OSCE's comprehensive efforts to eradicate trafficking in human beings, and paying due tribute to the activities of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for

Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, as well as other relevant OSCE executive structures, for their dedication in providing assistance to the participating States in addressing THB,

Recognizing that many threats of a politico-military nature, including those such as destabilizing accumulations of conventional weaponry, illicit transfers of arms and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, remain of great concern to the OSCE participating States,

Recognizing that the effort needed to combat the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, as well as their means of delivery, is not confined to military means and welcoming the adoption of a Best Practice Guide on UNSCR 1540 by the Forum for Security Co-operation on 30 September 2009,

Fully recognizing that transnational threats and challenges, including inter-State and inter-organizational co-operation, remain an important topic of deliberations in the framework of the Corfu Process,

Decides to step up individual and collective efforts to address transnational threats to security in a comprehensive and cross-dimensional manner, in accordance with the OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the 21st Century, making full use of the OSCE's expertise and comparative advantages;

Decides to explore further ways to strengthen synergies in OSCE activities against these threats, including by improving internal co-ordination, co-operation with OSCE Partners for Co-operation and by focusing on those areas where the OSCE can add value to the work of the UN and complement activities of other international organizations, including on the basis of 1999 Platform for Co-operative Security;

Tasks all OSCE executive structures to intensify their efforts, within their current mandates and existing resources, to further consolidate the OSCE's cross-institutional responses to multidimensional threats to security, in particular in those areas which cut across the mandates of several executive structures;

Requests the Secretary General to explore ways to further strengthen programmatic co-ordination between the OSCE executive structures, as set out in MC.DEC/18/06, with particular focus on the OSCE's multidimensional activities to address transnational threats to security, building on the Secretariat's current mandates and within available resources, and to give a first overview on progress by 1 April and to make proposals to the Permanent Council on planning in this regard no later than 1 June 2010.

Decision No. 3/09

Further Measures to Support and Promote the International Legal Framework against Terrorism

The Ministerial Council,

Determined to reinforce OSCE counter-terrorism activities in accordance with international law and standards in line with existing OSCE commitments,

Reaffirming that participating States should carry out their counter-terrorist efforts, with full respect for the rule of law and in conformity with their obligations under the UN Security Council resolutions and universal conventions and protocols related to the prevention and the suppression of

terrorism, the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and relevant provisions of international human rights, humanitarian and refugee law,

Recalling OSCE commitments under Bucharest Ministerial Council Decision No. 1 (MC(9).DEC/1), the Ministerial Statement on the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (MC.DOC/1/05), and the Brussels Ministerial Statement on Supporting and Promoting the International Legal Framework against Terrorism (MC.DOC/5/06), and welcoming the significant progress achieved in connection with participating States becoming party to the 12 universal anti-terrorism conventions and protocols of 1963–1999, as well as the progress in the signing and ratifying of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (2005),

Noting the latest important developments in the international legal framework against terrorism, in particular the adoption of the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (2005), the Protocol to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Maritime Navigation (2005), and the Protocol to the Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf (2005), and desirous to facilitate their early entry into force,

Recognizing the need to implement the offence provisions from universal anti-terrorism conventions and protocols into national criminal and, where applicable, also administrative and civil legislation, making them punishable by appropriate penalties, in order to bring to justice perpetrators, organizers, supporters and sponsors of terrorist acts within the rule of law and facilitate international legal co-operation based on the principle “*extradite or prosecute*”, as required by relevant UN Security Council resolutions and the universal anti-terrorism instruments,

Recognizing also that OSCE participating States may require technical assistance in their efforts with regard to the above,

Recognizing the important role that parliamentarians play in the ratification and national legislative implementation of the universal anti-terrorism conventions and protocols,

Urges those OSCE participating States that have not yet done so to make every effort to become party without delay to the 13 universal anti-terrorism conventions and protocols currently in force and to fully implement their provisions;

Calls on OSCE participating States to consider becoming party to the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (2005), the Protocol to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Maritime Navigation (2005), and the Protocol to the Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf (2005) and to fully implement their provisions thereafter;

Calls on OSCE participating States to consider becoming parties to regional and subregional legal instruments related to terrorism, including to the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism;

Tasks the Secretary General with organizing a workshop in 2010, to assist participating States with the criminal law aspects of implementing the universal anti-terrorism conventions and protocols concluded in 2005, within available resources and in co-operation with the UNODC and other relevant international actors;

Tasks the Chairmanship-in-Office, in co-ordination with the OSCE executive structures, with organizing in 2010, in Astana, within available resources and in co-operation with UNODC and Council of Europe as well as other relevant international partners, an expert-level conference on successful strategies, effective policies and best practices to prevent terrorism;

Calls on the OSCE participating States to strengthen inter-State co-operation in promoting the universal anti-terrorism conventions and protocols through sharing technical expertise and tasks the Secretary General with continuing to facilitate inter-State co-operation, including, matching offers and requests for technical assistance between participating States;

Tasks the Secretary General and relevant OSCE executive structures, within available resources with continuing to collaborate with the UNODC in strengthening the legal regime against terrorism by promoting implementation of the universal counter-terrorism instruments, in particular continuing to enhance and streamline, the support provided to the UNODC Terrorism Prevention Programme with regard to:

- Awareness raising and helping build the political will of participating States to become party to the universal anti-terrorism conventions and protocols;
- Providing technical assistance to requesting participating States in drafting anti-terrorism criminal legislation;
- Training of judicial officials in international legal co-operation in criminal matters related to terrorism;

and encourages participating States to contribute voluntary funding to relevant extra-budgetary projects in these areas;

Invites the OSCE Partners for Co-operation to voluntarily implement the OSCE commitments with regard to the international legal framework against terrorism and co-operation in criminal matters related to terrorism.

Decision No. 5/09

Migration Management

The Ministerial Council,

Recalling and reaffirming the OSCE commitments related to migration, in particular the relevant provisions of the 1975 Helsinki Final Act, Ministerial Council Decision No. 2/05 on Migration and the Ministerial Statement on Migration (MC.DOC/6/06),

Taking into account the Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension adopted by the Ministerial Council in Maastricht (2003) and recalling the Thirteenth OSCE Economic Forum,

Taking note of the initiatives and the work of the OSCE in the framework of the Seventeenth OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum “Migration management and its linkages with economic, social and environmental policies to the benefit of stability and security in the OSCE region”,

Acknowledging the increasing importance of and the benefits stemming from effective migration management for the socio-economic development, social cohesion, security and stability in

all countries including those of origin, transit and destination, and fully recognizing the human rights of migrants and their family members,

Underscoring the importance of mainstreaming migration policies into economic, social, environmental, development and security strategies and addressing migration management through co-operative, comprehensive and cross-dimensional approaches,

Underlining the need to facilitate legal migration and fight illegal migration,

Bearing in mind the different approaches to migration issues by the OSCE participating States, and drawing on their experiences and best practices,

Stressing the need to deepen dialogue and co-operation at all levels within and between all States, as well as with all relevant stakeholders, including social partners, business community, civil society and academia, to effectively address the opportunities and challenges related to comprehensive migration management,

Confirming that co-operation, dialogue and exchange of good practices and information on migration management issues remain an important component of the OSCE's comprehensive concept of security, supported as appropriate and within the respective mandates, capacities and resources in all three dimensions,

1. Encourages the participating States to continue to work on migration management by:

- Paying particular attention to addressing the root causes of migration;
- Ensuring that their national migration practices comply with their respective international obligations and OSCE commitments;
- Further elaborating and enhancing implementation of comprehensive and effective national migration policies and action plans as appropriate;
- Improving the collection of comparable data on migration, in order to facilitate dialogue and exchange of best practices at the OSCE level;
- Fostering co-operation and partnerships between countries of origin and destination, by facilitating effective legal migration schemes, such as circular migration and other forms of voluntary labour mobility programmes, for the benefit of the development of countries of origin and destination;
- Respecting the human rights of migrants and increasing efforts to combat discrimination, intolerance and xenophobia towards migrants and their families;

2. Encourages the participating States to incorporate gender aspects in their migration policies, noting the recommendations of the OSCE-produced Guide on Gender Sensitive Labour Migration Policies;

3. Calls upon the participating States to enhance migration management by improved policy coherence between migration and economic, social, environmental and security policies, through consultation, partnership and co-operation among governments at bilateral, regional and inter-regional levels, as appropriate;

4. Encourages the participating States to take necessary measures to minimize negative impacts of the global financial and economic crisis on migrants by intensifying economic co-operation,

creating attractive conditions for investment and business development and facilitating the flow of remittances;

5. Tasks the Permanent Council, its informal subsidiary bodies and the OSCE executive structures, in accordance with their respective mandates across all dimensions, within the Organization's comprehensive concept of security and within existing resources to *inter alia*:

- Provide a broad regional platform for dialogue on migration and security issues, both among OSCE participating States and between participating States and Partners for Co-operation, with the involvement of other relevant stakeholders in full conformity with the OSCE Rules of Procedure;
- Continue working on gender aspects of migration;
- Assist participating States, upon their request, to improve migration legislation and to elaborate and implement effective national policy frameworks, by providing advice and training, in co-operation with relevant international and regional organizations;
- Contribute to international efforts to assess the possible impact of environmental degradation on migratory pressures, which climate change may magnify, in order to ensure better preparedness in this area;
- Continue to assist the participating States, upon their request, to promote effective migration management, including exchange of best practices, and to facilitate legal migration and fight illegal migration, while paying particular attention to bilateral and multilateral co-operation in this field.

Decision No. 7/09

Women's Participation in Political and Public Life

The Ministerial Council,

Recalling the OSCE commitments for the advancement of gender equality, non-discrimination and promotion of men's and women's equal right to participate in political and public life,

Mindful of the continued under-representation of women in the OSCE area in decision-making structures within the legislative, executive, including police services, and judicial branches,

Concerned that widespread discrimination against women, continues to undermine their effective participation in political and public life at all levels,

Recognizing that keeping OSCE commitments under review, including in appropriate OSCE fora, can help to develop more effective approaches and measures,

Reaffirming that the full and equal exercise by women of their human rights is essential to achieve a more peaceful, prosperous, and democratic OSCE area,

Reaffirming the participating States' commitment to proactively implement throughout the Organization the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality and recalling Ljubljana Ministerial Council Decisions Nos. 14/05 on women in conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation and 15/05 on preventing and combating violence against women,

Recalling UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), which calls for full and equal participation of women in decision making with regard to conflict prevention as well as in post-conflict reconstruction, and stressing the importance of their full and equal participation and involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security,

Taking note of UN Security Council resolution 1889 (2009), which urges international and regional organizations to take further measures to improve women's participation during all stages of peace processes,

Noting that 18 December 2009 marks the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), which aims at ending discrimination against women in political and public life, and noting that 10 December marks the 10th anniversary of the opening of the Convention's Protocol for signature,

Recognizing that women may face additional barriers, beyond those based on gender, to their participation in political and public life,

Calls on the participating States to:

1. Consider providing for specific measures to achieve the goal of gender balance in all legislative, judicial and executive bodies, including security services, such as police services;
2. Consider possible legislative measures, which would facilitate a more balanced participation of women and men in political and public life and especially in decision-making;
3. Encourage all political actors to promote equal participation of women and men in political parties, with a view to achieving better gender-balanced representation in elected public offices at all levels of decision-making;
4. Consider taking measures to create equal opportunities within the security services, including the armed forces, where relevant, to allow for balanced recruitment, retention and promotion of men and women;
5. Develop and introduce where necessary open and participatory processes that enhance participation of women and men in all phases of developing legislation, programmes and policies;
6. Allow for the equal contribution of women and men to peace-building initiatives;
7. Take necessary steps to establish, where appropriate, effective national mechanisms for measuring women's equal participation and representation;
8. Support, as appropriate, non-governmental and research bodies in producing targeted studies and awareness-raising initiatives for identifying specific challenges in women's participation in political and public life and, in promoting equality of opportunities between women and men;
9. Encourage shared work and parental responsibilities between women and men in order to facilitate women's equal opportunities to participate effectively in political and public life.

Decision No. 8/09

Enhancing OSCE Efforts to ensure Roma and Sinti Sustainable Integration

The Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming the OSCE commitments regarding Roma and Sinti, including those in the 2003 Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE Area,

Recognizing that some efforts have been undertaken by the participating States to this end,

Noting that limited progress had been made in closing the significant gaps that remain between Roma and Sinti people and wider societies in several areas,

Taking note of the ODIHR's 2008 Status Report on the Implementation of the Action Plan on Improving the Situation of the Roma and Sinti in the OSCE Area,

Emphasizing that resolute action is required to improve the situation of Roma and Sinti across the OSCE region,

Convinced that the participating States should seek to maximize Roma and Sinti ownership of the policies that affect them, and that Roma and Sinti communities should be partners and share responsibility for implementing those policies designed to promote their integration,

Recognizing the particular difficulties faced by Roma and Sinti and the need to take effective measures in order to eradicate discrimination against them and ensure their sustainable integration consistent with OSCE commitments,

Concerned that Roma and Sinti belong to communities that continue to be affected by racism and discrimination and that prejudice and violent manifestations of intolerance against Roma and Sinti have increased,

Noting that in times of global economic downturn, Roma and Sinti belong to those that are especially vulnerable to becoming subject to irrational hostility and societal blame,

Aware that manifestations of intolerance against Roma and Sinti may not only result in increased exclusion and marginalization but might also endanger the social cohesion and peaceful coexistence in the wider society,

Acknowledging that Ministerial Council Decision No. 6/08 on enhancing OSCE efforts to implement the Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE Area was a significant step towards ensuring equal access to education and highlighting the importance of the benefits of early education,

Taking note of the 2009 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting and its working session on the specifically selected topic on Roma and Sinti early education,

Stressing the importance of relevant OSCE institutions and structures in fulfilling their mandates by supporting the implementation of the Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE Area and of effective co-ordination and co-operation within the OSCE to this end,

1. Calls upon the participating States to enhance their efforts to implement the Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE Area and advance the process of sustainable integration of Roma and Sinti;
2. Calls upon the participating States to continue to supply information to the ODIHR on progress made on the Implementation of the Action Plan on Improving the Situation of the Roma and Sinti in the OSCE Area;
3. Urges the participating States to step up their efforts in promoting tolerance and combating prejudices against Roma and Sinti people in order to prevent their further marginalization and exclusion and to address the rise of violent manifestations of intolerance against Roma and Sinti as well as to unequivocally and publicly condemn any violence targeting Roma and Sinti, and to take all necessary measures to ensure access to effective remedies, in accordance with national judicial, administrative, mediation and conciliation procedures, as well as to secure co-ordination between responsible authorities at all levels in this regard;
4. Calls upon the participating States to enhance, in an appropriate way, the participation of Roma and Sinti in the design, implementation and evaluation of the policies that affect them, as well as to promote dialogue between Roma and Sinti people and the wider society in order to raise awareness of the role that intolerance and discrimination can play in threatening social cohesion, stability and security;
5. Calls upon the participating States, in co-operation with Roma and Sinti, to identify and examine the challenges of Roma and Sinti migration relevant to their sustainable integration within the OSCE area;
6. Tasks the ODIHR, in co-operation and co-ordination with the HCNM and the Representative of Freedom of the Media and other relevant OSCE executive structures, within their mandates and within existing resources, to continue to assist participating States to combat acts of discrimination and violence against Roma and Sinti, to counter negative stereotypes of Roma and Sinti in the media taking into account relevant OSCE freedom of the media commitments, and to implement fully OSCE commitments pertaining in particular to the implementation of the Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE Area as well as to address the challenges linked to the sustainable and successful integration of Roma and Sinti;
7. Encourages participating States to address early education for Roma and Sinti in a comprehensive manner, with special attention to ensuring equal access to education and integrating Roma and Sinti into mainstream education;
8. Tasks the ODIHR, in consultation with the participating States and in close co-operation with other relevant OSCE institutions, within their mandates, to develop and implement relevant projects on the issue of Roma and Sinti early education, such as projects on teacher training and on overcoming low school attendance;
9. Encourages the relevant OSCE institutions to enhance their co-operation and co-ordination with other relevant international actors such as the Council of Europe and the European Union, when appropriate, as well as civil society actors focusing on Roma and Sinti related issues;
10. Invites the Director of the ODIHR to keep the participating States informed about the ODIHR's work in assisting participating States to promote Roma and Sinti sustainable integration during his or her regular reporting to the Permanent Council.

Decision No. 9/09

Combating Hate Crimes

The Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming that respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law is at the core of the OSCE comprehensive concept of security, and that tolerance and non-discrimination are important elements in the promotion of human rights and democratic values,

Reaffirming that manifestations of discrimination and intolerance threaten the security of individuals and societal cohesion, and reiterating that they may give rise to conflict and violence on a wider scale,

Concerned by hate crimes throughout the OSCE region and acknowledging the need for co-operation to combat such crimes effectively, and taking note of the ODIHR report entitled "Hate Crimes in the OSCE Region – Incidents and Responses", as tasked by the participating States,

Reaffirming the OSCE commitments on promoting tolerance and non-discrimination, and acknowledging that the primary responsibility for addressing acts of intolerance and discrimination rests with the participating States,

Acknowledging that hate crimes are criminal offences committed with a bias motive,

Taking note of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy adopted on 8 September 2006 by the UN General Assembly, which outlines a comprehensive global approach towards countering terrorism by addressing not only its manifestations, but also the conditions conducive to its spread, and recognizing the role hate crimes, discrimination and intolerance can play in fuelling violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism,

Acknowledging the need for more consistent, comprehensive and comparable data on hate crimes, highlighted *inter alia* in the ODIHR report,

Welcoming the work done by the ODIHR in providing assistance to participating States, upon their request, in their efforts to address hate crimes,

Taking note of the 2009 Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on Hate Crimes – Effective Implementation of Legislation and of the second annual meeting of the National Points of Contact on Combating Hate Crimes,

Recognizing that the global economic downturn may increase incidents of hate crimes in the OSCE area,

Acknowledging that victims of hate crimes may belong to both minority and majority communities,

Acknowledging the work of the three Personal Representatives of the Chairman-in-Office in support of the overall OSCE effort to combat hate crimes and violent manifestations of intolerance in accordance with their mandate,

Recognizing the instrumental role that political representatives can play in taking the lead in combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understanding,

Calls on the participating States to:

1. Collect, maintain and make public, reliable data and statistics in sufficient detail on hate crimes and violent manifestations of intolerance, including the numbers of cases reported to law enforcement, the numbers prosecuted and the sentences imposed. Where data-protection laws restrict collection of data on victims, States should consider methods for collecting data in compliance with such laws;
2. Enact, where appropriate, specific, tailored legislation to combat hate crimes, providing for effective penalties that take into account the gravity of such crimes;
3. Take appropriate measures to encourage victims to report hate crimes, recognizing that under-reporting of hate crimes prevents States from devising efficient policies. In this regard, explore, as complementary measures, methods for facilitating, the contribution of civil society to combat hate crimes;
4. Introduce or further develop professional training and capacity-building activities for law-enforcement, prosecution and judicial officials dealing with hate crimes;
5. In co-operation with relevant actors, explore ways to provide victims of hate crimes with access to counselling, legal and consular assistance as well as effective access to justice;
6. Promptly investigate hate crimes and ensure that the motives of those convicted of hate crimes are acknowledged and publicly condemned by the relevant authorities and by the political leadership;
7. Ensure co-operation, where appropriate, at the national and international levels, including with relevant international bodies and between police forces, to combat violent organized hate crime;
8. Conduct awareness raising and education efforts, particularly with law enforcement authorities, directed towards communities and civil society groups that assist victims of hate crimes;
9. Nominate, if they have not yet done so, a national point of contact on hate crimes to periodically report to the ODIHR reliable information and statistics on hate crimes;
10. Consider drawing on resources developed by the ODIHR in the area of education, training and awareness raising to ensure a comprehensive approach to the tackling of hate crimes;
11. Calls on the participating States to seek opportunities to co-operate and thereby address the increasing use of the Internet to advocate views constituting an incitement to bias-motivated violence including hate crimes and, in so doing, to reduce the harm caused by the dissemination of such material, while ensuring that any relevant measures taken are in line with OSCE commitments, in particular with regard to freedom of expression;
12. Tasks the ODIHR to explore, in consultations with the participating States and in co-operation with relevant international organizations and civil society partners, the potential link between the use of the Internet and bias-motivated violence and the harm it causes as well as eventual practical steps to be taken;
13. Invites the Director of the ODIHR to keep the participating States informed about the ODIHR's work in assisting the participating States to combat hate crimes during his or her regular reporting to the Permanent Council.

Decision No. 11/09

Travel Document Security – ICAO Public Key Directory

The Ministerial Council,

Recalling the OSCE commitments to counter terrorism, in particular to enhance travel document security as stipulated by the Bucharest Plan of Action for Combating Terrorism (MC(9).DEC/1), the Maastricht Ministerial Council Decision on Travel Document Security (MC.DEC/7/03), as well as two Ministerial Council Decisions in Sofia (MC.DEC/4/04) and Brussels (MC.DEC/6/06) encouraging greater use of the INTERPOL Stolen/Lost Travel Document Database, and acknowledging the significant contribution by the OSCE in the area of travel document security,

Reaffirming its commitment to implement effective and resolute measures against terrorism and to prevent the movement of terrorist individuals or groups through effective border controls and controls relating to the issuance of identity papers and travel documents while facilitating the free and secure movement of persons in conformity with relevant legal frameworks,

Acknowledging the importance of cross-border communication for international co-operation in countering international terrorism, organized crime and trafficking in all its forms, and the added value of the OSCE in facilitating assistance and providing a framework for co-operation on these issues,

Taking note of the wide scale implementation of electronic Machine Readable Travel Documents (eMRTDs) by the OSCE participating States,

Recognizing the need to enable relevant national authorities to effectively validate the authenticity of electronic security features and biometric data stored in eMRTDs as a precondition for the verification of the identity of the bearer of an eMRTD on the basis of the aforesaid features and data,

Taking note of the work by ICAO in developing the ICAO Public Key Directory (PKD) to promote a globally interoperable validation system for eMRTDs in order to significantly improve border security measures and thereby to contribute to counter terrorism and to the prevention of illegal cross-border activities,

Taking note of the G8 Justice and Home Affairs Ministers statement of 29–30 May 2009, which fully supports the participation of ICAO Contracting States in the ICAO PKD and requests all states to verify the authenticity of the information in ePassport chips and to use the ICAO PKD,

Noting that it is ICAO recommended practice that States issuing or intending to issue ePassports and/or implementing automated checks on ePassports at border controls should participate in the PKD,

Calls on the participating States to consider becoming participants in the ICAO PKD, subject to administrative and financial resources, and thereby to contribute to enabling border control and other relevant national authorities to validate digital signatures of electronic eMRTDs;

Encourages participating States with the capability to do so to provide financial and technical assistance in implementing this measure to other participating States that request it;

Tasks the Secretary General to organize, within available resources, in co-ordination with the Chairmanship-in-Office and in co-operation with ICAO an OSCE expert workshop in 2010 in Vienna, designed to raise awareness and to facilitate the participation in and the use of the ICAO PKD by the participating States;

Encourages the Partners for Co-operation to voluntarily implement this decision and other OSCE commitments on travel document security.

Astana Commemorative Declaration

Astana 2010

Towards a Security Community

1. We, the Heads of State or Government of the 56 participating States of the OSCE, have assembled in Astana, eleven years after the last OSCE Summit in Istanbul, to recommit ourselves to the vision of a free, democratic, common and indivisible Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community stretching from Vancouver to Vladivostok, rooted in agreed principles, shared commitments and common goals. As we mark the 35th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act and the 20th anniversary of the Charter of Paris for a New Europe, we reaffirm the relevance of, and our commitment to, the principles on which this Organization is based. While we have made much progress, we also acknowledge that more must be done to ensure full respect for, and implementation of, these core principles and commitments that we have undertaken in the politico-military dimension, the economic and environmental dimension, and the human dimension, notably in the areas of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

2. We reaffirm our full adherence to the Charter of the United Nations and to all OSCE norms, principles and commitments, starting from the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris, the Charter for European Security and all other OSCE documents to which we have agreed, and our responsibility to implement them fully and in good faith. We reiterate our commitment to the concept, initiated in the Final Act, of comprehensive, co-operative, equal and indivisible security, which relates the maintenance of peace to the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and links economic and environmental co-operation with peaceful inter-State relations.

3. (...) We further reaffirm that all OSCE principles and commitments, without exception, apply equally to each participating State, and we emphasize that we are accountable to our citizens and responsible to each other for their full implementation. We regard these commitments as our common achievement, and therefore consider them to be matters of immediate and legitimate concern to all participating States.

4. These norms, principles and commitments have enabled us to make progress in putting old confrontations behind us and in moving us closer to democracy, peace and unity throughout the OSCE area. They must continue to guide us in the 21st century as we work together to make the ambitious vision of Helsinki and Paris a reality for all our peoples. These and all other OSCE documents establish clear standards for the participating States in their treatment of each other and of all individuals within their territories. Resolved to build further upon this strong foundation, we reaffirm our commitment to strengthen security, trust and good-neighbourly relations among our States and peoples. In this respect we are convinced that the role of the OSCE remains crucial, and should be further enhanced. We will further work towards strengthening the OSCE's effectiveness and efficiency.

5. We recognize that the OSCE, as the most inclusive and comprehensive regional

security organization in the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian area, continues to provide a unique forum, operating on the basis of consensus and the sovereign equality of States, for promoting open dialogue, preventing and settling conflicts, building mutual understanding and fostering co-operation. We stress the importance of the work carried out by the OSCE Secretariat, High Commissioner on National Minorities, Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and Representative on Freedom of the Media, as well as the OSCE field operations, in accordance with their respective mandates, in assisting participating States with implementing their OSCE commitments. We are determined to intensify co-operation with the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, and encourage its efforts to promote security, democracy, and prosperity throughout the OSCE area and within participating States and to increase confidence among participating States. (...)

6. The OSCE's comprehensive and co-operative approach to security, which addresses the human, economic and environmental, political and military dimensions of security as an integral whole, remains indispensable. Convinced that the inherent dignity of the individual is at the core of comprehensive security, we reiterate that human rights and fundamental freedoms are inalienable, and that their protection and promotion is our first responsibility. We reaffirm categorically and irrevocably that the commitments undertaken in the field of the human dimension are matters of direct and legitimate concern to all participating States and do not belong exclusively to the internal affairs of the State concerned. We value the important role played by civil society and free media in helping us to ensure full respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms, democracy, including free and fair elections, and the rule of law.

7. Serious threats and challenges remain. Mistrust and divergent security perceptions must be overcome. Our commitments in the politico-military, economic and environmental, and human dimensions need to be fully implemented. Respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law must be safeguarded and strengthened. Greater efforts must be made to promote freedom of religion or belief and to combat intolerance and discrimination. (...)

9. At the same time, in today's complex and inter-connected world, we must achieve greater unity of purpose and action in facing emerging transnational threats, such as terrorism, organized crime, illegal migration, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, cyber threats and the illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons, drugs and human beings. Such threats can originate within or outside our region.

10. We recognize that the security of the OSCE area is inextricably linked to that of adjacent areas, notably in the Mediterranean and in Asia. We must therefore enhance the level of our interaction with our Partners for Co-operation. In particular, we underscore the need to contribute effectively, based on the capacity and national interest of each participating State, to collective international efforts to promote a stable, independent, prosperous and democratic Afghanistan.

11. We welcome initiatives aimed at strengthening European security. Our security dialogue, enhanced by the Corfu Process, has helped to sharpen our focus on these and other challenges we face in all three dimensions. The time has now come to act, and we must define concrete and tangible goals in addressing these challenges. We are determined to work together to fully realize the vision of a comprehensive, co-operative and indivisible security community throughout our shared OSCE area. This security community should be aimed at meeting the challenges of the 21st century and based on our full adherence to common OSCE norms, principles and commitments across all three dimensions. It should unite all OSCE participating States across the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian region, free of dividing lines, conflicts, spheres of influence and zones with different

levels of security. We will work to ensure that co-operation among our States, and among the relevant organizations and institutions of which they are members, will be guided by the principles of equality, partnership co-operation, inclusiveness and transparency. Drawing strength from our diversity, we resolve to achieve this overarching goal through sustained determination and common effort, acting within the OSCE and in other formats.

(...)

Document of the Eighteenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council

Vilnius 2011

I. Statements and Declarations by the Ministerial Council

Ministerial Declaration on Combating all Forms of Human Trafficking

I.

1. We, the members of the Ministerial Council of the OSCE, declare our strong and unwavering determination to combat human trafficking in all its forms.

2. We declare that human trafficking is a grave and heinous crime that violates human dignity and undermines human rights and fundamental freedoms and that feeds organized criminal networks.

3. We remain fully committed to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: “No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.”

4. We reiterate the support of the participating States for the ratification and full implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its supplementing Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, as the international framework to combat trafficking in persons. Furthermore, we stress the importance of the adoption of the United Nations Global Plan of Action (GA 64/293) to Combat Trafficking in Persons that fosters enhanced

co-operation and coordination among all relevant stakeholders and promotes comprehensive, coordinated and consistent responses at the national, regional, and international levels to counter trafficking in human beings, and welcome OSCE efforts towards its implementation.

5. We recognize the progress achieved to date by OSCE participating States individually and collectively to address this heinous crime. We recall our full adherence to the OSCE’s commitment to combating human trafficking and our strong resolve to implement that commitment through a multidimensional approach, as set forth in various OSCE documents, (...).

6. We express grave concern that despite sustained measures taken at the international, regional, and national levels, trafficking remains a serious problem, the number of victims of human trafficking which have been identified and assisted remains relatively low and few traffickers have been brought to justice. We are deeply concerned that human trafficking for the removal of organs, for the purpose of sexual exploitation, as well as for the purpose of labour exploitation, including domestic servitude, remains a serious problem.

7. We acknowledge with appreciation the important role of the Special Representative and Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in assisting participating States, upon their

request, in the implementation of the OSCE anti-trafficking commitments. We value the Special Representative's close co-operation, in a coordinating role, with OSCE executive structures, in full respect with their mandates, including with the OCEEA; the Gender Section; the ODIHR including the Anti-Trafficking Programme unit and the Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues; and with the Chairmanship-in-Office's Special Representative on Gender Issues, as well as, where appropriate, with the OSCE field operations. In the spirit of the Astana Commemorative Declaration, we appreciate the co-operation with parliamentarians of the participating States on combating human trafficking. In particular, we commend recent efforts by the OSCE to highlight trafficking for labour exploitation, including domestic servitude, as well as child trafficking and trafficking in persons for the removal of organs.

8. We promote and support multi-disciplinary co-operation, cross-sectoral training and multilateral partnerships. We commend the initiatives taken by the OSCE Special Representative under the auspices of the Alliance against Trafficking in Persons (...).

II.

9. We recognize the need to enhance the criminal justice responses to human trafficking, including the prosecution of traffickers and their accomplices, while ensuring that victims are treated in a manner that respects their human rights and that they are provided with access to justice, to legal assistance, and to effective remedies and other services as applicable. We will explore investigative techniques such as financial investigations, improve information-sharing relating to organized crime groups, and promote cross-border law enforcement and judicial collaboration to identify effectively both traffickers and potential victims of human trafficking.

10. We recognize that adequate measures should be taken to ensure that, where appropriate, identified victims of human trafficking are not penalized for their involvement in unlawful activities to the extent that they have been compelled to do so. We urge participating States to implement comprehensive and appropriate measures on assistance to victims of trafficking in persons.

11. We will renew efforts to identify and assist victims of human trafficking taking into account especially vulnerable populations. As applicable, we will promote awareness-raising campaigns aimed at persons at risk of being trafficked and addressing the social, economic, cultural, political, and other factors that contribute to the vulnerability of being trafficked. We will increase and support prevention efforts by focusing on the demand that fosters all forms of trafficking and the goods and services that result from trafficking in persons.

12. We acknowledge the important role of civil society organizations in providing assistance and empowerment to victims of trafficking in persons.

13. We acknowledge that child protection systems need to be strengthened in order effectively to help prevent, identify, and respond to child trafficking in all its forms to provide appropriate assistance and protection in the best interest of the child to child victims of trafficking or those at risk of being trafficked, including through appropriate services and measures for the physical and psychological wellbeing as well as for their education, rehabilitation and reintegration.

14. We acknowledge that, in order to prevent trafficking in human beings for the purpose of labour exploitation effectively, labour rights must be respected. We recommend the development and application of measures to improve labour practices and promote the effective enforcement of internationally recognized labour rights, by means such as labour inspections, monitoring of

private employment agencies, and the development of other programs to support workers in exercising their labour rights.

15. We encourage participating States to work with the business sector to apply principles of due diligence and transparency in assessing and addressing risks of exploitation throughout supply chains and ensuring that workers have access to mechanisms for the redress and remedy of abusive practices. We encourage the dissemination and implementation of the newly adopted United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. Similarly, we encourage governments to consider incorporating similar standards, including “zero tolerance” policies, in government procurement of goods and services.

III.

16. We underscore that the OSCE provides a highly valuable platform for dialogue and enhanced co-operation among participating States for a comprehensive response to human trafficking in all its forms. With this in mind, we reaffirm our determination to implement OSCE commitments, including the Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, to use relevant structures of the OSCE to the full, and to strengthen the OSCE’s partnership with other international and regional organizations, as well as with civil society.

II. Decisions of the Ministerial Council

Decision No. 5/11

Partners for co-operation

The Ministerial Council,

Recalling the Helsinki Final Act of 1975, which recognizes the close link between peace and security in Europe and in the world as a whole,

Recalling the OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-First Century, adopted in 2003 at the Eleventh Meeting of the Ministerial Council in Maastricht, which states that the OSCE will intensify its co-operation with its Mediterranean and Asian Partners for co-operation, by early identification of areas of common interest and concern and possibilities for further coordinated action,

Fully convinced that the security of the OSCE area is inextricably linked with security in the regions of the Partners for co-operation, and reaffirming our commitment to intensifying our dialogue and co-operation with the Mediterranean and Asian Partners for co-operation and to strengthening our capacity to respond to the needs and priorities identified by the Partners and on the basis of OSCE norms, principles and commitments,

Recognizing the democratic transition processes, political, economic and social changes that have taken place in some Mediterranean Partners in 2011,

Commending the voluntary reform processes undertaken by some Mediterranean Partner countries,

Recognizing that each country is different and has the right to develop its own political model, with respect for the universal values of human rights and dignity,

Agreeing that the OSCE's experience in different areas can be of interest and potential benefit to the Partners, while taking into full account their prime responsibility for making national political choices as well as their specific political, social, cultural and religious heritage and in accordance with their needs, goals and national priorities,

Reaffirming the readiness of the OSCE, through its executive structures, within their respective mandates in accordance with established procedures and when requested, to assist the Partners for co-operation, as appropriate, in their voluntary implementation of OSCE norms, principles and commitments,

Recognizing the important role played by civil society in Partners for co-operation, in promoting democracy, the rule of law, and full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Welcoming the progress achieved in recent years through dialogue and co-operation with our Mediterranean and Asian Partners for co-operation, including their enhanced participation in OSCE meetings and activities including the implementation of concrete mutual projects,

Recalling Permanent Council Decision No. 571 on further dialogue and co-operation with the Partners for co-operation and exploring the scope for wider sharing of OSCE norms, principles and commitments with others, and Ministerial Council Decision No. 17/04 on the OSCE and its Partners for co-operation, as well as the Madrid Ministerial Declaration on the OSCE Partners for co-operation,

Recalling the Astana Commemorative Declaration of 2010, which underlined the importance of enhancing the level of interaction with the Partners for co-operation,

Reiterating support for the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's co-operation with the Partners including through the holding of its annual Parliamentary Forum on the Mediterranean, and taking note of the work done by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in this respect,

Reconfirms its openness to considering future potential applications for partnership from interested countries, in line with Permanent Council Decision No. 430 of 19 July 2001. Recognizing the important role played by civil society in Partners for co-operation, in promoting democracy, the rule of law, and full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Welcoming the progress achieved in recent years through dialogue and co-operation with our Mediterranean and Asian Partners for co-operation, including their enhanced participation in OSCE meetings and activities including the implementation of concrete mutual projects,

Recalling Permanent Council Decision No. 571 on further dialogue and co-operation with the Partners for co-operation and exploring the scope for wider sharing of OSCE norms, principles and commitments with others, and Ministerial Council Decision No. 17/04 on the OSCE and its Partners for co-operation, as well as the Madrid Ministerial Declaration on the OSCE Partners for co-operation,

Recalling the Astana Commemorative Declaration of 2010, which underlined the importance of enhancing the level of interaction with the Partners for co-operation,

Reiterating support for the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's co-operation with the Partners including through the holding of its annual Parliamentary Forum on the Mediterranean, and taking note of the work done by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in this respect,

1. Decides to enhance further the Partnership for co-operation by broadening dialogue, intensifying political consultations, strengthening practical co-operation and further sharing best practices and experience gained in the development of comprehensive, cooperative and indivisible security, in the three OSCE dimensions, according to the needs and priorities identified by the Partners;
2. Encourages the OSCE executive structures, in accordance with their mandates and established procedures, to engage in action oriented co-operation with the Partner countries in all three dimensions, taking also into account the annual conferences of Partners, by providing expert advice and exchange of information on best practices and experiences upon request of the Partners based on relevant OSCE decisions when required and invites the Partners to increase the level of their participation in the OSCE activities;
3. Decides, in the context of the Partnership, to increase the efforts to promote OSCE norms, principles and commitments through the contacts in coordination with other relevant regional and international organizations, particularly the United Nations notably through the sharing of best practices and experiences and through joint projects and activities in all three dimensions, as appropriate;
4. Calls upon the OSCE Chairmanship and the Contact Groups, together with the Secretary General, to strengthen and further develop regular high-level dialogue with the Partners for co-operation, in order to enhance mutual understanding and ensure high-level political support and assistance for the Partners for co-operation, taking into account their needs and priorities;
5. Calls upon the OSCE executive structures, within their mandates, to facilitate a broader participation of officials and civil society representatives of Partners for co-operation in relevant OSCE events, as well as through the use of the Partnership Fund as appropriate;
6. Tasks the Secretary General, in consultation with the OSCE Chairmanship, with exploring possible options for action-oriented and results-based co-operation with Partners, in coordination with the United Nations and other relevant regional and international organizations and institutions, and with making proposals, as appropriate, for further action by the Permanent Council;
7. Requests the Permanent Council to remain seized of the matter and to consider options for future engagement with the Partners for co-operation at their request;
8. Encourages the participating States and the Partners for co-operation to share their experiences and contribute to the OSCE activities in all three dimensions, including through contributions to the Partnership Fund, as appropriate, in order to promote further engagement with the Partners for co-operation;
9. Reconfirms its openness to considering future potential applications for partnership from interested countries, in line with Permanent Council Decision No. 430 of 19 July 2001.

Council Decision No. 10/11

Equal Opportunity for Women in the Economic Sphere

The Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming the commitment of the participating States to implement fully Decision No. 14/04 on the OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality, adopted at the Twelfth Meeting of the Ministerial Council, in Sofia, in 2004,

(...)

Reaffirming the commitments, (...), with regard to promoting the equal rights of men and women to equal opportunities and participation in the economic sphere,

Recognizing that women's participation in the economic sphere contributes significantly towards economic recovery, sustainable growth and the creation of cohesive societies, and thus is essential to the security and stability of the OSCE region,

Noting with concern the continued inequities faced by women in the OSCE region in terms of labour market participation, including job segregation; disparities in access to social protection as well as quality, full-time employment; and the slow progress being made in efforts to overcome the pay gaps for equal work, resulting in women's reduced lifetime earnings and pensions and increased female poverty,

Concerned about the continued under-representation of women in economic leadership and decision-making processes in the public and private sectors,

Concerned also about the persistence of constraints on women's effective participation in the economic sphere, in particular with regard to access to and control over such economic and financial resources as loans and property and inheritance rights,

Recognizing the need for improved and systematic collection of sex-disaggregated data and conducting of studies on equal opportunities in the economic sphere as a basis for planning policy and action,

Recalling the need for economic and social policies aimed at addressing the root causes of the trafficking in human beings, especially to eliminate discrimination against women in employment and to address economic factors that increase the vulnerability of women to trafficking,

Recognizing the need to continue monitoring the implementation of existing commitments on eliminating discrimination against women and promoting equal opportunities for women in the economic sphere, with the aim of identifying and exchanging good practices and developing effective approaches, including within the Organization and its executive structures,

(...)

Recognizing that women may face additional barriers, beyond those based on gender, to their participation in the economic sphere,

Calls on the participating States to:

1. Collect and analyse data to identify and address obstacles preventing women from fulfilling their potential in the economic sphere and, as appropriate and in accordance with national legislation, to support non-governmental and research bodies in producing targeted studies, including on good practices;
2. Assess the allocation of budgetary resources for promoting gender equality in the economic sphere and take concrete measures that lead to women's equal opportunity for economic participation and equal access to social protection, and that support quality as well as full-time and/or self-employment;

3. Facilitate the development of women's entrepreneurial and other work-related skills, and, incorporate gender aspects, with particular attention to women, in migration policies, in order, inter alia, to prevent human trafficking and re-trafficking;
4. Initiate or strengthen policy and legal measures, including positive action measures as appropriate, that would facilitate and protect equal opportunity for participation of women in the labour market, including through the expansion of childcare and nursing facilities;
5. Identify concrete actions aimed at promoting equal opportunities for women in the economic sphere and, where appropriate, establish effective national mechanisms for monitoring progress in this field, such as on closing pay gaps;
6. Promote the sharing of domestic work, and parental and caregiver responsibilities, by expanding paternity leave; promoting non-discriminatory employment policies and practices and equal access to education and training; taking measures to facilitate combining employment with family responsibilities; and seeking to ensure that any structural adjustment policies and programmes do not have an adversely discriminatory effect on women;
7. Support the development of the necessary environment for successful policy formulation and implementation through targeted information and awareness-raising activities regarding the benefits of measures taken to promote the equal opportunity for participation of women in the economic sphere and to combat the social exclusion of women and discrimination against them;
8. Introduce measures and engage in dialogue with the private sector to provide equal opportunities for women's professional advancement and to close pay gaps;
9. Develop and strengthen measures, as feasible, that lead to increased diversification in employment sectors that are traditionally male – or female-dominated;
10. Encourages the Partners for co-operation to voluntarily implement the provisions of this decision.

Document of the Nineteenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council

Dublin 2012

Statements and Declarations by the Ministerial Council

Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening Good Governance and Combating Corruption, Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism

We, the members of the Ministerial Council of the Organization for Security and co-operation in Europe, declare our strong support for promoting good governance and transparency in the OSCE area.

We recognize that the United Nations Charter, the Helsinki Final Act and subsequent OSCE landmark documents contain shared commitments, principles and instruments that the participating States should implement in their efforts to promote good governance and transparency.

We reiterate that good governance at all levels is fundamental to economic growth, political stability, and security. Good public and corporate governance, rule of law and strong institutions are essential foundations for a sound economy, which can enable our States to reduce poverty and inequality, to increase social integration and opportunities for all, to attract investment and to protect the environment.

We reaffirm that peace, good international relations, the security and stability of the State and the security and safety of the individual within the State, based on the rule of law and respect for human rights, are crucial for the creation of a climate of confidence which is essential to ensure positive economic and social development.

Transparency in public affairs is an essential condition for the accountability of States and for the active participation of civil society and the private sector in economic and development processes. Transparency increases the predictability of, and confidence in, institutions and economies which are functioning on the basis of adequate legislation and with full respect for the rule of law.

We agree that problems of governance, including corruption and money laundering, deprive participating States of the capacity to effectively ensure sustainable economic, social and environmental development and undermine social cohesion, stability and security. Weak governance is among the factors conducive to the spread of terrorism. We therefore reaffirm our full commitment to tackling corruption and countering money-laundering, the financing of terrorism and related offences by making them policy priorities backed up by appropriate legal instruments, adequate financial, human and institutional resources and, where necessary, appropriate tools for their practical and effective implementation.

We recognize the progress achieved to date by the OSCE participating States, individually and collectively, in addressing these threats and challenges to stability and security. We affirm that the

OSCE political commitments related to good governance and transparency cut across all three dimensions, and we reiterate our full adherence to implementing these commitments through a comprehensive approach, as set forth in this and other relevant OSCE documents.

We reaffirm our agreement to work on a national basis, with the support of relevant international institutions, to strengthen good governance in all its aspects and to develop methods of co-operation to assist each other in achieving this goal.

I. Good governance and transparency

We view a public sector based on integrity, openness, transparency, accountability and rule of law as being a major factor of sustainable economic growth, and recognize that such a public sector constitutes an important element for fostering citizens' trust in public institutions and government. Thus, we underline the importance of providing education and training on ethical behaviour for public officials, establishing and enforcing relevant codes of conduct and conflict-of-interest legislation, and adopting and implementing comprehensive income and asset-disclosure systems for relevant officials. In particular, we recognize that both the development of and adherence to codes of conduct for public institutions are critical to reinforcing good governance, public-sector integrity and the rule of law, and to providing rigorous standards of ethics and conduct for public officials.

We welcome the support the OSCE and its field operations have already provided in this regard and call on them to continue providing their valuable assistance to participating States upon their request, also in sharing among themselves, through the OSCE platform for dialogue, national experiences gained and good practices.

We recognize that good governance requires a framework of economic policies, legislation and institutions in which businesses and investments can grow. Therefore, we reaffirm our determination to have clear legal frameworks conducive to the development of business, including small – and medium-sized enterprises, which are critical to economic growth, and to the promotion of investment.

We recognize that achieving good governance and combating corruption will not succeed without the full and equal participation of women and men in political and economic processes and institutions, as stipulated in a number of OSCE documents. We underline the importance of empowering women to actively participate in and contribute to policies and activities related to good governance for the equal benefit of men and women.

We recognize the importance of adopting and enforcing laws and other measures against bribery, providing, for example, for the criminalization of bribery of domestic and foreign public officials and the development of public-private partnerships to counter the bribery of public officials.

We reaffirm that the effective management of public resources by strong and well-functioning institutions, a professional and effective civil service, as well as sound budgetary and public procurement processes are major components of good governance.

Thus, we recognize the importance of openness, transparency and non-discrimination in the area of goods and services, providing a solid financial basis for our public administration systems, ensuring fiscal and budgetary transparency and adopting fair and transparent government procurement systems, (...).

II. Combating corruption, money laundering and the financing of terrorism

We encourage those OSCE participating States that have not yet done so to become States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and to fully implement it. We welcome OSCE assistance towards its implementation, and task the OSCE Secretariat, in particular the Office of the Coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA), at the request of OSCE participating States with providing support, including the mobilization of technical assistance.

We recognize the need to enhance the implementation of our international and national anti-corruption commitments by inter alia involving civil society and the business community in the process, as appropriate, and the importance of regularly reviewing them, including, within the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption in accordance with the terms of reference of the Mechanism.

We welcome that the OSCE, and in particular the OCEEA, continues to assist participating States, at their request, with developing and/or harmonizing their national anti-corruption legislation, in line with their international commitments, with ensuring practical implementation and effective enforcement through exchanges of experience and good practices at the regional, sub regional and national levels, and with providing advice and training in co-operation with other relevant organizations (...).

We recognize that combating corruption requires long-term and comprehensive strategic approaches and strong institutions. We are convinced that those in charge of the prevention, identification, investigation, prosecution and adjudication of corruption offences should be free from improper influence. In particular, we underline the central role that law enforcement bodies and judicial institutions play in fighting against corruption and in guaranteeing the rule of law. We recognize the critical importance of safeguarding the judiciary's independence in order to enable it to fulfil this function and the need to intensify efforts in this regard. We also acknowledge the importance of, and the need to ensure adequate resources for such institutions.

We also acknowledge the fundamental importance of effectively preventing transfers of the proceeds of crime, the theft, embezzlement and other diversion of public assets, and of recovering stolen assets, for the credibility of our anti-corruption efforts and for economic development. We recognize that effective asset recovery requires appropriate legal frameworks and institutions, empowered practitioners with proper skills and resources, proactive and swift national and international co-operation, networking frameworks and strong political will.

We therefore support measures geared towards removing barriers to asset recovery, inter alia, by increasing the efficiency of legal procedures and preventing abuse of those procedures, enhancing efforts to prevent money laundering, and strengthening international co-operation on asset recovery. (...)

We recognize the importance of extending sufficient protection to whistleblowers in the public or private sector, as they play a key role in the prevention and detection of corruption, thus defending the public interest. We will intensify our efforts to take appropriate measures to put in place and implement legal mechanisms for the effective protection of whistleblowers and their close family members, from retaliation, intimidation or other psychological or physical harm, or the unwarranted loss of their liberty or livelihood.

We recognize such measures to be necessary elements of an effective anti-corruption regime.

We recognize that acts of international terrorism depend on the financing that terrorists may obtain. We consider that the financing of terrorism is a matter of grave concern to the international community as a whole. We are convinced of the urgent need to enhance international co-operation among States in devising and adopting effective measures for the prevention of the financing of terrorism, as well as for its suppression through the prosecution and punishment of its perpetrators. (...)

III. Civil society and the private sector

We encourage the OSCE to further embrace its comprehensive approach to security and to continue to strengthen the dialogue and co-operation between governments, civil society and the private sector in order to support good governance efforts, including combating corruption, money laundering and the financing of terrorism, in the participating States.

We recognize that it is important to include the private sector in efforts to counter corruption and enhance good governance and to engage it in favour of a fair and transparent business environment. Such a commitment by the business community is important to enhancing good governance, transparency, stability and security at the national and international levels. (...)

We encourage the business community to take into account in its activities the social, environmental, humanitarian and security needs of the participating States.

We underline the importance of enhancing the contribution of academia, the business community and civil society to raising awareness of impediments to economic growth, including barriers to market entry, trade and investment, and of the need for greater transparency to foster sustainable economic development.

We recognize that freedom of information and access to information foster openness and accountability in public policy and procurement, and enable civil society, including the media, to contribute to preventing and combating corruption, the financing of terrorism, and money laundering and its predicate offences. We reaffirm our commitment to make our governments more transparent by further developing processes and institutions for providing timely information, including reliable statistics, with a view to promoting a well-informed and responsive dialogue.

We uphold the value of openness in our engagement with citizens to improve services, increase public integrity, effectively manage public resources, create safer communities and increase corporate accountability. (...)

IV. Working together for progress

We recognize that the OSCE provides a forum for political dialogue, information exchange and co-operation on good governance, as well as a platform on which to build the necessary political consensus and understanding regarding the importance of preventing and suppressing corruption, money laundering and the financing of terrorism at all levels for sustainable socioeconomic development and stability. We reaffirm our commitment to cooperating in the development of strategies for good governance and to sharing experience regarding best practices.

We welcome the established close co-operation between the OSCE and other relevant organizations and institutions, including the United Nations, and we call on the OSCE executive structures

and in particular the OCEEA to further develop co-operation with them in order to ensure added value and complementarity of activities.

We recognize the valuable contribution that the OSCE executive structures, including the OSCE field operations, bring to the wider work of the Organization in promoting good governance, transparency and the rule of law. We call on them to further foster their co-operation and to continue to coordinate their efforts to assist participating States, at their request, in implementing the provisions of this declaration.

Document of the Twentieth Meeting of the Ministerial Council

Kyiv 2013

I. Statements and Declarations by the Ministerial Council

Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening the OSCE's Efforts to Address Transnational Threats

We, the members of the Ministerial Council of the OSCE, recognizing the evolving nature of transnational threats in the OSCE region and beyond, and the necessity to provide collective and effective international responses, coordinated and founded on a cross-dimensional approach, (...),

Commend the activities of the OSCE participating States in strengthening co-operation on addressing transnational threats in areas such as counterterrorism, fight against organized crime, trafficking in human beings and in illicit drugs, police-related activities and border security and management, as well as development of confidence-building measures (CBMs) (...);

(...)

Encourage the OSCE participating States and relevant executive structures within their mandates and established procedures to intensify efforts to achieve greater unity of purpose and action in addressing existing and emerging transnational threats and to continue dialogue in this field, including at focused and result-oriented OSCE-wide thematic conferences to be held as appropriate and preferably annually;

Invite the OSCE participating States, where needed with the support of the relevant OSCE executive structures, to further develop co-operation with the UN and other relevant international and regional organizations on the basis of the 1999 Platform for Cooperative Security, as well as with the OSCE Mediterranean and Asian Partners for co-operation, with a view to further strengthen the OSCE capacity in countering transnational threats, including with the engagement of civil society.

II. Decisions of the Ministerial Council

Decision No. 3/13

Freedom of Thought, Conscience, Religion or Belief

The Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming past CSCE/OSCE decisions on the freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief, (...),

(...)

Committed to ensuring respect for and enjoyment of the freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief for all,

Emphasizing that every individual has the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief, which includes the freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of one's choice, as well as not to have or profess any religion, to change one's religion or belief, and the freedom to manifest one's religion or belief, either alone or in community with others, and in public or in private, through teaching, practice, worship and observance. The freedom to manifest one's religion or beliefs may be subject only to such restrictions as are prescribed by law and are consistent with international standards,

Reaffirming the commitments of participating States to respect, protect, and ensure the right of everyone to freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief,

Emphasizing the link between security and full respect for the freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief,

Deeply concerned by continuing acts of intolerance and violence against individuals and religious or belief communities on the basis of thought, conscience, religion or belief around the world,

Emphasizing that freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief and all other human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent, interrelated and mutually reinforcing,

Stressing the importance of fostering a climate of mutual tolerance and respect between believers of different communities as well as between believers and nonbelievers,

Calls on participating States to:

Fully implement OSCE commitments on the freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief;

Fully implement their commitments to ensure the right of all individuals to profess and practice religion or belief, either alone or in community with others, and in public or private, and to manifest their religion or belief through teaching, practice, worship and observance, including through transparent and nondiscriminatory laws, regulations, practices and policies;

Refrain from imposing restrictions inconsistent with OSCE commitments and international obligations on the practice of religion or belief by individuals and religious communities;

Promote and facilitate open and transparent interfaith and inter-religious dialogue and partnerships;

Aim to prevent intolerance, violence and discrimination on the basis of religion or belief, including against Christians, Jews, Muslims and members of other religions, as well as against nonbelievers, condemn violence and discrimination on religious grounds and endeavour to prevent and protect against attacks directed at persons or groups based on thought, conscience, religion or belief;

Encourage the inclusion of religious and belief communities, in a timely fashion, in public discussions of pertinent legislative initiatives;

Promote dialogue between religious or belief communities and governmental bodies, including, where necessary, on issues related to the use of places of worship and religious property;

Take effective measures to prevent and eliminate discrimination against individuals or religious or belief communities on the basis of religion or belief, including against nonbelievers, by public officials in the conduct of their public duties;

Adopt policies to promote respect and protection for places of worship and religious sites, religious monuments, cemeteries and shrines against vandalism and destruction.

Decision No. 4/13

Enhancing OSCE Efforts to Implement the Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE Area, with a Particular Focus on Roma and Sinti Women, Youth and Children

The Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming the OSCE commitments regarding Roma and Sinti, (...),
(...)

Recognizing that various efforts such as the development and implementation of national action plans and strategies as well as creation of specific programmes and policies aiming at improvement of situation of Roma and Sinti have been undertaken in the OSCE area and the implementation of these initiatives at the local level is essential for their fulfilment,

Taking note of the findings and priority action recommendations contained in the ODIHR's second status report on the implementation of the Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE Area, released in 2013,
(...)

Concerned that Roma and Sinti continue to be the targets of racism and bias-motivated violence in the OSCE area,

Noting, in this context, that Roma and Sinti women and girls are particularly vulnerable to multiple forms of discrimination, as well as to violence and harassment,

Recognizing that education is key to opening up greater opportunities for equal participation in the social, political, economic and cultural life for Roma and Sinti, including Roma and Sinti women, youth and children, in particular girls, to exercise their rights and to promote their full inclusion,

Convinced that the participating States should seek to provide Roma and Sinti with opportunities to contribute to the policies that affect them and that Roma and Sinti should be partners and share responsibility for implementing those policies designed to promote and facilitate their integration,

Recognizing that Roma and Sinti women's rights and equality between men and women, in particular, need to be supported and promoted by State policies and institutions, with the active involvement of Roma and Sinti women,

Considering that Roma and Sinti youth and children will in the future be the main stakeholders in promoting inclusion for Roma and Sinti people and communities, as well as promoting their full participation in the social, civic, political, economic and cultural life of the societies in which they live,

Calls on participating States to:

1. Enhance their efforts to implement the Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE Area including through better monitoring and assessment of the strategies, policies and measures regarding Roma and Sinti integration;

2. Prevent further marginalization and exclusion of Roma and Sinti and address the rise of discrimination and violent manifestations of intolerance against Roma and Sinti, including against Roma and Sinti migrants, by:

2.1 Enhancing their efforts to promote tolerance of and combating prejudices against Roma and Sinti;

2.2 Unequivocally and publicly condemning any violence targeting Roma and Sinti;

2.3 Countering negative stereotypes of Roma and Sinti in the media taking into account relevant OSCE freedom of the media commitments;

2.4 Enacting or strengthening, where necessary, legislation and policy measures to address discrimination and bias-motivated crime against Roma and Sinti;

2.5 Building the capacity of law enforcement agencies and personnel to identify, collect data, investigate and prosecute hate crimes against Roma and Sinti;

2.6 Taking necessary measures to ensure access to effective remedies for victims of discrimination and violent manifestations of intolerance against Roma and Sinti, through judicial, administrative, mediation and conciliation procedures;

2.7 Enhancing the participation of Roma and Sinti in the elaboration, implementation and evaluation of the policies that affect them, including by fostering Roma and Sinti political participation and by supporting voter education among Roma and Sinti;

2.8 Promoting inclusive dialogue within society in order to raise awareness of the role that intolerance and discrimination against Roma and Sinti can play in threatening social cohesion, stability and security;

2.9 Addressing the root causes of discrimination and intolerance against Roma and Sinti, including through enhanced comprehensive educational and awareness raising efforts to tackle prejudice and promote mutual respect and understanding;

2.10 Supporting civil society in their efforts to represent and provide assistance to Roma and Sinti victims of hate crimes and discrimination;

2.11 Taking necessary measures to increase Roma and Sinti active participation and ownership to promote their social inclusion;

2.12 Taking measures to ensure the security, wellbeing and health of Roma and Sinti women, youth and children, including by addressing domestic violence, early marriages and trafficking in human beings, including, where necessary, by providing access to rehabilitative support;

3. Focus their efforts and the necessary resources on education as an important factor for improving the situation of Roma and Sinti and promoting their greater social and economic integration by means that could include:

3.1 Taking active measures to ensure equal access to and participation for Roma and Sinti youth and children in education at all levels in State-provided education, including at the early education, primary and secondary school levels;

3.2 Addressing the high dropout rate for Roma and Sinti secondary school students, and paying due attention to the specific problems faced by Roma and Sinti girls in that regard, while taking active measures to encourage participation of Roma and Sinti youth in higher levels of education;

3.3 Promoting greater access and taking appropriate measures to facilitate enrolment for Roma and Sinti students in tertiary education, including through scholarship programmes;

3.4 Promoting development of Roma and Sinti integration programmes at the national and local levels, including education programmes and supplementary study courses, inter alia on Roma and Sinti culture and history;

3.5 Renewing efforts to eliminate segregation of Roma and Sinti in education at all levels;

4. Take active measures to support the empowerment of Roma and Sinti women, including by:

4.1 Stepping up their efforts to ensure that Roma and Sinti women can enjoy and exercise their human rights and increasing efforts to combat discrimination against them at all levels, including, where necessary, in the areas of education, employment, health care and housing, and engaging in partnership with Roma and Sinti civil society organizations and Roma and Sinti people to this end;

4.2 Promoting the effective and equal participation of Roma and Sinti women in public and political life, including through the promotion of women's access to public office, public administration and decision making positions;

4.3 Encouraging equal access for Roma and Sinti women to employment, internships and mentoring opportunities;

4.4 Targeting specific measures, where appropriate, aimed at promoting equal access to and participation in education for Roma and Sinti girls at all levels;

5. Encourage the relevant OSCE executive structures to enhance their activities meant to build the capacities of Roma and Sinti women and youth organizations, with a view to promoting empowerment, education and non-discrimination among Roma and Sinti women and youth, and to encourage the participation of Roma and Sinti women on an equal footing with men in all areas of their interest;

Calls for continued coordination within the OSCE and co-operation with relevant international actors with the goal of enhancing OSCE efforts to implement the Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE area;

Encourages the OSCE PA to continue its efforts aimed at improving the situation of Roma and Sinti in the OSCE area.

Decision No. 7/13

Combating Trafficking in Human Beings

The Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming the relevant OSCE commitments of the years 2000 to 2008 and the 2011 Vilnius Ministerial Declaration on Combating All Forms of Human Trafficking,

Reiterating the strategic value of the 2003 OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings which provides the participating States with advanced recommendations on actions to be taken at the international and national levels in the field of prosecution, prevention and protection, and guides the activities of the relevant OSCE executive structures,

Deeply concerned by the significant growth in all forms of THB, both transnational and internal, and reiterating the particular need to take more vigorous measures to address the challenging current and emerging THB trends and patterns,

Endorses the adoption of the Addendum to the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings: One Decade Later by Permanent Council Decision No. 1107, and considers the Addendum: One Decade Later to be an integral part of the 2003 OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings.

Document of the Twenty-First Meeting of the Ministerial Council

Basel 2014

I. Statements and Declarations by the Ministerial Council

Ministerial Declaration on Youth

We, the members of the Ministerial Council of the Organization for Security and co-operation in Europe, recall the OSCE commitments relating to youth and children, which are enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act and other relevant OSCE decisions, and take note of the efforts of other international organizations in this regard, in particular the United Nations.

We acknowledge that youth and children require particular attention and that their needs, concerns and interests should be addressed in a comprehensive manner.

We acknowledge the potential of young people to contribute to economic, political and social development, and that they can support participating States in the implementation of commitments in all three dimensions of the OSCE.

We take note of the Swiss Chairmanship's initiative related to youth in the OSCE.

Ministerial Declaration on Enhancing Efforts to Combat Anti-Semitism

We, the members of the Ministerial Council of the Organization for Security and co-operation in Europe, recall the OSCE Conference on Anti-Semitism held in Berlin in 2004, at which the OSCE participating States condemned all manifestations of anti-Semitism and committed themselves to common efforts to combat anti-Semitism throughout the OSCE area.

We express our concern at the disconcerting number of anti-Semitic incidents that continue to take place in the OSCE area and remain a challenge to stability and security.

We reject and condemn manifestations of anti-Semitism, intolerance and discrimination against Jews.

We recall the commitment to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction to race, sex, language or religion, as enshrined in the provision of the Helsinki Final Act of 1975.

We appreciate the 2004 OSCE Chairman-in-Office's Berlin Declaration on Anti-Semitism and reaffirm the relevant OSCE commitments.

We take note of the Swiss OSCE Chairmanship conclusions on the tenth anniversary of the Berlin Conference on Anti-Semitism.

We acknowledge the essential contribution made by civil society to preventing and responding to anti-Semitism, (...),

We stress the importance of States collaborating with civil society through effective partnerships and strengthened dialogue and co-operation on combating anti-Semitism.

We declare unambiguously that international developments, including with regard to the situation in the Middle East, never justify anti-Semitism.

We call on political, religious and civil society leaders to engage in open discussions with a view to combating and preventing anti-Semitism while fully respecting fundamental freedoms and human rights.

We call upon the participating States to:

Encourage political leaders and public figures to speak out strongly and promptly when anti-Semitic incidents occur;

Promote educational programmes for combating anti-Semitism and provide young people with opportunities for human rights education including on the subject of anti-Semitism;

Increase efforts to implement existing OSCE commitments related to monitoring hate crimes and collecting relevant data, including motivated by anti-Semitism;

Investigate effectively, promptly and impartially acts of violence motivated by anti-Semitism and prosecute those responsible;

Promote and facilitate open and transparent intercultural, interfaith and inter-religious dialogue and partnerships;

Encourage the inclusion of religious and belief communities in public discussions of pertinent legislative initiatives;

We call upon the ODIHR to:

Offer to participating States best practices on efforts to counter anti-Semitism, including by consulting civil society, to effectively identify and address contemporary manifestations of anti-Semitism;

Facilitate co-operation between governmental officials and civil society on issues related to anti-Semitism, including hate crime and Holocaust remembrance;

Assist participating States in their efforts to collect data on anti-Semitic hate crimes, in co-operation with civil society, as appropriate;

Facilitate the exchange of best practices among participating States on educational initiatives and other measures to raise awareness of anti-Semitism and overcome challenges to Holocaust education;

Promote dialogue and strengthen the capacity of civil society to foster mutual respect and understanding in order to advance the cause of co-operation between different communities.

We highlight the work of the three Personal Representatives on tolerance issues in support of overall efforts of the OSCE to combat intolerance and discrimination, in particular through their country visits, the resulting recommendations and their reporting to the OSCE Permanent Council.

We encourage the participating States to elaborate Ministerial Council Declarations on enhancing efforts to combat intolerance and discrimination, including against Muslims, Christians and members of other religions.

II. Decisions of the Ministerial Council

Decision No. 5/14

Prevention of Corruption

The Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming the OSCE commitments on combating corruption, (...),

Recognizing that corruption at all levels is a potential source of political tension that undermines the stability and security of participating States, threatens the OSCE's shared values, and facilitates criminal activity,

Convinced that more effective prevention of corruption promotes good governance in all public sectors, reinforces trust in public institutions, increases corporate social responsibility in the private sector, enhances economic growth and contributes to social stability and security,

Reaffirming that freedom of information and access to information foster openness and accountability in public policy and procurement and enable civil society, including the media, to contribute to preventing and combating corruption, the financing of terrorism, moneylaundering and its predicate offences,

Underlining the central role played by law enforcement bodies and judicial institutions in preventing and combating corruption,

Recognizing that the ability of an independent media to investigate and to publish the results of that investigation, in accordance with national legislation and international commitments, without fear of prosecution, persecution or physical harm is fundamental to preventing and combating corruption at all levels and in all sectors,

Acknowledging that efficient, accessible, accountable, and transparent public service delivery is one of the key components in building an anti-corruption environment in the public sector,

Recognizing the importance of capacity-building efforts for effectively preventing and combating corruption,

Recognizing the importance of international co-operation between national anti-corruption bodies for the exchange of best practices, further development of anti-corruption measures and exchange of knowledge among anti-corruption practitioners,

Welcoming the fact that almost all the participating States have ratified or acceded to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and are working towards meeting their commitments deriving from the Convention,

Highlighting the importance of co-operation with other relevant international organizations in preventing and combating corruption,

Encourages the participating States to:

Further develop and implement preventive anti-corruption legislation and policies, and establish and promote practical measures and tools to address all forms and levels of corruption for both the private and the public sectors, and for other stakeholders;

Take measures to enhance transparency, accountability and the rule of law in public administration, in accordance with the fundamental principles of their legal systems, including through the introduction of effective measures facilitating public access to information and the promotion of effective public service delivery;

Adopt, maintain and strengthen systems that prevent conflicts of interest in the public sector, including, for example, by addressing conflicts of interest through enforceable codes of conduct and by establishing and strengthening asset-declaration systems applicable to public officials and politically exposed persons, in accordance with the fundamental principles of their domestic law, and to provide for a fair and competitive environment for recruitment in the public sector, so as to increase transparency and integrity in public administration;

Foster the involvement of the private sector, civil society organizations, the media and academia, including through the support of the OSCE executive structures, in accordance with their mandates, in developing national anti-corruption strategies and policies and to support their subsequent implementation;

Promote a culture of integrity, transparency and accountability, across all sectors of society in order to contribute to the prevention of corruption;

Recognize the important role whistleblowers play in identifying and preventing corruption and defending public interest, and intensify individual national efforts to provide sufficient protection for whistleblowers;

Contribute to strengthening awareness-raising measures with respect to corruption throughout all sectors of society, by providing training and educational programmes in the area of corruption prevention and integrity, with special attention being given to youth, and recognizing the role played in this regard by an engaged and well-informed civil society and an independent, free and pluralistic media;

Take the necessary steps, in accordance with the fundamental principles of their legal systems, to establish or enhance appropriate systems of public procurement that are based on transparency, competition and objective criteria in decision-making, that are effective in preventing corruption;

Support measures to strengthen the integrity of the judiciary and to prevent opportunities for corruption among members of the judiciary and prosecution services;

Implement and adhere to the relevant international standards to fight corruption, such as those prescribed by the United Nations Convention against Corruption and, where appropriate, by the OECD and the Council of Europe conventions on corruption and contribute to intensifying the involvement of civil society in their implementation as laid out in these conventions;

Establish and implement effective, proportionate, and dissuasive sanctions and administrative penalties to penalize corruption for natural as well as, where appropriate, legal persons, with a view to discouraging and stemming corruption;

Facilitate the recovery of stolen assets as part of national measures as well as in the framework of international and, where appropriate, regional co-operation and ensure beneficial ownership transparency;

Make use of available OSCE tools, guidelines and projects in combating and preventing corruption;

Encourages the relevant OSCE executive structures, including, where appropriate, field operations, in accordance with their mandates and within existing resources, to facilitate the exchange of best practices in the prevention of corruption among participating States upon their request;

Tasks the OSCE executive structures, in particular the Office of the Coordinator for OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA) and, where appropriate, field operations, in co-operation with relevant international partners, (...), to assist participating States, within existing resources and upon their request, in the implementation of their commitments within the UNCAC and in the formulation of national policies, in the exchange of best practices and in the delivery of capacity-building activities and projects in the area of preventing and combating corruption;

Tasks the OSCE executive structures, in particular the OCEEA and, where appropriate, the OSCE field operations, to promote, within their available resources and mandates, the available OSCE tools and guidelines on combating and preventing corruption;

(...)

Decision No. 7/14

Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women

The Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming the commitment to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion, (...),

Recalling that the full and equal exercise by women of their human rights is essential to achieving a more peaceful, prosperous and democratic OSCE area and that the OSCE participating States are committed to making equality between men and women an integral part of their policies, both at the level of their States and within the OSCE executive structures, as was declared at the OSCE Istanbul Summit in 1999,

Reaffirming that the inherent dignity of the individual is at the core of comprehensive security, (...),

Reaffirming all relevant OSCE commitments, including those contained in Ministerial Council Decision No. 14/04 on the Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality and the Ministerial Council Decision No. 15/05 on preventing and combating violence against women,

(...)

Acknowledging commitments that participating States have undertaken in international and regional fora on combating violence against women,

Taking note of international and regional initiatives to combat sexual violence, in particular in armed conflict,

(...)

Deeply concerned by the persistence of violence against women as one of the most pervasive human rights violations in the OSCE area, manifested as physical, sexual, and psychological violence and reiterating the particular need to take more vigorous measures in preventing and combating violence against women, to which gender inequality can be among the major contributing factors,

Reaffirming the importance of effective accountability with regard to violence against women and against children, including sexual violence, abuse and exploitation, and of undertaking adequate measures to combat such violence,

Calls on the participating States to take on the following measures related to combating and preventing violence against women in the areas of developing legal frameworks and partnerships, preventing and prosecuting violence against women, and protecting victims;

Calls on the participating States to ensure for all women the protection and full respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

Strongly condemns all forms of violence against women and refrain from justifying it, as described in the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women;

(A) Legal framework

1. Calls on the participating States to:

Request, as appropriate, opinions produced by the ODIHR on legal and policy frameworks for preventing and combating violence against women, including domestic violence;

Collect, maintain and make public reliable, comparable, disaggregated, and comprehensive evidence based data and statistics regarding all forms of violence against women, including sexual and domestic violence, whilst ensuring compliance with their data protection laws, and include information on the number of cases reported to law enforcement bodies, the numbers investigated and prosecuted and the sentences imposed;

Align national legislation with relevant international standards they have undertaken, if they have not done so already, and OSCE commitments on all forms of violence against women, and consider best practices when adopting relevant legislation;

Give consideration to the signature and ratification of relevant regional and international instruments, such as the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, where applicable.

2. Tasks the OSCE executive structures to, within their mandates:

Promote the exchange of best practices regarding legislation related to combating all forms of violence against women;

(B) Prevention

3. Encourages the participating States to:

Strengthen efforts to reach out to the public through public awareness and sensitization activities, in order to address negative stereotypes, attitudes, and prejudices which contribute to all forms of violence against women;

Take appropriate measures to increase the engagement and participation of men and boys in the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against women, including sexual and domestic violence;

Take measures to raise awareness of the vicious cycle of violence that might emanate from physical, sexual, and psychological violence experienced in childhood and adolescence;

Develop programmes to work with the perpetrators of violence against women, both during and after their sentence in order to avoid repeat offenses;

Provide treatment, counselling and training courses and other measures to prevent re-victimization and trauma, including during judicial processes.

4. Tasks the OSCE executive structures to, within their mandates:

Improve co-operation with relevant stakeholders of international and regional organizations on efforts to collect sex-disaggregated data and statistics on the occurrence of all forms of violence against women in the OSCE area;

Assist the participating States, upon their request, in their efforts to promote comprehensive, effective and evidence-based approaches to combating all forms of violence against women, including sexual and domestic violence, and better respond to the needs of all victims.

(C) Protection

5. Encourages the participating States to:

Ensure that victims of all forms of violence against women receive timely and adequate information on available legal measures and support services, such as sexual violence crisis centres, shelters or other relevant structures, as well as healthcare, and to ensure that they are easily accessible;

Promote programmes and activities that empower and support women who have been victims of violence.

6. Tasks the OSCE executive structures to, within their mandates:

Assist the participating States, upon their request, in strengthening their capacities for protection of victims of all forms of violence against women;

Facilitate the exchange between the participating States of information, experience, and best practices concerning protection;

Provide technical assistance to the participating States that request so, in organizing support services such as telephone hotlines, crisis centres, etc.;

Offer to participating States specialized training courses for relevant professionals from interested participating States dealing with victims or perpetrators of all forms of violence against women, including sexual and domestic violence.

(D) Prosecution

7. Encourages the participating States to:

Strengthen the efforts to investigate, prosecute and punish the perpetrators of all forms of violence against women and provide victims with protection and appropriate remedies;

Ensure the development and effective implementation of legislation that criminalize violence against women and that provides for preventative and protective measures, such as emergency barring orders and protection orders, where they exist, as well as the investigation, and submission for prosecution and appropriate punishment of perpetrators, including with a view to end impunity.

(E) Partnership

8. Encourages the participating States to:

Develop comprehensive and coordinated national policies aimed at combating all forms of violence against women, encompassing all relevant actors, such as law enforcement and the justice sector, parliaments, national human rights institutions, healthcare and social services as well as civil society organizations.

9. Tasks the OSCE executive structures to, within their mandates:

Enhance co-operation with relevant stakeholders of international and regional organizations;

Facilitate the exchange of information, experiences and best practices among the participating States and all relevant stakeholders with regard to combating all forms of violence against women.

Decision No. 8/14

Addendum to the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality

The Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming all the relevant OSCE commitments and in particular the 2004 OSCE Action Plan on the Promotion of Gender Equality (MC.DEC/14/04),

Recognizing the progress achieved in the implementation of the 2004 OSCE Action Plan on Promotion of Gender Equality since its adoption,

Recognizing that further improvements are needed in this ongoing process, as noted during the High-Level Gender Equality Review Conference, held in Vienna in July 2014, related to the progress of and gaps in implementation of relevant OSCE commitments,

Tasks the participating States:

To elaborate an Addendum to Ministerial Council Decision No. 14/04 on the Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality to be presented to the Permanent Council for adoption in 2015.

Document of the Twenty-Second Meeting of the Ministerial Council

Belgrade 2015

I. Statements and Declarations by the Ministerial Council

Ministerial Declaration on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalization that Lead to Terrorism

We, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the participating States of the Organization for Security and co-operation in Europe,

Recalling relevant OSCE documents adopted in the field of countering terrorism, (...),

Underscoring our resolute and unconditional condemnation of terrorism and violent extremism, and our profound solidarity with all the victims of terrorism,

Reaffirming the commitment of participating States to work together to prevent, suppress, investigate and prosecute terrorism-related acts, including their financing, and stressing their strong determination to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, as a crime that has no justification, whatever its motivation or origin, and that terrorism and violent extremism cannot and should not be associated with any race, ethnicity, nationality or religion,

Expressing particular concern that youth, including children, are being radicalized to terrorism and recruited as foreign terrorist fighters, and recognizing the importance of working with youth to prevent and counter radicalization of youth to terrorism,

Strongly condemning manifestations of intolerance, including on the basis of religion or belief, reaffirming the will of participating States to foster tolerance and nondiscrimination, mutual respect and understanding in their societies, and reaffirming our commitment to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, including freedom of expression and freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief,

Expressing deep concern at the fact that some serious crimes committed by terrorists or terrorist groups, including foreign terrorist fighters, have targeted persons and groups on the basis of their ethnicity, religion or belief, and noting the role that discrimination and intolerance can play in fuelling violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism,

Underscoring the commitment of participating States to take the measures needed to protect everyone within their jurisdiction against terrorist acts, and to take resolute action to counter terrorism and foreign terrorist fighters, (...), in support of our relevant OSCE commitments, and in compliance with applicable obligations under international law, including international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law,

Strongly condemning the destruction of cultural heritage and religious sites, including the targeted destruction of UNESCO World Heritage sites, by terrorists, foreign terrorist fighters associated with ISIL and other terrorist groups,

Recognizing the leading role of the United Nations in the international efforts to prevent and counter terrorism and violent extremism, and the commitment of participating States to the full implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy,

Guided by our conviction that combating terrorism and violent extremism, in accordance with OSCE principles and commitments, requires comprehensive and sustained efforts, in addressing the manifestations of terrorism, as well as the various social, economic, political and other factors, which might engender conditions in which terrorist organizations could engage in recruitment and win support,

Reaffirming the commitment of participating States to exchange ideas and national best practices about their strategies and measures to counter violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, in order to enhance practical co-operation,

Taking note of the fact that radicalization to terrorism and recruitment by terrorists can take place in prisons, and therefore affirming the importance of elaborating and sharing, as appropriate, international guidelines on reintegration, rehabilitation and the prevention of radicalization to terrorism in prison,

Stressing that participating States have the primary role in preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism, while respecting their obligations under international law,

Stressing the important roles that youth, families, women, victims of terrorism, religious, cultural and education leaders, civil society, as well as the media, can play to counter the violent extremist narrative that can incite terrorist acts, and to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, in particular by fostering mutual respect and understanding, reconciliation and peaceful coexistence among cultures, and by promoting and protecting human rights, fundamental freedoms, democratic principles and the rule of law,

(...)

Call upon the participating States:

1. To further increase their efforts to prevent and counter violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism in their countries, following a multidimensional approach, and in this regard to make use, as appropriate and where necessary, of the OSCE executive structures, including field operations within their respective mandates;
2. To strengthen their efforts to counter and suppress the financing of terrorism, (...), and in support of OSCE commitments, underlining that any sources of income support the recruitment efforts and strengthen the operational capabilities to organize and carry out terrorist acts;
3. To adopt measures as may be necessary and appropriate and in accordance with their obligations under international law, including with respect to human rights and fundamental freedoms, to prohibit by law incitement to commit a terrorist act or acts, and to prevent such conduct;
4. To co-operate in preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, through, inter alia, capacity-building, coordination of plans and efforts and sharing

lessons learned, including in eliminating the supply of weapons to terrorists, preventing the radicalization to terrorism, recruitment, and mobilization of individuals as terrorists, including as foreign terrorist fighters;

5. To consider, as appropriate, developing and updating national counterterrorism strategies and action plans, including specific policies and measures to prevent and counter violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, in furtherance of OSCE commitments and in compliance with their obligations under international law, including human rights law;

6. To foster a comprehensive approach at all levels in preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, including coordination among national authorities, co-operation among participating States, and co-operation with relevant international and regional organizations;

7. To promote research and information sharing on the conditions conducive to the spread of violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, and on how to counter them;

8. To encourage political leaders and public figures, including civil society and religious leaders to contribute to preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, by speaking out strongly and promptly against violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism;

9. To further promote public-private partnerships in countering terrorism, where appropriate, among public authorities, the private sector, civil society, members of, or representatives of religious communities, and the media, in line with, inter alia, Ministerial Council Decision No. 10/08, in order to counter incitement to terrorism and violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism;

10. To enhance international co-operation and public-private partnerships to develop practical measures to counter the use of the Internet and other means for the purposes of inciting violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism and for recruiting foreign terrorist fighters. Such international co-operation and public-private partnerships could foster communication efforts, including via social media, to counter violent extremist messaging, while fully respecting the right to freedom of opinion and expression;

11. To consider developing community policing approaches to preventing terrorism and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, including at the local level, in accordance with national legislation and international law;

12. To encourage open and transparent intercultural, interfaith and inter-religious dialogue and co-operation to contribute to, inter alia, enhancing tolerance, mutual respect and understanding, at the local, national, regional and international levels;

13. To take into account a gender perspective in their efforts to counter terrorism and to prevent and counter violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, with a focus on women's empowerment and the participation of women as well as men in these efforts;

14. To engage and empower youth, in preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, inter alia, by:

(a) Creating an enabling environment and opportunities for youth to participate and engage voluntarily and freely in public life and in the promotion of human rights, fundamental freedoms,

democratic principles, the rule of law, tolerance, non-discrimination, dialogue, mutual respect and understanding, and to facilitate their access to social services;

(b) Supporting youth, which are willing to contribute to such efforts, through education in schools and higher education institutions;

(c) Supporting youth-led and youth-focused awareness-raising initiatives, including through the Internet and social media, to prevent and counter their radicalization to terrorism, and to promote respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms, tolerance and nondiscrimination;

(d) Promoting programmes to facilitate youth access to employment;

15. To consider supporting OSCE activities in all three dimensions of security, including through voluntary financial contributions, which contribute to the global efforts to prevent and counter violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, while acknowledging the leading role of the United Nations;

16. To invite the OSCE Partners for co-operation to actively engage with us to strengthen our dialogue and co-operation in preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, respecting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms in this context, preventing and countering manifestations of intolerance and discrimination, including on the basis of religion or belief, xenophobia, violence, as well as promoting interfaith, inter-religious and intercultural dialogue, taking note of the Amman Youth Declaration on Youth, Peace, and Security dated 22 August 2015, and to encourage the Partners for co-operation to continue to make the best use of the OSCE principles, norms and commitments, as well as its relevant tools;

17. We encourage parliamentarians to continue to dialogue with a view to strengthening legislation essential in combating terrorism, promoting solidarity with victims of terrorism, and to encourage them to speak out strongly and promptly against intolerance, discrimination, terrorism and violent extremism and radicalization leading to terrorism;

Call upon relevant OSCE executive structures, within their respective mandates and available resources:

18. To continue their support to participating States, upon request, in preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, following a multi-dimensional approach, including in relation to youth, as appropriate;

19. To facilitate the exchange of practical experiences and good practices, and, upon request, provide assistance as appropriate, inter alia:

(a) To promote research and information sharing on the conditions conducive to violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, and on how to counter them;

(b) To develop, where appropriate, national counterterrorism strategies and action plans, including policies and measures to counter violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism;

(c) To integrate a gender perspective in the context of preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, with a focus in particular on women's empowerment and the participation of women as well as men in these efforts;

(d) To assist participating States in developing practical activities, in partnership with civil society and the private sector as appropriate, to support the elaboration of policies, approaches, and strategies to prevent and counter violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism;

- (e) To promote the sharing of best practices, as appropriate, and explore the possible elaboration of international guidelines on rehabilitation, reintegration and the prevention of terrorist radicalization in prisons;
 - (f) To implement community policing approaches to preventing terrorism and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism;
 - (g) To promote co-operation among experts from government, civil society, academia, the media and the private sector to prevent and counter violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism;
 - (h) To strengthen the role of civil society, women, youth and religious leaders in preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism;
 - (i) To promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as the rule of law, in the context of measures to prevent terrorism and to counter violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism;
 - (j) To address negative socioeconomic factors in the context of preventing terrorism and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism;
 - (k) To encourage educational initiatives and other measures to promote tolerance and nondiscrimination, nonviolence, and to raise public awareness of, and counter xenophobic stereotypes, intolerance and discrimination, as part of efforts to prevent and counter violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism;
 - (l) To recognize the role of the media in encouraging pluralistic debate and to encourage professionalism and voluntary selfregulation in the media, with a view to fostering tolerance of ethnic, religious, linguistic and cultural diversity, and to preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, while respecting the independence and freedom of the media;
20. To co-operate with the United Nations and other relevant international and regional organizations and initiatives, to avoid duplication of efforts and maximize synergies in preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism;
21. To support the Partners for co-operation in accordance with the needs and priorities identified by them, as stated in Ministerial Council Decision No. 5/11 on Partners for co-operation, and in line with established procedures and when so requested;
- (...)

Ministerial Declaration on Youth and Security

We, the members of the Ministerial Council of the Organization for Security and co-operation in Europe, recall the OSCE commitments relating to youth, built upon relevant provisions of the Helsinki Final Act.

We take note of the efforts of the current and previous OSCE Chairmanships and stress the importance of promoting the implementation of the OSCE commitments on youth, particularly in the area of education and the role young people can play to support participating States in implementing OSCE commitments in all three dimensions of the OSCE.

We recognize that youth and children require particular attention and that their needs, concerns and interests should be addressed in a comprehensive manner.

Ministerial Declaration on Reinforcing OSCE Efforts to Counter Terrorism in the Wake of Recent Terrorist Attacks

We, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the participating States of the Organization for Security and co-operation in Europe, are horrified by the deadly terrorist attacks against civilians that occurred across the OSCE area and in its neighbourhood in 2015; we offer heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims, and to the people and governments that have been targeted, and wish a speedy recovery to those who were injured.

We condemn unequivocally and in the strongest terms all terrorist attacks, including the indiscriminate killing of civilians and the deliberate targeting of individuals and communities, inter alia on the basis of their religion or belief, in particular by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, also known as DAESH (ISIL/DAESH), Al Nusrah Front (ANF), and all other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al Qaida, which constitute a global and unprecedented threat to international peace and security.

We reaffirm that terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations, constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security and that any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable regardless of their motivations, whenever and by whomsoever committed, and that terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any race, religion, nationality or civilization.

We are committed to reinforcing our efforts to address the threat of terrorism, including the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters, (...)

(...)

We reaffirm our commitment to remain united in combating terrorism and to work together to prevent and suppress terrorist acts, as well as to address the conditions conducive to its spread, through increased international solidarity and co-operation, in full recognition of the central role of the United Nations, and in accordance with the UN Charter and other obligations under applicable international law, in particular international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law, as well as through the full implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions and the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

We underscore that respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law are complementary and mutually reinforcing with effective counterterrorism measures, and are an essential part of a successful counterterrorism effort, and note the importance of the respect for the rule of law so as to effectively prevent and combat terrorism.

We reiterate our determination and commitment to co-operate fully in preventing and countering terrorism in accordance with our obligations under international law in order to find, deny safe haven to and bring to justice, on basis of the principle of “*extradite or prosecute*”, any person who supports, facilitates, participates in or attempts to participate in the financing, planning, preparation or perpetration of terrorist acts or provides safe havens.

We stress that terrorism can only be defeated by a sustained and comprehensive approach involving the active participation and co-operation of all participating States and relevant international and regional organizations, as well as, where appropriate, civil society, to impede, impair, isolate and incapacitate terrorist threat.

(...)

We are convinced that combating terrorism, in accordance with OSCE principles and commitments, requires comprehensive and sustained efforts, in addressing the manifestations of terrorism, as well as the various social, economic, political and other factors, which might engender conditions in which terrorist organizations could engage in recruitment and win support, while recognizing that none of these conditions can excuse or justify acts of terrorism.

We reaffirm the steadfast determination of the participating States to protect the fundamental principles on which the OSCE is based, and to implement all OSCE commitments, particularly those related to preventing and combating terrorism, including the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters to countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, to respecting human rights and the rule of law and to fostering tolerance and nondiscrimination, mutual respect and understanding in our societies.

Document of the Twenty-Third Meeting of the Ministerial Council

Hamburg 2016

I. Statements and Declarations by the Ministerial Council

Declaration on Strengthening OSCE Efforts to Prevent and Counter Terrorism

1. We, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the participating States of the Organization for Security and co-operation in Europe, condemn in the strongest possible terms all terrorist attacks that occurred across the OSCE area, neighbouring regions, and worldwide, in particular in 2016. We reaffirm our solidarity with victims of terrorism and emphasize the need to promote international solidarity in support of them and to ensure that they are treated with dignity and respect. We offer heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims, and to the people and governments that have been targeted.

2. We condemn unequivocally and express outrage at the indiscriminate killing and deliberate targeting of civilians, numerous atrocities, persecutions of individuals and communities, inter alia on the basis of their religion or belief, by terrorist organizations, in particular by the so-called Islamic State in Iraq and Levant, also known as DAESH (ISIL/DAESH), AlQaida, ANF/Jabhat Fatah al-Sham, and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities.

3. We reaffirm that terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations, constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security and that any act of terrorism is criminal and unjustifiable regardless of its motivations, and that terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any race, religion, nationality or civilization.

4. We underscore the central role of the United Nations in preventing and countering terrorism, and strongly reaffirm our commitment to take the measures needed to protect everyone within our jurisdictions against terrorist acts and the need for all actions to be conducted in compliance with the UN Charter, and all other applicable obligations under international law, in particular international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law, as well as relevant UN Security Council resolutions. In accordance with these documents, we underscore the importance of our commitments under the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. We also take note of the relevant good practices documents adopted by the Global Counterterrorism Forum.

5. We recall all relevant OSCE documents adopted in the field of preventing and countering terrorism under the previous Chairmanships. (...)

6. We stress that participating States have the primary role in preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism (VERLT), while respecting their obligations under international law, in particular human rights and fundamental freedoms. We strongly reaffirm our determination and commitment to remain united in preventing and countering terrorism, through increased international solidarity and co-operation and a sustained and

comprehensive approach at all relevant levels, involving the active participation and co-operation of all participating States and relevant international and regional organizations. We recognize that participating States should take measures, consistent with their OSCE commitments, and while ensuring national ownership, to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, while recognizing that none of these conditions can excuse or justify acts of terrorism. In this context, we recognize the need to address the threat posed by narratives used by terrorists, including public justification of terrorism, incitement and recruitment, and call on the participating States to act cooperatively to develop the most effective responses to this threat, in compliance with international law, including international human rights law.

(...)

8. We reaffirm that those who participate in the financing, planning, facilitating, preparing, or perpetrating terrorist acts must be held accountable and brought to justice on the basis of the principle *extradite or prosecute*, in compliance with the obligations under international law, as well as applicable domestic legislation. We reiterate our determination and commitment to co-operate fully in preventing and countering terrorism, while respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms, and in compliance with obligations under international law. We call on States to co-operate in efforts to address the threat posed by terrorists, including foreign terrorist fighters and returnees, by inter alia developing and implementing, after prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration strategies.

9. We emphasize the key importance of information sharing, especially in the areas of foreign terrorist fighters, stolen and lost travel documents, firearms, and looted or stolen cultural property, such as antiquities and encourage all States to make full use of available multilateral and bilateral mechanisms and data exchange systems.

10. We stress the importance of co-operation among OSCE participating States, including by involving where appropriate, civil society, to prevent and counter terrorism. We also underscore the important role that civil society, in particular youth, families, women, victims of terrorism, religious, cultural and education leaders, as well as the media and the private sector can play in preventing VERT, inter alia by countering terrorist and violent extremism messaging and offering alternatives to these narratives, including on the Internet, social and other media. We encourage political leaders and public figures including from civil society and religious leaders to speak out strongly and promptly against violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism.

(...)

12. We welcome the activities pursued by the OSCE executive structures, including the OSCE institutions, within existing mandates and available resources, in support of the implementation of OSCE commitments in the field of preventing and countering terrorism, in line with the OSCE's comprehensive approach to security.

13. We invite the OSCE Partners for co-operation to join us in affirming this declaration.

II. Decisions of the Ministerial Council

Decision No. 3/16

The OSCE's Role in the Governance of Large Movements of Migrants and Refugees

The Ministerial Council,

Recognizing that the benefits and opportunities of safe, orderly and regular migration are substantial and often underestimated, whilst noting that irregular migration in large movements often presents complex challenges, and recognizing the substantial economic and social contribution that migrants and refugees can make for inclusive growth and sustainable development,

Recognizing the leading role of the United Nations,

Commending efforts made since 2015 by the Serbian and German OSCE Chairmanships to address issues related to the governance of these movements more effectively in the OSCE,

Acknowledging the many specific activities linked to migration and refugees already undertaken by OSCE executive structures, within existing mandates, as well as by participating States, based on existing OSCE commitments, relevant United Nations documents and national policies,

Building on in-depth discussions conducted at the OSCE, (...),

(...)

2. Encourages the OSCE executive structures, within existing mandates and available resources, to continue their work on the issue of migration, including by reinforcing activities leading to the exchange of best practices and enhancing dialogue and co-operation with Partners for co-operation, in a manner that complements the activities undertaken by other relevant international organizations and agencies;

3. Encourages participating States also to use the OSCE platform, including appropriate OSCE working bodies, to continue addressing migration-related issues where the OSCE has developed its expertise, and improve dialogue on migration-related matters with regard to developing possible effective measures and common approaches to address them.

Decision No. 4/16

Strengthening Good Governance and Promoting Connectivity

The Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming the relevance of, and our full respect for all OSCE norms, principles and commitments related to our co-operation in the economic and environmental dimension, and bearing in mind the comprehensive approach of the OSCE to security,

Reaffirming the OSCE commitments on combating corruption, (...),

(...)

Recognizing that good governance, transparency and accountability are essential conditions for economic growth, trade, investment and sustainable development, thereby contributing to stability, security and respect for human rights in the OSCE area,

Recognizing that corruption and lack of good governance are potential sources of political tension that undermine the stability and security of participating States,

Acknowledging that good governance, rule of law, the prevention of and fight against corruption, money laundering and the financing of terrorism; sound regulatory frameworks, including adequate protection for whistleblowers; a public sector based on integrity, openness, transparency and accountability as well as good corporate governance based on efficient management, proper auditing, accountability and adherence to and respect for laws, rules and regulations, business ethics and codes of conduct established in close consultation with business and civil society are critical components for promoting a positive business and investment climate in the OSCE area,

Welcoming the fact that almost all participating States have ratified or acceded to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and are working towards fulfilling the commitments deriving from the Convention,

(...)

Affirming that transparent management of public resources by strong and well-functioning institutions, a professional and effective civil service as well as sound budgetary and public procurement processes are major components of good governance,

Recognizing the importance of the active participation of the private sector, including small and – enterprises, civil society and media, in preventing and combating corruption and promoting a sound business and investment climate,

Recognizing that regional and sub-regional integration processes and agreements can give an important impulse to trade and economic development in the OSCE area and the OSCE participating States,

(...)

Reaffirming that our economic co-operation should be based on solidarity, transparency, equal and nondiscriminatory partnership, mutual accountability, and full respect for the interests of all OSCE participating States, and that, if action in the economic field has a negative impact on other participating States, we will seek to minimize this, in line with our international obligations,

(...)

Recognizing the importance of the public and private sectors' full adherence to labour, social, and environmental standards and its contribution to good governance and sustainable development,

(...)

Reaffirming the existing OSCE commitments in the field of good governance, stressing our determination to fight trafficking in human beings in all its forms, and recognizing the role that transparency and accountability in public procurement processes can play in preventing and combating human trafficking and labour exploitation,

Strengthening good governance, promoting transparency and improving the business climate

1. Encourages participating States to accede to, ratify and implement the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and to exchange information and best practices on the UNCAC Second Review Cycle process, as laid out in UNCAC;
 2. Encourages participating States to, where appropriate, implement and adhere to other relevant international standards, (...), and to contribute to intensifying the involvement of all relevant stakeholders, including civil society and the business community in their implementation, (...);
 3. Encourages participating States to promote the exchange of best practices among all relevant stakeholders that contribute to good public and corporate governance, the promotion of transparency, and the prevention and combating of corruption, also in the sphere of the environment;
 4. Calls upon participating States to further promote integrity, accountability and cost-effectiveness in public procurement processes, also by ensuring that private interests are not unduly influencing decisions at relevant levels of government, and to ensure adequate transparency requirements for companies participating in public tenders;
 5. Calls upon participating States to facilitate access to appropriate government information by increasing the accountability of the public sector and by stimulating public participation through e-governance;
 6. Tasks relevant OSCE executive structures, including field operations, within their mandates and available resources, to contribute to enhancing co-operation between participating States, the private sector and civil society and to actively involve the private sector and civil society in their activities on strengthening good governance, promoting transparency and improving the business and investment climate;
- (...)

Strengthening good governance through adherence to labour, social, and environmental standards

15. Encourages participating States to facilitate secure transportation and trade while preventing illicit trafficking in accordance with the relevant provisions of international law and agreements to which the OSCE participating States are parties, and to increase efforts aimed at overcoming challenges such as labour exploitation and poorly regulated and inspected worksites;
16. Invites participating States to strive for better application of internationally recognized labour, social, and environmental standards within the UN, ILO, and where appropriate OECD;
17. Encourages participating States to promote, in co-operation with the private sector, sustainable consumption and production patterns based on internationally recognized labour, social, and environmental standards;
18. Tasks relevant OSCE executive structures, including field operations, within their existing mandates and available resources, to support participating States in exchanging best practices on raising awareness of the relevance of internationally recognized labour, social and environmental standards, and on strengthening good governance and promoting transparency in public procurement processes;

Strengthening public-private partnerships in the fight against corruption, money laundering and financing of terrorism

19. Encourages participating States to facilitate co-operation among law enforcement, the judiciary and financial intelligence units and other relevant actors as well as between the public and the private sector and civil society, including media, in combating corruption, money laundering and other financial crime;

20. Tasks relevant OSCE executive structures, including field operations, within their mandates and available resources, to facilitate dialogue and co-operation among governments, private sector and civil society in order to support good governance efforts, including combating corruption, money laundering and the financing of terrorism, and in order to address impediments to economic growth and sustainable development;

21. Encourages the Partners for co-operation to voluntarily implement the provisions of this decision.

Decision No. 5/16

OSCE Efforts Related to Reducing the Risks of Conflict Stemming from the Use of Information and Communication Technologies

The Ministerial Council (...),

Reaffirming that efforts by OSCE participating States to reduce the risks of conflict stemming from the use of information and communication technologies will be consistent with: international law, including, inter alia, the UN Charter and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; the Helsinki Final Act; and their responsibilities to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Welcoming UN General Assembly resolution A/RES/70/237, and stressing the relevance to OSCE efforts to reduce the risks of conflict stemming from the use of information and communication technologies of the 2010, 2013 and 2015 reports of the United Nations Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security,

Emphasizing the importance of OSCE confidence-building measures to reduce the risks of conflict stemming from the use of information and communication technologies to complement existing global, regional and subregional efforts in this field;

Emphasizing the importance of communication at all levels of authority to reduce the risks of conflict stemming from the use of information and communication technologies,

(...)

1. Endorses the adoption of Permanent Council Decision No. 1202 of 10 March 2016 on OSCE confidence-building measures to reduce the risks of conflict stemming from the use of information and communication technologies;

2. Stresses the importance of implementing existing OSCE confidence-building measures to reduce the risks of conflict stemming from the use of information and communication technologies and developing additional confidence-building measures (...);

3. Welcomes the participating States' activities in the implementation of the existing OSCE confidence-building measures to reduce the risks of conflict stemming from the use of information and

communication technologies, and notes in this respect the importance of continuously updating national contact points to facilitate pertinent communication and dialogue;

4. Encourages all participating States to contribute to the implementation of the OSCE confidence-building measures to reduce the risks of conflict stemming from the use of information and communication technologies;

5. Recognizes the importance of effective information exchange among participating States related to the OSCE confidence-building measures to reduce the risks of conflict stemming from the use of information and communication technologies and, inter alia, of ensuring rapid communication at technical and policy levels of authority, and of elaborating procedures for holding consultations in order to reduce the risks of misperception and of possible emergence of political or military tensions or conflict that may stem from the use of information and communication technologies;

6. Intends to explore, within the cross-dimensional, informal working group established pursuant to Permanent Council Decision No. 1039 under the auspices of the Security Committee, ways of strengthening the work of the OSCE as a practical platform for constructive and efficient implementation, and the possible development of further confidence-building measures to reduce the risks of conflict stemming from the use of information and communication technologies;

7. Invites participating States to make concrete proposals to this end by 30 June 2017;

8. Encourages relevant OSCE executive structures to assist participating States, upon their request, in the implementation of the OSCE confidence-building measures to reduce the risks of conflict stemming from the use of information and communication technologies, and to enhance pertinent national capabilities and processes, within available resources;

(...)

10. Underscores that further OSCE activities to reduce the risks of conflict stemming from the use of information and communication technologies, including those of relevant OSCE executive structures, should build on existing OSCE efforts, be in line with respective mandates and OSCE commitments, complement efforts by the United Nations, international and other regional fora, and be organized within available resources;

11. Invites the OSCE Partners for co-operation to enhance dialogue on efforts to reduce the risks of conflict stemming from the use of information and communication technologies.

Decision No. 6/16

Enhancing the Use of Advance Passenger Information

We, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the participating States of the Organization for Security and co-operation in Europe,

Reiterating the need to combat terrorism, which constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security, (...)

(...)

Reiterating the Ministerial Declaration on the OSCE Role in Countering the Phenomenon of Foreign Terrorist Fighters (...), which commits OSCE participating States to prevent the movement

of foreign terrorist fighters through effective border controls and controls on the issuance of identity papers and travel documents, to exchange information in this regard, and to implement Ministerial Council Decisions No. 7/03, No. 4/04, No. 6/06 and No. 11/09 on travel document security while fully respecting the obligations under international law, in particular international human rights law and international refugee law, including to ensure that refugee status is not abused by the perpetrators, organizers or facilitators of terrorist acts,

Declaring our intention to detect and prevent the movement of foreign terrorist fighters (...)
(...)

Decide that OSCE participating States commit to:

1. Establish national advance passenger information (API) systems (...) in order to effectively collect passenger and/or crew data from airlines operating in their territories;
2. Consider establishing at the national level an interactive system to exchange API data (iAPI) in order to prevent the movement of foreign terrorist fighters (...);
3. (...) recognizing that States are responsible for ensuring the implementation of adequate security measures at airports;
4. Collaborate with all relevant national stakeholders in the implementation of national-level API systems, and consider establishing one authority to receive, on behalf of all other authorities, all forms of passenger data through one single-window data entry point;
5. Increase the added value of API data by seeking to establish automated

cross-checking of this data against relevant national, regional and international watch lists, in particular Interpol databases and UN Sanctions Lists;

6. Provide assistance to support other requesting participating States in establishing an API system;

We task the OSCE executive structures, within their respective mandates and available resources, with:

7. Supporting global efforts in raising awareness of the requirements of UN Security Council resolutions 2178 (2014) and 2309 (2016) on advance passenger information and by determining the technical assistance needs of requesting participating States, as well as identifying potential donor assistance for capacity-building;
8. Supporting requesting participating States in the establishment of API systems, in co-operation with relevant international and regional organizations.

Document of the Twenty Fourth Meeting of the Ministerial Council

Vienna 2017

II. Decisions of the Ministerial Council

Decision No. 5/17

Enhancing OSCE Efforts to Reduce the Risks of Conflict Stemming from the Use of Information and Communication Technologies

The Ministerial Council (...),

Noting the immense opportunities that information and communication technologies provide for social and economic development, and that they continue to grow in importance for the international community,

Recognizing that OSCE participating States benefit from an open, secure, stable, accessible and peaceful information and communication technologies environment,

Reaffirming that efforts by OSCE participating States to reduce the risks of conflict stemming from the use of information and communication technologies will be consistent with: international law, (...) and their responsibilities to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Expressing concern about the increase in significant incidents involving the malicious use of information and communication technologies, and stressing that these negative trends hold security risks for all OSCE participating States and their citizens, as well as public and private sectors, (...)

Recognizing the need to further enhance OSCE efforts to continue building trust and to reduce the risks of conflict stemming from the use of information and communication technologies,

Decides to:

1. Continue to implement all decisions on confidence-building measures adopted by the OSCE to reduce the risks of conflict stemming from the use of information and communication technologies to contribute to an open, secure, stable, accessible and peaceful information and communication technologies environment in line with OSCE commitments;
2. Identify ways of strengthening and optimizing the work of the OSCE as a practical platform for reducing risks of conflict stemming from the use of information and communication technologies, and at the same time continuing the work of the cross-dimensional Informal Working Group established pursuant to Permanent Council Decision No. 1039;

3. Encourage executive OSCE structures, within their mandates and available resources, to assist participating States, upon their request, in the implementation of the OSCE confidence-building measures to reduce the risk of conflict stemming from the use of information and communication technologies, and to enhance pertinent national capabilities and processes;

4. Invite the OSCE Partners for co-operation to enhance dialogue on efforts to reduce the risks of conflict stemming from the use of information and communication technologies.

Decision No. 6/17

Strengthening Efforts to Prevent Trafficking in Human Beings

The Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming that trafficking in human beings is a grave and heinous crime that violates human dignity and that all aspects of combating human trafficking should be firmly based on the rule of law and respect for human rights,

Reaffirming our strongest condemnation of all forms of trafficking in human beings, including for the purpose of labour and sexual exploitation, child trafficking, forced criminality, as well as for the purpose of organ removal, and recognizing that the prevention of this crime is a priority,

Reaffirming also our commitment to addressing factors that make persons more vulnerable to trafficking and emphasizing the importance of a cross-dimensional and comprehensive approach to combating trafficking in human beings, which requires a focus on carrying out effective prevention measures,

(...)

Reiterating our support for the effective implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its supplementing Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, as the international legal framework for combating trafficking in persons, and the importance of the implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons,

Recalling the relevance for the prevention of and fight against trafficking in human beings of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) if they are a party,

Noting that enhanced judicial and law enforcement co-operation and coordination among participating States and Partners for co-operation, including effective border security and management may contribute to preventing human trafficking, inter alia, by disrupting and dismantling related transnational criminal organizations and by prosecuting the perpetrators,

Stressing the importance of the implementation of international labour standards as applicable within efforts to prevent human trafficking and taking note of international labour instruments, (...), which also contain good practices on prevention of human trafficking for labour exploitation,

Commending participating States that require contractors supplying goods and services to the government to take effective and appropriate steps to address the risks of human trafficking in their supply chains, including steps that aim to prevent subcontractors and employees from participating

in activities known to lead to human trafficking. Also commending those States that encourage the private sector to consider the risks of human trafficking in their own operations and in those of their subcontractors and suppliers, aiming to ensure that they address risks proactively,

Recognizing the contribution of civil society, including religious organizations, in preventing trafficking in human beings, and in assisting its victims,

Calls on participating States to:

1. Develop targeted prevention policies based on, as appropriate, enhanced research and systematically gathered reliable information, including with the support of national mechanisms, such as national rapporteurs where they exist, in order to maximize the effect and impact of anti-trafficking efforts at the national and international level;
2. Promote dialogue and co-operation among governments, international organizations, civil society, and the private sector, including businesses, and trade unions and employers organizations as social partners, with a view to enhance efforts to prevent human trafficking, inter alia through increasing awareness of each actor's role and through facilitating the exchange of information on human trafficking among countries of origin, transit and destination, including the Partners for co-operation, and recognizing the importance of the voice of victims of human trafficking in elaborating effective anti-trafficking strategies;
3. Continue to use the OSCE as a platform for dialogue on judicial and law enforcement co-operation, border security and management as an important element to prevent trafficking in human beings;
4. Promote multiagency, cross-sectorial and multi-national capacity-building programmes that foster measures to prevent human trafficking in all of its forms, with a particular focus on factors that make people vulnerable to trafficking;
5. Take appropriate measures for effectively combating human trafficking, by developing harmonized procedures and training courses, inter alia on identification and protection of trafficking victims, including for relevant authorities, civil society organizations, health care and social workers as well as others that may have first contact with victims;
6. Strengthen education and awareness-raising efforts, including human rights education, and develop and implement empowerment programmes which take into account the particular needs of women, men, girls and boys, in order to enhance the capacity to recognize, prevent and fight human trafficking within communities;
7. Adopt a victim-centred, trauma-informed and, in that respect and in line with Ministerial Council Decision No. 14/06, gender-sensitive approach, that fully respects human rights and fundamental freedoms in all preventive and assistance efforts;
8. Recognize the important contribution that media can make to the prevention of human trafficking, inter alia, through the adoption of voluntary professional standards to responsibly and sensitively cover cases of human trafficking;
9. Identify, develop and share best practices, including as contained in the 2013 Addendum to the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings: One Decade Later, for successful national and global partnerships between the public and private sector in combating human trafficking, to promote respect for human rights and corporate social responsibility, including

through public awareness-raising about the risk of human trafficking in production and sources of goods and provision of services;

10. Encourage the private sector to adopt policies and procedures to prevent all forms of human trafficking, to be actively involved in multi-stakeholder efforts, to develop awareness about the risks of human trafficking and to take into account best practices such as establishing independent monitoring, verification and certification mechanisms to document compliance with and implementation of codes of conduct or self-established ethical standards, including through providing incentives for businesses to – act with due diligence and transparency to prevent the abuse and exploitation of workers throughout their supply chains and to enable a level playing field for responsible companies;

11. Promote policies, in complementarity with national legislation, that take into account whether businesses are taking appropriate and effective steps to address the risks of human trafficking, including with regards to their subcontractors and employees, when considering the awarding of government contracts for goods and services;

12. Take appropriate measures to identify and eradicate the abusive and fraudulent recruitment and employment practices which can lead to trafficking for labour exploitation, sexual exploitation, for forced criminality, or other forms of trafficking, including measures to promote clear criteria for the official registration of recruitment and placement agencies and through reinforcing the role of competent authorities, such as labour inspectors;

13. Promote measures to prevent and address the use of forced labour by diplomatic and other personnel of diplomatic missions and consular posts and international organizations, and promote a zero-tolerance policy for trafficking by such personnel, and take into account international best practices as compiled, for example, in the OSCE Handbook on how to prevent human trafficking for domestic servitude in diplomatic households and protect private domestic workers, and noting that many such measures are consistent with the Vienna Conventions on Diplomatic Relations and Consular Relations as well as headquarter agreements of international organizations and recognizing that the Vienna Conventions include a duty to respect the laws and regulations of the receiving State, including those designed to prevent and address human trafficking;

14. Task the OSCE Special Representative and Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and, as appropriate, other relevant executive structures in accordance with their mandates and in coordination with the OSCE Special Representative, to continue co-operation in the Alliance against Trafficking in Persons, and other regional and global platforms, inter alia, the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons;

15. Encourage the relevant executive structures in accordance with their mandates and in coordination with the OSCE Special Representative and Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, to continue undertaking research, in consultation with the participating States, to conduct capacity-building activities, to assist participating States, upon their request, in developing policies and guidelines to strengthen efforts to prevent human trafficking;

16. Task the Secretary General to review existing policies, audit and reporting procedures and recruitment safeguards, and to ensure that no activities of the OSCE executive structures, including the issuing of contracts for goods and services, contribute to any form of trafficking in human beings, (...).

Decision No. 7/17

Strengthening Efforts to Combat all Forms of Child Trafficking, including for Sexual Exploitation, as well as other Forms of Sexual Exploitation of Children

The Ministerial Council,

(...)

Deeply alarmed by the persistence of all forms of child trafficking, both transnational and internal, including the trafficking of children for the purposes of sexual and labour exploitation, and reiterating the need to take more vigorous measures against it,

Reaffirming that the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration in decisions taken with regard to trafficked or sexually exploited children, and the importance of respecting the special needs of children for protection and assistance, and the opportunity for the child to be heard,

Distressed that sexual exploitation of children can result in serious, lifelong consequences for the physical and psychological development and wellbeing of a child and, in many instances, is a form of human trafficking, Recognizing that all forms of child trafficking, including for sexual exploitation, as well as other forms of sexual exploitation of children violate human dignity and undermine the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Considering that all forms of child trafficking, including for sexual exploitation, as well as other forms of sexual exploitation of children constitute grave and heinous crimes, in many cases involving organized crime, that must be prevented, investigated, prosecuted and penalized,

Recalling that the 2013 Addendum to the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings calls on participating States to develop and implement policies and actions, including law enforcement co-operation between participating States, to prevent the tourism industry from being used for all forms of trafficking in human beings, in particular for sexual exploitation of children,

Acknowledging that the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism, which can include travel from one country to another, is a serious crime and contributes to the demand that fosters trafficking in children for sexual exploitation,

Commending participating States that are working with the travel and tourism industry, including airlines and other modes of transportation, as well as hotels, the broader hospitality industry, civil society, and relevant international organizations to prevent all forms of child trafficking, including for sexual exploitation, as well as other forms of sexual exploitation of children, and to establish and implement procedures for identifying, reporting and addressing suspected child trafficking,

Underlining that information and communications technologies (ICTs) can play a positive educational, developmental, and awareness-raising role for children, but can also be misused to facilitate access to children for exploitation or for advertisement of children for sexual exploitation, and that social media platforms can be misused to groom children who may be subjected to sexual exploitation as well as all forms of child trafficking,

Recalling that the 2013 Addendum to the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings calls on participating States to train border officials, law enforcement officials, judges, prosecutors, immigration, and other relevant officials regarding the use of the Internet and other

information and communication technologies for human trafficking and related crimes, including all forms of child trafficking and sexual exploitation of children,

Concerned that children who access pornography on the Internet may become desensitized to it and more likely to become a victim of or perpetrate sexual exploitation,

Taking note that new forms of age verification technologies have been developed over the last decade and could help protect children from accessing pornography on the Internet,

Expressing concern that children in migration flows, particularly unaccompanied minors, can be particularly vulnerable to human trafficking and sexual exploitation and that specialized facilities, adequate security, training for and sufficient numbers of staff, as well as of female patrollers, can mitigate these risks,

1. Encourages co-operation among participating States, international organizations, and civil society in combating all forms of child trafficking, including for sexual exploitation, as well as other forms of sexual exploitation of children, taking note of their efforts to combat these crimes;
2. Encourages participating States to adopt a victim-centred and trauma-informed approach that takes into account the respective gender-specific concerns of girls and boys, in the best interests of the child, and fully respects the human rights and fundamental freedoms of children subjected to human trafficking or sexual exploitation;
3. Calls on OSCE participating States which have not already done so to consider legal measures that would allow them to prosecute their citizens for serious sexual crimes against children, even if these crimes are committed in another country;
4. Calls on OSCE participating States to prevent all forms of child trafficking and sexual exploitation of children, including in tourist destinations, through education and awareness-raising, and to work with the private sector and civil society to raise awareness among the tourism industry, as well as business travellers and tourists, to help eliminate demand that fuels child trafficking and sexual exploitation of children;
5. Calls on OSCE participating States to strengthen co-operation and coordination among relevant authorities, such as law enforcement and immigration and border services of participating States, Partners for co-operation, and destination States outside the OSCE region, including through considering measures, in full accordance with national laws and national and international data protection frameworks, such as:
 - (a) Adopting additional administrative measures in relation to perpetrators, such as the registration in sex offender registers of persons convicted of child sexual exploitation or abuse, as appropriate;
 - (b) Where relevant, a means to exchange and/or receive information transnationally among law enforcement agencies and/or judicial authorities on persons convicted of child sexual exploitation or abuse;
6. Urges participating States to prosecute human traffickers and perpetrators of sexual exploitation of children, including those who misuse information and communication technologies to recruit children or facilitate access to children for the purpose of subjecting them to trafficking or sexual exploitation, and impose penalties that are effective, dissuasive, and proportionate to the crime;

7. Calls on participating States which have not already done so to promote the implementation of age verification technologies with a view to limit the access of children to pornographic websites;
8. Encourages participating States to call on information and communication technologies and social media companies to prevent the distribution of and take down child sexual abuse content online, and to protect children by combating grooming by human traffickers online for all forms of child trafficking as well as other sexual exploitation of children, including through the development of new tools and technologies;
9. Calls on participating States to share data, as appropriate and while protecting personal data from criminal use, concerning child trafficking and sexual exploitation of children with the Interpol International Child Sexual Exploitation (ICSE) image database, which is a hub for victim identification worldwide and also can help identify traffickers and their collaborators, and trace the financial flow to dismantle criminal networks;
10. Calls on participating States to enhance further specialized training on information and communications technologies for border officials, law enforcement officials, judges, prosecutors, immigration and other relevant officials as well as teachers and health professionals, as appropriate, to combat all forms of child trafficking as well as other sexual exploitation of children;
11. Encourages participating States to raise public awareness on the vulnerabilities of children in migration flows to all forms of child trafficking, including for sexual exploitation, as well as other forms of sexual exploitation of children, to increase the capacity and broaden the scope of first line responders to identify child victims of trafficking and other sexual exploitation, and provide them with protection, as well as appropriate assistance and referrals for legal assistance as well as effective remedies and other services as applicable (...);
12. Tasks the relevant OSCE executive structures in accordance with their mandates and in coordination with the OSCE Special Representative and Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings to continue to assist participating States, upon their request, with implementation of their commitments related to all forms of child trafficking, including for sexual exploitation, as well as other forms of sexual exploitation of children;
13. Invites OSCE Partners for co-operation to share voluntarily the commitments of the participating States on combating all forms of child trafficking, including for sexual exploitation, as well as other forms of sexual exploitation of children.

Document of the Twenty Fifth Meeting of the Ministerial Council

Milan 2018

I. Statements and Declarations by the Ministerial Council

Declaration on the Role of Youth in Contributing to Peace and Security Efforts

1. We, (...), acknowledge that youth are an important part of society and the role that they can play in supporting participating States in the implementation of commitments in all three dimensions.
2. We recall the OSCE commitments relating to youth, (...).
(...)
5. We recognize the role youth can play in contributing to a culture of peace, dialogue, justice and peaceful coexistence, trust and reconciliation.
6. We invite the Partners for co-operation to voluntarily join us in affirming this declaration.

II. Decisions of the Ministerial Council

Decision No. 3/18

Safety of Journalists

The Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming all relevant OSCE commitments on the right to freedom of expression, freedom of the media, and free flow of information, (...), where the participating States reaffirmed that the right to freedom of expression includes freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas without interference by public authority and regardless of frontiers,

Mindful that everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression, (...), and that it constitutes one of the essential foundations of a democratic society and one of the basic conditions for its progress and development,

Mindful also that any restrictions on the right to freedom of expression may only be such as are provided by law and are necessary on the grounds set out in paragraph 3 of Article 19 of the ICCPR,

Reaffirming that independent media are essential to a free and open society and accountable systems of government and are of particular importance in safeguarding human rights and fundamental freedoms, (...),

Acknowledging that journalism and technology are evolving and that this contributes to the public debate, while it may also expand the range of risks that undermine the safety of journalists,

Taking note of the importance of promoting and protecting the safety of journalists for the implementation of the relevant Sustainable Development Goal and Targets of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Recognizing that the work of journalists can put them, and their family members, at risk of violence, as well as of intimidation and harassment, including through digital technologies, which can deter journalists from continuing their work or lead to self-censorship,

Noting with concern that the use of undue restrictive measures against journalists can affect their safety, and prevents them from providing information to the public, and thus negatively affects the exercise of the right to freedom of expression,

Reaffirming that the media in their territory should enjoy unrestricted access to foreign news and information services, that the public will enjoy similar freedom to receive and impart information and ideas without interference by public authority regardless of frontiers, including through foreign publications and foreign broadcasts, and that any restriction in the exercise of this right will be prescribed by law and in accordance with international standards, (...),

Concerned that violations and abuses of the right to be free from arbitrary or unlawful interference with privacy may affect the safety of journalists,

Deeply concerned by all human rights violations and abuses committed in relation to the safety of journalists, including those involving killing, torture, enforced disappearance, arbitrary arrest, arbitrary detention and arbitrary expulsion, intimidation, harassment and threats of all forms, such as physical, legal, political, technological or economic, intended to suppress their work,

Concerned by the distinct risks faced by women journalists in relation to their work, including through digital technologies, and underlining the importance to ensure their greatest possible safety and that the experiences and concerns of women journalists are effectively addressed,

Recognizing the crucial role of journalists in covering elections, in particular in informing the public about candidates, their platforms and ongoing debates, and expressing serious concern about threats and violent attacks that journalists can face in this regard,

Recognizing the importance of investigative journalism, and that the ability of media to investigate, and to publish the results of their investigations, including on the Internet, without fear of reprisal, can play an important role in our societies, including in holding public institutions and officials accountable,

Alarmed that targeted campaigns undermining the work of journalists are increasing, eroding public trust and confidence in the credibility of journalism, and recognizing that this can increase the risk of threats and violence against journalists,

Also alarmed at instances in which political leaders, public officials and/or authorities intimidate, threaten, condone or fail to condemn violence against journalists,

Expressing deep concern at the growing threat to the safety of journalists posed, inter alia, by terrorist groups and criminal organizations,

Emphasizing also the particular risks with regard to the safety of journalists in the digital age, including the particular vulnerability of journalists to becoming targets of hacking or unlawful or arbitrary surveillance or interception of communications, undermining enjoyment of their right to freedom of expression and their right to be free from arbitrary or unlawful interference with privacy,

Reiterating that participating States condemn all attacks on and harassment of journalists and will endeavour to hold those directly responsible for such attacks and harassment accountable, (...), and also recognizing that accountability for crimes against journalists is a key element in preventing future attacks,

(...)

Noting with concern the climate of impunity that prevails when violent attacks committed against journalists remain unpunished, and recognizing the role of governments, legislators and the judiciary in enabling a safe working environment and ensuring safety of journalists by, inter alia, publicly condemning and bringing to justice all those responsible for crimes against journalists,

(...)

Recalling United Nations Security Council resolutions (...), which condemn all violations and abuses committed against journalists, media professionals and associated personnel in situations of armed conflict, and which state that journalists, media professionals and associated personnel engaged in dangerous professional missions in areas of armed conflict shall be considered as civilians and shall be protected as such, provided that they take no action adversely affecting their status as civilians,

Calls on participating States to:

1. Fully implement all OSCE commitments and their international obligations related to freedom of expression and media freedom, including by respecting, promoting and protecting the freedom to seek, receive and impart information regardless of frontiers;
2. Bring their laws, policies and practices, pertaining to media freedom, fully in compliance with their international obligations and commitments and to review and, where necessary, repeal or amend them so that they do not limit the ability of journalists to perform their work independently and without undue interference;
3. Condemn publicly and unequivocally all attacks and violence against journalists such as killing, torture, enforced disappearance, arbitrary arrest, arbitrary detention and arbitrary expulsion, intimidation, harassment, and threats of all forms, such as physical, legal, political, technological or economic, used to suppress their work and/or unduly force closure of their offices, including in conflict situations;
4. Also condemn publicly and unequivocally attacks on women journalists in relation to their work, such as sexual harassment, abuse, intimidation, threats and violence, including through digital technologies;
5. Urge the immediate and unconditional release of all journalists who have been arbitrarily arrested or detained, taken hostage or who have become victims of enforced disappearance;
6. Take effective measures to end impunity for crimes committed against journalists, by ensuring accountability as a key element in preventing future attacks, including by ensuring that law

enforcement agencies carry out swift, effective and impartial investigations into acts of violence and threats against journalists, in order to bring all those responsible to justice, and ensure that victims have access to appropriate remedies;

7. Urge political leaders, public officials and/or authorities to refrain from intimidating, threatening or condoning – and to unequivocally condemn – violence against journalists, in order to reduce the risks or threats that journalists may face and avoid undermining trust in the credibility of journalists as well as respect for the importance of independent journalism;

8. Refrain from arbitrary or unlawful interference with journalists' use of encryption and anonymity technologies and refrain from employing unlawful or arbitrary surveillance techniques, noting that such acts infringe on the journalists' enjoyment of human rights, and could put them at potential risk of violence and threats to their safety;

9. Encourage State bodies and law enforcement agencies to engage in awareness-raising and training activities related to the need to ensure safety of journalists, and to promote the involvement of civil society in such activities, where appropriate;

10. Establish or strengthen, where possible, national data collection, analysis and reporting on attacks and violence against journalists;

11. Ensure that defamation laws do not carry excessive sanctions or penalties that could undermine the safety of journalists and/or effectively censor journalists and interfere with their mission of informing the public and, where necessary, to revise and repeal such laws, in compliance with participating States' obligations under international human rights law;

12. Implement more effectively the applicable legal framework for the protection of journalists and all relevant OSCE commitments;

13. co-operate fully with the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, including on the issue of safety of journalists;

14. Encourage the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media's continued advocacy and promotion of safety of journalists in all OSCE participating States, in line with his/her mandate.

Decision No. 4/18

Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women

The Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming that the promotion and protection of equal rights and opportunities for all are essential to democracy and economic development and therefore to security, stability and sustainable peace in the OSCE area,

Determined to ensure the full and equal enjoyment by women and girls of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

(...)

Mindful of the importance of preventing and combating violence against women and girls for the implementation of the relevant Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Recognizing that inequality between men and women is a root cause of violence against women and girls, and that, in particular, discrimination and economic inequalities, including lack of economic independence, can increase women's vulnerability to violence,

Deeply concerned by the persistence of violence against women and girls in all its forms as one of the most pervasive impediments to their full enjoyment of all human rights and to women's full, equal and effective participation in political, economic, and public life,

Noting that violence against women and girls can cause death or physical, sexual, psychological, economic, political and social harm or suffering to girls and women of all ages, and results directly or indirectly in shorter and longer-term societal, political and economic costs,

Noting also that violence against women and girls takes many forms, which can include: domestic violence; sexual violence; harmful practices; trafficking in human beings, sexual and other types of exploitation; and sexual harassment,

Recognizing that women and girls may suffer many different kinds of discrimination, sometimes in combination, which exposes them to increased risk of violence, and that such combinations can lead to further discrimination,

Also recognizing the important roles played by the armed forces, law enforcement agencies, judicial systems and other legal professionals, in addressing all forms of violence against women and girls,

Recognizing further that abuse, threats, and harassment, including sexual harassment, have become increasingly common, especially through digital technologies, and may silence women's and girls' voices in the public sphere,

Mindful that women engaged in professional activities with public exposure and/or in the interest of society, are more likely to be exposed to specific forms of violence or abuse, threats, and harassment, in relation to their work,

Considering that adolescence is an important phase in the social development of a person, and recognizing that this phase is often affected by persistent inequalities, negative attitudes, behaviours, and gender stereotypes that can put girls and young women at heightened risk of discrimination and violence,

Recognizing the importance of actively engaging men and boys in efforts towards elimination of discrimination and all forms of violence against women and girls, including by addressing the root causes of gender inequality and violence and by raising awareness about the impact of negative attitudes, behaviours, and gender stereotypes that can underlie and perpetuate discrimination and violence,

Noting the efforts of the OSCE MenEngage Network* in raising awareness about the important role that men and boys can play in the elimination of discrimination and all forms of violence against women and girls,

Recognizing that sexual harassment in public and private spaces, in particular in the workplace and in educational institutions, has a damaging impact on women and girls' full enjoyment of human rights and equal opportunities, thus impairing their ability to remain and/or advance in the workplace and in educational institutions,

Acknowledging the role of civil society as an important partner of government, including at the local level, in preventing and combating violence against women and girls,

Taking note of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's work to combat violence against women,

Calls on the participating States to:

1. Ensure access to justice, effective investigation, prosecution of perpetrators, as well as provide, while respecting their rights and privacy, adequate protection, rehabilitation and reintegration support for victims of all forms of violence against women and girls;
2. Take action, including through awareness-raising and capacity-building for the armed forces, law enforcement agencies, judicial systems and other legal professionals, on preventing and combating all forms of violence against women and girls;
3. Adopt measures, as appropriate, to encourage education on gender equality, human rights and nonviolent behaviour thus contributing to the prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls, which can include: harmful practices, sexual violence, domestic violence, as well as sexual harassment;
4. Organize awareness-raising campaigns on the risks of specific forms of violence facing women and girls, including through digital technologies, and on their rights and the support available for victims of such violence;
5. Take action to address violence, abuse, threats, and harassment, including through digital technologies, directed at women;
6. Take measures, in consultation with companies that work on information and communication technologies (ICT), to address specific forms of violence faced by women and girls through digital technologies;
7. Encourage all relevant actors, including those involved in the political process, to contribute to preventing and combating all forms of violence against women, including those engaged in professional activities with public exposure and/or in the interest of society, by, inter alia, raising the issue in public debates, and developing awareness-raising initiatives and other appropriate measures, also considering the chilling impact of such violence on young women;
8. Incorporate initiatives into relevant national level policies and strategies to promote the engagement of men and boys in preventing and combating violence against women and girls, including

* The OSCE MenEngage Network is not an affiliated network of the MenEngage Alliance. The OSCE MenEngage Network is a closed network within OSCE.

by implementing awareness-raising activities focusing on the positive, equitable and nonviolent roles men and boys can play in this regard, and by recognizing and addressing negative attitudes, behaviours, and gender stereotypes that perpetuate such violence;

9. Take measures to combat sexual harassment in public and private spaces, including in the workplace and in educational institutions, and encourage public and private employers to apply such measures;

10. Take measures to provide equal access to quality education for all girls; and strengthen the economic empowerment and economic independence of women, including by ensuring nondiscriminatory employment policies and practices, providing equal access to education and training, equal remuneration for equal work, and equal access to and control over economic resources;

11. Encourage the involvement of civil society in preventing and combating violence against women and girls;

Tasks the relevant OSCE executive structures, in accordance with their mandates, to:

12. Assist participating States, upon their request, in improving their legal and policy framework and in implementing measures for preventing and combating all forms of violence against women and girls;

13. Continue co-operation with relevant international and regional organizations to collect sex-disaggregated data and statistics on the occurrence of all forms of violence against women and girls in the OSCE area;

14. Provide support to the participating States and civil society organizations for the exchange of good practices in preventing and combating all forms of violence against women and girls, including through the engagement of men and boys;

15. Support participating States, upon their request, in developing and reviewing legislation, policies, and measures to combat sexual harassment in private and public spaces, including in the workplace and educational institutions;

16. Continue to ensure full implementation of, and to review the need for strengthening and/or increasing training on, the OSCE Code of Conduct for the OSCE staff/mission members as well as the OSCE policy on the professional working environment, stressing a zero tolerance approach to sexual harassment, including through efforts by senior management.

17. Encourages the participating States and relevant OSCE executive structures to consider engaging in joint activities with the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and its Special Representative on Gender Issues.

Decision No. 5/18

Human Capital Development in the Digital Era

The Ministerial Council,

Recalling OSCE principles and commitments on which our economic co-operation is based and bearing in mind the comprehensive approach of the OSCE to security,

(...)

Considering that the needs of the individual should be at the centre of economic growth and sustainable development, and aware that investment in human capital and promotion of knowledge and skills promote economic participation, social inclusion and sustainable growth which are interdependent and contribute to prosperity, trust, stability, security and co-operation in the OSCE area,

Taking into account the emerging and fast-evolving implications of digital transformation, which is leading to progress and prosperity, but also to the emergence of potential new or enhanced threats and challenges,

Aware that changes in the labour markets caused by digital transformation have the potential to widen social and economic disparities, and that there is a need for a stronger focus on the development of human capital, particularly for women, youth and persons with disabilities, especially in labour-intensive, low-skilled economic sectors,

Acknowledging that human capital development, including in the digital context, through its positive impact on an informed and qualified workforce, sustainable development, jobs and wealth creation, can positively contribute to making economies and societies more resilient to corruption,

Determined to promote lifelong learning and vocational and professional training throughout the working life as essential tools for human capital development and for reducing existing digital divides, particularly for women and girls in the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics,

Recognizing that there are opportunities and challenges associated with new forms of employment arising from the digital transformation of the economy, and that while these changes in the labour market may promote economic growth and job creation, some of the challenges may have an impact on job and social stability,

(...)

Acknowledging, in the context of the digitalization of the economy, the need to strengthen the resilience of the workforce and to adapt labour market policy frameworks to promote: the creation of jobs with full respect for human dignity and human rights; sustainable and inclusive economic growth; and equal opportunities for the participation of women and men in the labour market,

Recognizing the potential for human capital development to contribute to the implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

1. Encourages participating States to support the development of human capital so as to manage the transition to increasingly automated and digital economies, including through public-private partnerships and multi-stakeholder collaboration;
2. Encourages participating States to promote lifelong learning, starting from early education and continuing throughout working life, as a key pillar for managing this transition;
3. Calls upon participating States to promote access to quality education, training, upskilling and reskilling opportunities in order to enhance employability – promoting non-discriminatory access for women, youth and persons with disabilities and with special attention to those working in labour-intensive industries;

4. Encourages the participating States, as appropriate, to promote education, vocational training and retraining, in particular for women and girls, and especially in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, as a key measure to reduce digital divides and to advance the empowerment of women by promoting opportunities, including in the economy;
5. Invites the participating States to strengthen policy and institutional frameworks to facilitate innovative business models and a positive investment climate, to promote job creation and sustainable, inclusive economic growth;
6. Encourages the participating States to involve the private sector, civil society, trade and labour unions, academia, and other relevant stakeholders to identify and address the needs in terms of human capital development and to work together to develop and implement relevant policies and regulations;
7. Calls upon participating States to further examine opportunities and challenges associated with new forms of employment arising from the digital transformation of the economy, also with a view to ensuring adequate social protection;
8. Encourages the participating States to promote efforts against corruption in the education and training sectors, as well as open, equal and corruption-free access to education, digital skills and training opportunities;
9. Encourages participating States to make use of the OSCE to foster the exchange of best practices and to promote capacity-building initiatives in line with the provisions of this decision;
10. Encourages participating States to increase co-operation on human capital development, including with relevant international organizations, in areas such as facilitating and widening access to educational, research and training institutions, with particular attention to fostering digital skills;
11. Tasks relevant OSCE executive structures, including field operations, within their mandates and available resources, to assist participating States upon their requests in implementing the provisions of this decision;
12. Encourages the OSCE Partners for co-operation to voluntarily implement the provisions of this decision.

Decision No. 6/18

Strengthening Efforts to Prevent and Combat Child Trafficking, including of Unaccompanied Minors

The Ministerial Council,

Gravely alarmed by the prevalence of trafficking in children, including those who are unaccompanied, in all its forms, including for the purpose of sexual exploitation, forced labour, forced criminality, forced marriage, and the removal of organs,

Reaffirming all OSCE commitments to combat child trafficking, (...)
(...)

Deeply concerned about the large number of unaccompanied children who are vulnerable to human trafficking in recent years,

Acknowledging that the adoption of a victim-centred and trauma-informed approach that takes into account the respective gender-specific concerns of girls and boys and the best interests of the child, is paramount to effectively prevent and protect children from being subjected to trafficking in human beings,

Recognizing that collaboration among States, first line responders and civil society, can further help safeguard children, including those who are unaccompanied, from being subjected to human trafficking,

(...)

Commending participating States that adopt special legislative and other measures for the early identification, reception and protection of children vulnerable to human trafficking, including unaccompanied minors,

Recognizing the importance of the contribution of civil society, including religious organizations, in inter alia assisting the work of national authorities in preventing and combating all forms of child trafficking, through national anti-trafficking mechanisms, including National Referral Mechanisms, as appropriate,

(...)

Calls on the participating States to:

1. Adopt relevant measures so that all child victims of human trafficking are treated in line with the principle of non-discrimination, and in accordance with their individual needs and taking into account their best interests, providing opportunities for them to be heard, as appropriate, and upholding and protecting their human rights;
2. Adopt a victim-centred and trauma-informed approach that takes into account the respective gender-specific concerns of girls and boys and the best interests of the child, and fully respects the human rights and fundamental freedoms of children subjected to human trafficking;
3. Provide, as relevant, government service providers and agencies that come into contact with children with adequate guidance and training on how to properly identify, report, assist, and protect child victims of trafficking in an age-appropriate and manner that takes into account the respective gender-specific concerns of girls and boys, and consider the provision of relevant training to private sector actors that come into contact with child victims of trafficking;
4. Take measures to provide child victims of trafficking, when necessary, with a qualified and trained guardian or equivalent and/or a legal representative as a matter of priority, in order to safeguard the interests of child victims of trafficking, including those who are unaccompanied, and that their guardians and/or legal representatives are involved in procedures concerning their assistance and in finding durable and sustainable solutions for them;
5. Address the situation of child victims of trafficking, including those unaccompanied, within a child protection framework;
6. Promote national anti-trafficking mechanisms, including National Referral Mechanisms where they exist, and child protection systems where appropriate, that recognize the needs and rights

of child victims of trafficking; incorporate victim-centred, trauma-informed and age-appropriate assistance; apply a multi-disciplinary approach, respecting human rights, that takes into account the respective gender-specific concerns of girls and boys, and reflects, as appropriate, input and recommendations from survivors of human trafficking when providing immediate assistance and looking for durable and sustainable solutions; as well as establish referral channels that are appropriate for children;

7. Provide that, to the extent possible, any assessment of the needs of a child victim of trafficking takes into account his or her interests and views and the need for care, protection and safety;

8. Upon identification of a child as a victim of trafficking, or when there are reasonable grounds to believe that a child may have been subjected to trafficking, take appropriate action to keep the child safe, in particular by preventing sexual and other abuse, preventing re-victimization, in accordance with national laws, provide for the possibility of not imposing penalties on victims for their involvement in unlawful activities, to the extent that they have been compelled to do so, and by providing suitable rehabilitation, reintegration and/or repatriation programmes, where appropriate;

9. Encourage law enforcement, or other relevant authorities, as appropriate, to co-operate with one another by collecting and exchanging information, in accordance with their respective domestic laws, including concerning the protection of personal data, about child victims of trafficking and those at risk of being subjected to human trafficking, for the purpose of strengthening their protection and addressing the issue of missing children;

10. Strengthen national, regional and international co-operation for preventing and combating child trafficking, particularly with regard to reporting and sharing information, about child victims of trafficking, including those unaccompanied, in accordance their respective domestic laws, including concerning the protection of personal data;

11. Consider the appointment of a national focal point to whom enquiries can be addressed by officials from other countries regarding child victims of trafficking, including those who went missing and/or whom they plan to return to in their respective country of origin;

12. Promote efforts to prevent child trafficking, countering the culture of impunity, and reducing and addressing the demand which fosters all forms of exploitation;

13. Task the relevant OSCE executive structures, in accordance with their mandates, within available resources and in coordination with the OSCE Special Representative and Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, to continue assisting participating States, upon their request, in addressing all forms of child trafficking, by inter alia maximizing the existing knowledge basis and ensuring at the same time that no duplication of efforts and funded programmes occurs.

Document of the Twenty Seventh Meeting of the Ministerial Council

Tirana 2020

I. Statements and Declarations by the Ministerial Council

Declaration on Strengthening co-operation in Countering Transnational Organized Crime

(...)

3. We reiterate our grave concern about the negative effects of transnational organized crime on stability and security, including the exploitation of globalized economies and open societies, the undermining of democratic values and governance and the threatening of the safety and security of citizens, directly or indirectly, as well as human rights and fundamental freedoms.

4. We reaffirm participating States' primary role in combatting transnational organized crime and underscore that it can best be fought by ensuring respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms, and by upholding the rule of law, and emphasize the key role played by an effective, trusted, professional, independent and accountable criminal justice system in upholding public safety and security.

5. We acknowledge the central role of the United Nations in countering transnational organized crime, as well as the importance of the work done by relevant international organizations. We reaffirm that the OSCE's comprehensive concept of security complements global efforts to counter the complex threat of transnational organized crime.

6. We underline that countering transnational organized crime, and its root causes, requires effective and democratic institutions accountable to citizens, criminal justice systems based on the rule of law, and the application of a holistic, comprehensive and coherent approach, in order to prevent and reduce opportunities for organized criminal groups to operate in, or infiltrate the fabric of, our societies, licit economies, and institutions, or to benefit from the proceeds of their crimes.

7. We recall the relevant international tools and mechanisms available to assist participating States in undertaking self-assessments and, where necessary, enhancing their criminal justice systems.

8. We recognize that transnational organized crime can have a differential impact on diverse groups within society. We encourage co-operation between all relevant stakeholders, including civil society, in order to help build resilient communities, and to develop comprehensive responses to, and preventive measures against, transnational organized crime which take into account the needs, concerns and interests of all groups within society, protect the victims of crime and provide them access to appropriate remedies, while promoting the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in the efforts to counter transnational organized crime.

9. We underline the importance of strengthening national coordination and international co-operation in countering transnational organized crime, including, where appropriate, through direct contact and engagement between relevant authorities, and by exchange of information and best practices, as well as by using the tools provided by the OSCE, the UNODC, and other relevant international organizations.

10. We recommit to maintaining the countering of transnational organized crime among the priorities of the OSCE by enhancing implementation of the respective international obligations and the OSCE's existing commitments. We reaffirm the tasking of the relevant OSCE executive structures to brief the participating States regularly on OSCE activities related to the implementation of existing OSCE commitments to address transnational organized crime, and encourage continued discussions on this topic among participating States.

11. We invite the OSCE Partners for co-operation to join us in affirming this declaration.

II. Decisions of the Ministerial Council

Decision No. 6/20

Preventing and Combating Corruption Through Digitalization and Increased Transparency

The Ministerial Council,

Recalling the importance of promoting good governance, including through increased transparency, and preventing and combating corruption in enhancing security, stability and economic growth and reaffirming the respective OSCE commitments, (...),

(...)

Recognizing the risks posed by corruption to security, stability, democracy, effective governance and economic and social development and the need to prevent and combat corruption at international and national levels in a comprehensive way, including by addressing the links between corruption and money laundering, and through the effective implementation of asset recovery measures and improved international and regional co-operation in this regard,

Acknowledging the need to increase efforts to effectively prevent and combat corruption, including through digitalization, while upholding the rule of law and protecting human rights,

Recognizing the role of the OSCE in supporting the efforts of the participating States to prevent and combat corruption,

Acknowledging that a public sector based on integrity, openness, transparency, accountability, responsiveness and the rule of law, is crucial to prevent and combat corruption, and achieve sustainable economic growth and development, improve the business and investment climate and help facilitate participating States' efforts to promote social integration and opportunities for all, including for women as well as youth,

Recognizing the importance of the participation of the private sector, civil society and media, as well as academia, in efforts to prevent and combat corruption and enhance good governance, including the realization of the principles of transparency and accountability,

Acknowledging that accessible, secure and reliable e-government services that are user-centric can play a key role in increasing the efficiency and transparency of, and promoting trust in, public administration,

Recognizing the importance of open government data as a tool that can help to prevent and combat corruption by increasing accountability and transparency, allowing citizens, in accordance with domestic law, to better monitor the use of public funds and the policymaking process,

Recognizing the importance of developing and using methodologies and objective indicators and disaggregated data to measure corruption and the concrete impact of anti-corruption measures, in accordance with domestic law, and to adopt better evidence-based anti-corruption policies,

Being mindful of the Parliamentary Assembly's contribution to promoting dialogue among OSCE parliamentarians with a view to strengthening legislation essential in preventing and combating corruption,

(...)

1. Calls upon participating States to prevent and combat corruption by:

(a) Enhancing good governance, including the principles of transparency and accountability, and promoting integrity and oversight;

(b) Employing digital tools to strengthen integrity and accountability of public service providers with the view to help prevent and combat corruption as well as to achieve sustainable economic growth and development, improve the business and investment climate and to facilitate participating States' efforts to contribute to the social inclusion and equitable economic participation of women as well as young people;

(c) Enhancing transparency in public administration through digitalizing paperbased and other analogue systems, particularly in public procurement as well as, where appropriate, in existing mechanisms for income and asset declarations of public officials and politically exposed persons, to the extent permitted by domestic law, with due respect to classified and personal data;

(d) Promoting the use of digital tools for early detection and prevention of corruption through enhancing national and international secure electronic identification processes consistent with applicable domestic law;

(e) Introducing digital tools, where appropriate, to reduce administrative barriers and burdens, and facilitating interaction between citizens, businesses, enterprises and public administration;

(f) Promoting more transparent, accountable, reliable and accessible e-government portals with the aim to facilitate open access to information and effective delivery of public services;

(g) Promoting and using digital technologies to strengthen and extend anti-corruption training in co-operation, where appropriate, with relevant international organizations in this field;

(h) Encouraging the establishment and improvement of mechanisms aimed at ensuring transparency of beneficial ownership information, in accordance with domestic law;

(i) Supporting the education of youth, in accordance with domestic education systems, on the importance of good governance, including transparency, and preventing and combating corruption as well as through fostering digital skills, and strengthening awareness-raising measures, including promoting collective action and collaboration between public and private sectors and civil society;

(j) Reducing existing digital divides by promoting and supporting digital literacy and improving the accessibility of public administration online resources and applications;

(k) Taking appropriate measures to ensure that easily accessible and safe reporting channels are available to whistleblowers, to put in place and implement legal mechanisms for the effective protection of whistleblowers against retaliation, and to encourage relevant organizations to establish and implement necessary protections, in accordance with domestic law;

(l) Adopting, in accordance with domestic law, a holistic multi-stakeholder approach to increase effectiveness and improve coordination of anti-corruption measures and initiatives, including promoting the implementation of corporate social responsibility;

(m) Promoting the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in the development and implementation of relevant anti-corruption activities, with the view to achieving gender equality, and taking into account that corruption disproportionately affects women and the vulnerable;

(n) Enhancing interaction and international co-operation among relevant authorities and stakeholders in the anti-corruption field, with the aim to foster the exchange of information, experiences, best practices and lessons learnt;

2. Encourages those OSCE participating States that have not yet done so to become States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and to effectively implement it;

3. Encourages participating States to make the best use of the OSCE as a platform for dialogue, co-operation, exchange of information and sharing of best practices in the area of preventing and combating corruption through digitalization and increased transparency;

4. Tasks relevant OSCE executive structures, including field operations, within their mandates and available resources, to assist participating States, upon their request, in implementing the provisions of this decision, including by cooperating with relevant regional and international organizations;

5. Encourages the OSCE Partners for co-operation to voluntarily implement the provisions of this decision.

Decision No. 7/20

Prevention and Eradication of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

The Ministerial Council,

Strongly condemning all forms of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment as one of the most flagrant violations of human rights and human dignity, and reaffirming that torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment are and shall remain prohibited at any time and in any place whatsoever,

Reaffirming that freedom from torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment is a non-derogable right under international law and that no exceptional circumstances whatsoever, whether a state of war or a threat of war, internal political instability or any other public emergency may be invoked as justification of torture,

Emphasizing that the prohibition of torture is a peremptory norm of international law without territorial limitation, which applies at all times and in all places,

Deeply concerned by the persistence of cases of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment in many parts of the world, including in the OSCE area, that prevail as a consequence of, inter alia, the incomplete implementation of relevant obligations under international law and OSCE commitments and ongoing impunity for the perpetrators that often exists due to a lack of prompt, independent and effective investigation and prosecution of such crimes,

Deeply concerned about acts of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment committed against persons for exercising their human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Deeply concerned that torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment is used to obtain information or a confession,

(...)

Deeply concerned that enforced disappearances still occur in the OSCE area, which is a serious human rights violation, (...),

Recognizing that during conflict situations, including armed conflict, as well as civil unrest and mass protests, particular attention should be paid to preventing torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment,

Reaffirming that all participating States must comply fully with their obligations under international humanitarian law and international human rights law,

Emphasizing that, under the Geneva Conventions of 1949, acts of torture or inhuman treatment are grave breaches of these conventions, that acts of torture and cruel treatment in armed conflict are serious violations of international humanitarian law and in this regard constitute war crimes, that acts of torture can constitute crimes against humanity and that the perpetrators of all acts of torture must be prosecuted and punished in accordance with a court conviction,

Reminding all participating States that prolonged incommunicado detention or detention in secret places can facilitate the perpetration of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and can in itself constitute a form of such treatment,

Recognizing that the prevalence of corruption, including in law enforcement and justice systems, can have a negative impact on the fight against torture and other, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, including by eroding fundamental safeguards and preventing victims of torture and other, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment from effectively seeking justice, redress and compensation through the justice system,

Stressing the importance of effective legal and procedural safeguards throughout all stages of detention, including early stages of police custody, as effective measures for the prevention of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment,

Acknowledging that women and girls are at a particular risk of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment when deprived of liberty, and recognizing the importance of adopting a gender-sensitive approach in the fight against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, that takes into account such particular risk and specific needs of women and girls, including by paying special attention to sexual violence against women and girls, as well as gender-based violence against women and girls, and taking into consideration the UN Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Noncustodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules),

Recognizing the importance of adopting a victim-centred approach in the fight against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, paying special attention to the views and specific needs of victims and their immediate family members in policy development and other activities relating to rehabilitation, prevention and accountability for torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment,

Recognizing that effectively combating torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment requires an integrated and victim-centred approach encompassing prevention, access to justice, accountability, redress and the enforceable right to fair and adequate compensation, including the means for as full rehabilitation as possible,

Recognizing that participating States must safeguard the rights, and protect the human rights, of all persons deprived of their liberty, including those facing the death penalty, in accordance with their international obligations,

Reaffirming that all persons deprived of their liberty will be treated with humanity and with respect for the inherent dignity of the human person and recognizing the importance of participating States continuously taking appropriate measures to improve conditions in detention to better respect the human rights and dignity of those persons, (...),

Stressing the UNCAT requirements that all acts of torture, attempts to commit torture, and acts of complicity or participation in torture must be made offences under domestic criminal law, punishable by appropriate penalties reflecting their grave nature, and that no information or a confession that is established to have been obtained as a result of torture shall be invoked as evidence in any proceedings, under any circumstances, except against a person accused of torture as evidence that this offence took place,

Recognizing the role that international, regional and national preventive mechanisms or other relevant bodies, including national human rights institutions, can play in effectively preventing acts of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, as well as the importance of collaborating with international experts mandated to assist participating States in their efforts to prevent torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment,

Emphasizing the need to ensure that no authority or official orders, applies, permits or tolerates any sanction, reprisal or intimidation against any person, group or association for contacting, seeking to contact or having been in contact with any competent national or international body or mechanism active in the prevention and combating of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment,

Stressing that national legal systems must ensure that victims of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment have effective access to justice, including prompt impartial and effective investigation, without suffering any retribution for bringing complaints or giving evidence and that such victims obtain redress and have an enforceable right to fair and adequate compensation, including the means for as full rehabilitation as possible,

Commending the persistent efforts of civil society at national and international level working to effectively prevent and combat torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and alleviate the suffering of victims,

Underlining the importance of co-operation between the OSCE and other international and regional organizations and mechanisms so as to promote multilateral co-operation and to achieve effective

synergies, avoiding unnecessary overlapping, which can contribute to effectively preventing and combating torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment,

(...)

Calls on the participating States to:

1. Uphold the absolute prohibition of all forms of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (...), implement fully and in good faith its provisions and act in full conformity with all its principles;

(...)

5. Abandon and refrain from the use of interrogation techniques that constitute torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, including to obtain information or a confession;

6. Implement effective legal and procedural safeguards throughout all stages of detention, including early stages of police custody;

7. Respect the safeguards concerning the liberty, security and dignity of the person and ensure that prolonged incommunicado detention and secret places of detention and interrogation are abolished, with the understanding that such detention can facilitate the perpetration of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and can in itself constitute a form of such treatment;

8. Make all acts of torture, attempts to commit torture, and acts of complicity or participation in torture offences under domestic criminal law, incorporating the definition of torture pursuant to Article 1 of UNCAT and providing for appropriate penalties reflecting their grave nature, and prohibit the use of information or a confession obtained through torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment as evidence in any proceedings except against a person accused of torture as evidence that this offence took place;

9. Ensure that any detained or imprisoned person or their counsel have the right to make a request or complaint regarding the detained or imprisoned person's treatment to relevant authorities, in particular when torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment may have been applied, and that such request or complaint will be promptly dealt with and replied to without undue delay, and that neither the detained or imprisoned person nor any complainant or witness will suffer any prejudice or reprisal as a consequence of their request, complaint or any evidence given;

10. Incorporate education and information regarding the prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment in the training of law enforcement personnel, civil, military and medical personnel, public officials and other persons who may be involved in the custody, interrogation or treatment of any individual subjected to any form of arrest, detention or imprisonment, including, as appropriate, on the proportionate use of force, all available modern scientific methods for the investigation of crimes and the critical importance of reporting instances of torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment to superior authorities;

11. Support the efforts of relevant national actors, such as national preventive mechanisms, national human rights institutions or other national bodies or mechanisms, active in preventing torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and, for those who have ratified

the OPCAT, to fulfil their obligation to designate or establish national preventive mechanisms that are independent, adequately resourced and effective;

12. Ensure full and ongoing government co-operation, in line with their respective obligations under international law, with applicable international preventive bodies or mechanisms, (...) and with relevant national bodies, such as national human rights institutions, including by allowing unrestricted access to places of detention if such access is an obligation for a participating State under the international law;

13. Fully co-operate with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in conformity with the participating States' obligations under international humanitarian law;

14. Ensure that all allegations of torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, as well as wherever there are reasonable grounds to believe that such an act has been committed, are investigated promptly, effectively, thoroughly, and impartially by competent and independent national authorities and ensure that complainants and witnesses are protected against ill-treatment and intimidation as a consequence of their complaint or evidence given;

15. Ensure that those who encourage, instigate, order, tolerate, acquiesce in, consent to or perpetrate acts of torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment are held responsible, brought to justice and punished in a manner commensurate with the severity of the offence, including the officials in charge of any place of detention or other place in which persons are deprived of their liberty where the prohibited act is found to have been committed;

16. Provide redress for the victims of torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, encompassing effective remedy and adequate, effective and prompt reparation, which should include restitution, fair and adequate compensation, rehabilitation, satisfaction and guarantees of non-repetition, taking into full account the specific needs of the victim;

17. Ensure that appropriate rehabilitation services are promptly available without discrimination to all victims and take effective measures for ensuring a safe and enabling environment for accessing and providing rehabilitation services to victims of torture;

18. Consider developing measures to support all persons affected by torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, including victims' children and other immediate family members;

19. Promote dissemination of information for victims about the availability of rehabilitation services and ensure that the procedures for obtaining rehabilitation are transparent;

20. Support the efforts of civil society organizations working to prevent and combat torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, enable their active contribution, as appropriate, and make use of information provided by them in alleged cases of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;

21. Take appropriate effective legislative, administrative, judicial and other measures to prevent and prohibit the production, trade, export, import and use of equipment that has no practical use other than for the purpose of torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;

22. Continue to make use of, or consider drawing on, ODIHR's advice, expertise and technical assistance in the field of preventing and combating of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

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