

RESOLUTION ON

OSCE CODE OF CONDUCT ON POLITICO-MILITARY ASPECTS OF SECURITY: AWARENESS RAISING, DISSEMINATION, BETTER IMPLEMENTATION AND OUTREACH

1. Recalling the importance of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security (the Code) adopted on 3 December 1994 as a normative key document for the governance of the security sector, the democratic oversight of armed, internal, paramilitary and intelligence forces as well as the police, and for the application of the provisions of international humanitarian law and the law of armed conflicts,
2. Bearing in mind the achievements of the Code and its agreed instruments in raising awareness of the importance of democratic oversight of the armed and security forces, in increasing confidence and transparency in the OSCE area by sharing information and in providing guiding norms and principles prompting armed forces to operate by fully respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms of their members, also during armed conflict,
3. Recalling the obligation of participating States to provide for democratic oversight of the armed and security forces, to ensure that defence policy and doctrine are consistent with international law, that their forces remain politically neutral and will not be used to limit the peaceful and lawful exercise of 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, particularly considering issues related to women, peace and security (UNSCR 1325),
4. Concerned about implementation loopholes, on-going breaches of provisions of the Code by participating States and their deleterious effects on confidence-building and stability in the OSCE area,
5. Underlining the role and responsibility of parliamentarians and parliamentary security commissions on the oversight of the security sector in participating States,
6. Emphasizing the need to better vest the Code with parliamentary legitimacy by higher attention and active support through the elected representatives of the participating States' citizens,
7. Reaffirming the recent resolutions on the Code taken by this Assembly at the meetings in Monaco and Istanbul,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

8. Calls upon OSCE participating States and OSCE executive structures to bolster the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security as a fundamental principle of security sector governance and security sector reform (SSG/R);

9. Expects participating States to preserve carefully the unique *acquis* of the Code, to implement all provisions and requirements stemming from the Code fully and in a timely manner and its agreed instruments, as well as to increase their substance by updating the questionnaire on the Code with new aspects such as border guards, private military and security companies as well as cyber security;
10. Invites all members of parliament to assume their responsibility fully by exercising their rights and prerogatives in order to foster an effective and accountable security sector by ensuring a permanent parliamentary oversight of its related executive structures and by prompting those executive structures to implement the Code;
11. Encourages participating States to support awareness-raising and dissemination of the Code in the whole OSCE area by periodically organizing workshops and seminars aimed at national and international key stakeholders dealing with the Code, and by taking advantage of such activities by including them in discussions for further development and better implementation of the Code;
12. Encourages participating States and OSCE executive structures to continue the periodic discussions on better implementation, awareness raising, dissemination and outreach of the Code, its norms and principles and its agreed instruments, as well as to consider the adoption of a Ministerial Council Decision in this respect;
13. Calls upon the participating States and OSCE executive structures to support the outreach of the norms and principles of the Code also towards its Mediterranean and Asian Partners for Co-operation and beyond;
14. Institutionalizes the discussions on the Code at the level of the OSCE PA by regularly setting an item related to the Code on the agenda of its General Committee on Political Affairs and Security;
15. Supports efforts to enhance coherence and to improve the operational guidance for the OSCE on the use of the Code within SSG/R;
16. Declares its strong commitment to foster the implementation of the Code in all its aspects and to remain involved in discussions and activities of the participating States and in activities of OSCE executive structures related to the Code.