

## RESOLUTION ON COMBATING TORTURE

1. Supporting governments and civil society in their efforts to promote democracy, human rights and the rule of law,
2. Recalling the absolute nature of the prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading forms of punishment or treatment under international law,
3. Noting with satisfaction that all OSCE participating States have ratified the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment,
4. Recalling the OSCE commitments under the Concluding Document of the Meeting of the Ministerial Council in Vienna in 1989, the 1990 Paris Charter, the 1991 Moscow Document, the 1994 Budapest Document, the 1999 Istanbul Document and the Concluding Document of the Meeting of the Ministerial Council in Ljubljana in 2005, as well as the 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 in 2009,
5. Welcoming the intention of the Swiss Chairmanship of the OSCE to put prevention of torture at the top of the OSCE's agenda, notably during the Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on 10-11 April 2014 and during meetings organized with civil society in each OSCE subregion,
6. Taking note of the 2013 Kiev Declaration made by civil society entitled *The OSCE Should Make Combating Torture a Priority*,
7. Concerned by the persistence of cases of torture and other mistreatment in all OSCE participating States and the incomplete implementation of obligations and commitments regarding the eradication and prevention of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment by these same States,
8. Recalling that States' international obligations and commitments regarding the eradication and prevention of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment apply to all forms of deprivation of liberty,
9. Also recalling that the prevention of torture requires constant and proactive commitment from States and their agents, particularly the police, the army, medical professionals, the judiciary and other public officials,
10. Underlining the importance of the involvement of civil society, of transparency and of platforms for exchange between governments and civil society at national and international level for effective prevention of cases of torture and other mistreatment,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

11. Requests OSCE participating States to immediately respect the absolute prohibition of torture and other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;
12. Calls on OSCE participating States who have not yet done so to ratify the Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT);
13. Urges all OSCE participating States to incorporate in their penal codes sanctions proportional to the gravity of the crime of torture or other mistreatment and with a minimum period of deprivation of liberty, and to fully implement these provisions;
14. Calls on OSCE participating States to guarantee the independent monitoring of detention facilities;
15. Urges all OSCE participating States to respect their obligation to systematically investigate serious human rights violations, including torture or mistreatment, under Article 12 of the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and Article 13 of the European Convention on Human Rights;
16. Also urges the participating States to provide domestic mechanisms for the prevention of torture and other bodies active in the field with the resources necessary for the full attainment of their mandates;
17. Calls on OSCE participating States to recognize the essential role of civil society in combating torture and to guarantee its participation in bodies working for the prevention of torture and other mistreatment;
18. Encourages OSCE bodies to continue and strengthen collaboration and the exchange of information and good practices with the bodies of other regional or global organizations in relation to the prevention of torture and other mistreatment;
19. Invites the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights to develop and consolidate measures for the prevention of torture and other mistreatment, particularly assistance to participating States, and to consider drafting guidelines for the prevention of torture in the OSCE area;
20. Encourages the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights to gather data on allegations of torture and other mistreatment across the whole OSCE area and to publish this information;
21. Invites field missions to develop and consolidate their measures for the prevention of torture and other mistreatment, particularly help for participating States;

22. Undertakes to continue to monitor the question and to intensify its efforts with a view to completely eradicating torture in the OSCE area.