

**GENDER  
IN THE WORK OF THE  
PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY**

**ANNUAL SESSIONS**

**ANNUAL SESSION ISTANBUL 2013**

## **RESOLUTION ON GENDER ASPECTS OF LABOUR MIGRATION**

1. Reaffirming its commitment to implement the principles proclaimed in the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (New York, 1967) and, to that end, to adopt measures to eliminate such discrimination in all its forms and manifestations,
2. Stressing that effective gender mainstreaming for achieving equality between men and women is essential for making full use of human capital in the OSCE region,
3. Taking into account that the OSCE commitments in the field of migration focus on the implementation of policy objectives in three main areas, namely: (1) protecting migrants; (2) reaping the benefits and mitigating the adverse effects of migration in the countries of origin and the countries of destination; and (3) strengthening co-operation between the countries of origin and the countries of destination in the management of migration,
4. Supporting a comprehensive approach to migration policy based on international standards for migration,
5. Bearing in mind that the feminization of migration has become a global trend,
6. Recognizing the significant contribution made by female migrant workers to the economic and social development of the countries of departure and the countries of destination,
7. Expressing concern that female migrant workers may face additional difficulties and discrimination at all stages of the migration process due to limited access to certain types and sectors of employment, educational requirements and existing stereotypes,
8. Also expressing concern about the considerable risk that female migrant workers have of finding themselves in a vulnerable situation and about the number of victims of abuse, including through violence and trafficking,
9. Taking into account international principles and norms of international law as well as the documents of specialized international organizations on questions of gender policy and migration,
10. Bearing in mind the declarations of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly on questions of gender policy and migration,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

11. Calls upon participating States to elaborate and implement a gender-sensitive migration policy aimed at:

- i. the creation of a political and legal environment conducive to equal opportunities for employment and equal access to its blessings and benefits for both male and female migrants;
  - ii. the implementation of a strategy which includes the application of both general provisions on the protection of migrants and provisions designed specifically for the protection of female migrant workers that improve their opportunities in the areas of freedom of choice, access to resources and the enjoyment of their rights;
12. Encourages participating States to use best practices for promoting the principle of non-discrimination and to ensure co-ordination and co-operation between parliaments, Governments and other stakeholders (trade unions, non-governmental organizations, diaspora organizations and corporations) in the support and protection of female migrant workers;
13. Draws attention to the need for participating States to strengthen measures to suppress unregulated migration and criminal networks engaged in the smuggling and trafficking of persons;
14. Refers to the relationship between the legal status of female migrant workers and their degree of protection from abuse and exploitation, and in that connection gives priority to the creation of a preventive measure for legal migration channels for women;
15. Invites participating States which are countries of origin to make use of the possibility of ensuring the safe migration of their female citizens through the creation of legal and institutional mechanisms that protect and enhance their opportunities at the recruitment stage and prior to migration (including through the provision of information, the organization of training and the upgrading of qualifications for future migrants);
16. Supports multilateral and bilateral co-operation between the countries of origin and the countries of destination in the regulation of general migration issues in order to strengthen legal migration and combat trafficking in persons;
17. Calls upon participating States to co-operate effectively with international organizations specialized in the fields of women's rights and migration.

## **ANNUAL SESSION MONACO 2012**

### **RESOLUTION ON EQUAL PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN OSCE DECISION-MAKING**

1. Recognizing that equal opportunities for 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,
2. Recalling the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for Gender Issues, the Beijing Platform for Action and the 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 women's full and equal participation and involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security,
3. Noting that there are fewer women in the national OSCE PA delegations, as well as fewer women in higher office within the OSCE PA, than there are men,
4. Noting that elections in themselves still do not guarantee high-level leadership positions for women,
5. Noting that women's involvement in the process of making important government decisions can be an important milestone on the path to achieving gender balance in senior positions,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

6. Recognizes the equal rights of men and women to be heard and taken into account in the internal proceedings of the OSCE;
7. Regrets that gender issues are still not visible on the political agenda of the OSCE;
8. Urges the OSCE Secretary General, Heads of Institutions and Heads of Missions as day-to-day managers within the Organization to increase efforts to promote a more gender-equal working environment within the OSCE in order to set an example for all levels of society in participating States;
9. Urges the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly to develop a project to prepare leaders among female MPs;
10. Strongly urges national Parliaments to ensure gender-balance in the composition of the Delegations to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, and demands representation of both genders in all delegations;

11. Calls on participating States to co-operate and exchange experiences on the development of legislation on special measures to promote gender balance;
12. Urges the OSCE Secretary General, Heads of Institutions and Heads of Missions to ensure that all proceedings take place in an environment, including lodgings, which is free from prostitution and pornography;
13. Further urges the OSCE Secretary General to aspire to representation of both genders in all on-stage proceedings within the Organization;
14. Urges the OSCE Secretary General to enhance transparency in the meeting procedure by ensuring a public speakers' list;
15. Further urges the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly to aspire to representation of both genders in all on-stage proceedings within the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

## **RESOLUTION ON GENDER AND MINORITIES IN THE OSCE REGION**

1. Reaffirming that equal opportunities for women and men, and the full and equal enjoyment of their human rights by women, as well as respect for the rights of persons belonging to national minorities as universally recognized human rights, are essential to peace, justice, sustainable democracy, economic development and prosperity and, therefore, to security and stability in the OSCE region,
2. Acknowledging the cross-cutting issue of gender and minority status, and the condition of women belonging to national, religious, linguistic and ethnic minorities, notably immigrant, indigenous and Roma and Sinti women, in the OSCE region as among the most vulnerable to political, economic and social alienation,
3. Recalling that in the *Final Act* of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, the OSCE participating States committed themselves to respect "human rights and fundamental freedoms ... for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion," as also confirmed by the OSCE PA in numerous declarations,
4. Commending the work of the High Commissioner on National Minorities, the Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Gender Issues, and the Gender Unit at the OSCE Secretariat in promoting awareness and best practice concerning the most vulnerable groups in the OSCE region,
5. Noting the progress achieved on the part of many participating States regarding the implementation and enforcement of rights of persons belonging to national minorities, ethnic, religious and linguistic groups, indigenous peoples, immigrants, and the Roma and Sinti populations in the OSCE region, as well as on improving gender equality,

6. Recognizing the bridging role that women can play in promoting mutual understanding and tolerance in societies characterized by national, ethnic, religious and linguistic diversity,
7. Mindful that in the OSCE region women who belong to minorities are less likely to participate fully in the economic, social, cultural and political lives of their countries, are less likely to have access to education and employment, housing, health care services, judicial protection or electoral office at a level equal with men belonging to their group, and with non-minority women and men, and are more vulnerable than men to subsequent poverty, exploitation, trafficking, slavery, domestic and societal violence, and the lack of legal protection as migrant workers,
8. Aware that more fully harnessing a country's diversity will strengthen its economic productivity and competitiveness,
9. Concerned that women belonging to minority groups face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and that the cross-cutting theme of the specific plight of women belonging to minorities is inadequately addressed at the OSCE,
10. Recalling the 1948 United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in particular article 26, which states that "Everyone has the right to education", and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, in particular article 10, which states that "States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in order to ensure to them equal rights with men in the field of education",

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

11. Calls upon the participating States to continue to increase their efforts to safeguard and promote equal opportunities for women belonging to national minorities, particularly regarding access to education, shelter, health services, and employment, and offer sensitivity training where women and minorities are concerned;
12. Stresses the need for national parliaments to ensure that national legislation protects, respects and fulfils the equal rights and freedoms of minorities and women;
13. Calls on participating States to enhance their capacity for reliable collection, analysis and dissemination of sex-disaggregated data and research on ethnic, linguistic and religious groups, national minorities, indigenous peoples, and the Roma and Sinti populations according to standardized methodology, and to consider issuing grants or other means of supporting non-governmental organizations to collect, analyse and disseminate sex-disaggregated data and research, for the purpose of protecting, promoting and fulfilling women's rights;
14. Encourages participating States to exchange best practice concerning gender, ethnic, linguistic and religious groups, national minorities, indigenous peoples, and the Roma and Sinti populations in order to develop more effective policies regarding their

political, economic and social inclusion and identify priority areas for further capacity building;

15. Urges participating States to increase women's participation in negotiations to resolve conflicts and in post-conflict reconciliation efforts and governance and to provide assistance that addresses the specific needs of women, in particular minority women, as per United Nations Security Council resolution 1325, especially in those conflicts arising from intolerance and where sexual violence, which has a gender and ethnic dimension, has been systematic;
16. Calls on the High Commissioner on National Minorities, the Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Gender Issues, and the Gender Unit at the OSCE Secretariat to strengthen their collaboration in promoting awareness of and solutions to the challenges faced by women belonging to minority groups;
17. Encourages participating States to recognize the importance of education, especially for women, since education is the most important tool to enable them to make a living independently, and notes that education is a key factor for women belonging to the Roma or Sinti populations or any other minority group.

## **ANNUAL SESSION BELGRADE 2011**

### **RESOLUTION ON WOMEN'S REPRESENTATION AT THE OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY**

1. Noting that article 1.4 of the OSCE PA Rules of Procedure states that: "Each national Delegation should have both genders represented",
2. Noting with concern that in the OSCE PA National Delegations' Members Directory circulated in Vienna on 21 February 21 2011, the following appears:
  - (a) Out of the 54 national delegations (there is no available data for Uzbekistan or Turkmenistan) in 17 delegations (31.48%) men are the only incumbents,
  - (b) 60.27% of the women are deputy members,
  - (c) There are only 10 women, who are Head of a delegation (18.5%),
  - (d) Out of the 307 MPs only 73 (23.7%) are women,
  - (e) 26 women MPs (almost 50%) come from 10 delegations,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

3. Calls on the national parliaments to improve the representation of women in the OSCE PA national delegations in order to go forward in women's empowerment.

## **RESOLUTION ON GENDER, MIGRATION AND ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE**

1. Recognizing that equal opportunities for women and men and the full and equal enjoyment of their human rights by women are essential to peace, sustainable democracy, economic development and prosperity and, therefore, to security and stability in the OSCE region,
2. Recognizing that at the UN Beijing Conference in 1995 women's rights were recognized as de facto human rights,
3. Noting that in some OSCE participating States women still do not participate fully in the economic, social, cultural and political lives of their countries,
4. Acknowledging that in many OSCE participating States, women are still the poorest and most vulnerable members of society,
5. Being aware that poverty is a key indicator of political and social instability, and that it affects men and women differently,
6. Noting that the full potential of women's economic activities and their contribution to the economic prosperity of their families and countries is unrealized and underutilized across the OSCE region,
7. Acknowledging that women share responsibility for income generation and economic stability and that their income has a multiplier effect given that it is more likely to be invested in their families and communities,
8. Concerned that women's economic dependence on men, especially in times of economic difficulty and crises, increases their vulnerability and susceptibility to violence, abuse, oppression, isolation, exploitation and discrimination, domestically or socially, and potential as victims of deliberately submissive foreign bride arrangements and illegitimate economic activities such as prostitution and human trafficking,
9. Acknowledging that gainful economic opportunities, economic empowerment, migration education and training are legitimate avenues and solutions by which women and girls can reduce their impoverishment, achieve economic independence, improve their living conditions and realize their full economic potential,
10. Noting the variation in the prominence and success of women entrepreneurs across countries of the OSCE region and that women entrepreneurs are more likely to face



challenges relating to discrimination regarding access to and control over such economic and financial resources as loans, credit, financing, property and inheritance rights, as well as barriers pertaining to social norms and traditional values, the undervaluing of women's potential and abilities, inadequate business skills and education and inadequate access to markets,

11. Acknowledging that the experiences and disadvantages of female migrants, labourers and entrepreneurs are different from those of men, due to their status, the nature of the employment sectors in which they are typically represented, their educational requirements, the limited legal channels for female migrant workers, and exclusion from the protection of sound labour legislation,

12. Noting that gender-based analysis has shown that female workers and migrants are more likely to be underrepresented in senior positions of responsibility and management, be paid lower wages, work longer hours, have less job security and face increased sexual harassment, abuse and discrimination than male counterparts,

13. Recognizing the various types of female migrants, such as permanent and temporary, labour and family class, low skill and high skill, refugees and asylum seekers, documented and undocumented, young and old, each presenting its own opportunities and challenges requiring equally diverse policy responses,

14. Concerned that the disproportionate number of migrant women employed in economic labour sectors, such as domestic and care services, garment manufacturing, hospitality, and agriculture, remain unregulated in some countries,

15. Affirming the economic and social benefits resulting from legal and orderly migration by women, including labour migration, and of actively promoting possibilities for women in the labour market and as business entrepreneurs, both for their own benefit and for the benefit of their families and their country's economic potential,

16. Noting that wider access to affordable and reliable justice on the part of vulnerable groups such as female migrants and women economically dependent on their spouses is an important avenue for ensuring their rights are respected, particularly under circumstances of marital dissolution, custody of children, employment discrimination and harassment, and equity of pay for equal work,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

17. Reiterates and commends past OSCE Parliamentary Assembly resolutions on gender, migration and economic opportunities, the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality, and the work of the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, the OSCE Gender Section and OSCE field missions in promoting gender mainstreaming and regarding support for projects and seminars addressing gender equality, migration, labour, economic opportunities and skills, and data collection, entrepreneurship and economic empowerment;
18. Stresses the need to raise awareness about the untapped potential of women in all economic sectors;
19. Affirms the rights of women to increased economic autonomy, including control over their earnings, legal migration opportunities, safe and secure recruitment procedures, access to judicial proceedings, fair remuneration and decent working conditions, including the right to negotiate better terms of employment;
20. Notes the principle that maternity/paternity policies and childcare programmes are key elements in promoting equal employment opportunities and responsibility-sharing between women and men and enhancing the economic prosperity of women and their families;
21. Encourages OSCE participating States to build liaisons and strong relations with non-governmental labour and business sectors to promote training opportunities, education, employment and pay equity for women in the labour market by way of various programmes, policies, legislative and financial/tax incentives; encourages mentoring relationships and co-operation at the national and regional levels among women's organizations relating to labour, migration and entrepreneurship, including trade unions, non-governmental organizations and business associations which focus on training and counselling, exchanging good practices regarding women's entrepreneurship, developing associations and networks of women entrepreneurs, identifying priorities for economic reforms and policies that support women's economic independence and prosperity, enhancing employment opportunities, and support and protection of female migrant workers and entrepreneurs;
22. Calls upon participating States to adopt legislation that creates an enabling environment to provide equality of economic and employment opportunity for men and women; ensures equal access for women and girls to education, training and equal wages; promotes gender

balance in senior positions of responsibility and management; and improves working conditions and provides equal access to benefits including child care;

23. Calls upon participating States to adopt policies that facilitate economic opportunities and independence for women, including promoting the growth of female entrepreneurship, establishing non-burdensome licensing and taxation regimes, and developing gender-sensitive programmes that facilitate access to finance, education and training and the development of local, national and regional business associations;

24. Calls upon participating States to adopt programmes and strategies that implement women's rights regarding equality of economic and employment opportunity, education, training and wages;

25. Urges participating States to enhance their capacity for reliable collection, analysis and dissemination of sex-disaggregated data and research on migration, employment and economic independence according to standardized methodology, and to consider issuing grants or other means of supporting non-governmental organizations to collect, analyse and disseminate sex-disaggregated data and research;

26. Encourages participating States to exchange best practice concerning gender, migration and the economic independence of women in order to develop more effective policies in business support, education and labour regulation, and to identify priority areas for further capacity-building.

## **ANNUAL SESSION OSLO 2010**

### **RESOLUTION ON UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY**

1. Stressing the importance of equal participation of women and men and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security,

2. Deeply concerned about the endemic prevalence of sexual violence carried out by state agencies, both military and police, whose role is to provide security and protect citizens, as well as resistance forces or militias, in contemporary armed conflicts,

3. Recalling historically, that not only land and material goods, but also women have been the entitlement of soldiers and other combatants in wars, and that gender-based violence,

including rape, is one of the most traditional and pervasive features of war and has been tolerated as an inherent, inevitable and unfortunate element of war,

4. Noting that although the explicit prohibition of the crime of rape is to be found in the 1949 Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, governing internal conflicts, and the 1977 Additional Protocol II to the Convention relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts, wartime rape has not enjoyed the same status as other war crimes, because of its gender-specific character and the value system rooted in the social structure of patriarchy that has dominated the social space in which wars have taken place, as well as the international legal arena, which in turn have contributed to the legal culture of impunity surrounding rape and sexual violence in war,

5. Commending with high appreciation the continuous grass-roots advocacy of women and human rights organizations in pushing the topic of gender and security onto the international agenda,

6. Commemorating the 10th anniversary of United National Security Council (UNSC) resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security,

7. Noting the significant contribution of UNSC resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, unanimously adopted on 31 October 2000, in acknowledging gender-dimensions of war and peace, and the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace negotiations, peace-building, peacekeeping, humanitarian response and in post-conflict reconstruction,

8. Noting that the prohibition against rape and other sexual abuses committed in armed conflicts was not supported by means of international enforcement until the inception of the International Criminal Court of 1 July 2002,

9. Welcoming UNSC resolution 1820 on sexual violence in conflict, adopted on 19 June 2008, that reinforces resolution 1325 in recognizing that sexual violence as a tactic of war is often widespread and systematic and can impede the restoration of international peace and security and condemns the use of rape and other forms of sexual violence in conflict situations, stating that rape can constitute a war crime, a crime against humanity, or a constitutive act with respect to genocide,

10. Welcoming UNSC resolution 1888, adopted on 30 September 2009, which complements resolution 1820 by asking the Secretary-General of the United Nations to rapidly deploy a

team of experts to situations of particular concern regarding sexual violence and to include information about the prevalence of sexual violence in a report by UN peacekeeping missions to the Security Council,

11. Welcoming the appointment in February 2010 of Margot Wallström of Sweden as a Special UN Representative to lead efforts to end conflict-related sexual violence against women and children, as called for in UNSC resolutions 1820 and 1888,

12. Supporting the five priorities of the UN Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Armed Conflict to end impunity, empower women, mobilize political leadership, increase recognition of rape as a tactic and consequence of conflict, and ensure a more coherent response from the UN system,

13. Welcoming UNSC resolution 1889, adopted on 5 October 2009, that reaffirms the provisions of resolution 1325, stressing the need for UN Member States to effectively implement the resolution, calling for measures to improve women's empowerment, their participation in peace processes and their key role in rebuilding war-torn societies and calling on the Secretary-General to submit a set of indicators to track implementation of the resolution,

14. Appreciating the work of women's non-governmental organizations such as the German Women's Security Council, the Women Peacemakers Program and the Global Monitoring Checklist on Women, Peace and Security, which monitor the implementation of resolution 1325 in the absence of national action plans and aim to contribute towards international understanding of women, peace and security efforts by highlighting examples of activities to support UNSCR 1325 at the local and national level by women, civil society, national governments and the international community,

15. Welcoming the national action plans (NAPs) already made to implement UNSC resolution 1325 and welcoming the NAPs under preparation,

16. Commending the approach of the Irish Ministry for Foreign Affairs in the process of preparing Ireland's NAP on resolution 1325 including a cross-learning initiative with Liberia, East Timor and Northern Ireland,

17. Welcoming the European Union Comprehensive Approach for the Implementation of UNSC resolutions 1325 and 1820 on Women, Peace and Security and the 2008-2009 UN System-Wide Action Plan on resolution 1325, as well as the active support for resolution 1325 within the African Union and in Latin America,

18. Expressing concern over the limited progress in implementing UNSC resolution 1325 and its sister resolutions on women, peace and security despite national, regional and international action plans,

19. Noting that most states with NAPs to implement UNSC resolution 1325 have not established baselines nor put indicators in place to measure compliance and progress,

20. Welcoming the measures produced by 14 UN entities under the leadership of the Office of the Special Advisor on Gender Issues and introduced by the UN Secretary-General, including a set of 26 indicators pertaining to prevention, participation, protection, relief and recovery, designed to track the implementation of UNSC resolution 1325,

21. Welcoming the UN Security Council's support for the comprehensive set of indicators on the implementation of its resolution on women, peace and security,

22. Appreciating the guidelines provided by the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) and recommendations made to UN Member States, multilateral and regional institutions, the United Nations and civil society on steps to take to stimulate the development and implementation of NAPs relating to UNSC resolutions 1325 and 1820 in a report dated 24 April 2009 from a meeting of the Institute for Inclusive Security and Realizing Rights: the Ethical Globalization Initiative,

23. Welcoming the establishment of a new gender entity at the UN – UN Women – which will replace and consolidate the mandates of the four existing UN women's agencies and serve as an instrumental entity in assisting States to eliminate the root causes of systemic gender discrimination and sexism and, thereby, the root causes of gender-based violence in peace and war times,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

24. Calls upon participating States to develop NAPs applying to both public and private entities to implement UNSC resolutions on women, peace and security incorporating the measures included in UNSC resolution 1325 in their respective security and defence and external action policies, in order to achieve the following objectives:

- a. Promote the participation of women in peacekeeping missions and in decision making bodies,
- b. Promote gender mainstreaming in all peace-building operations,

- c. Ensure specific training in gender equality and on resolution 1325 for staff involved in peacekeeping and peace-building missions,
  - d. Protect the human rights of women and girls during and after conflicts,
  - e. Incorporate the principle of gender equality in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration operations;
  - f. Raise awareness in civil society of resolution 1325;
25. Urges participating States to include into NAPs baselines and performance indicators to measure compliance with and progress in implementing UNSC resolutions on women, peace and security;
26. Encourages participating States to develop systems for monitoring and assessing implementation including regular and publically accessible reporting;
27. Calls upon participating States to provide for appropriate human and financial resources for the development of NAPs and implementation and monitoring of progress and results;
28. Calls upon participating States to ensure that domestic law and legal systems implement their obligations under international conventions, including the obligations to protect women from sexual violence, prosecute perpetrators of sexual violence, ensure that all victims of sexual violence have equal protection under the law and equal access to justice, end impunity for sexual violence, and integrate NAPs into relevant national policies;
29. Encourages participating States to provide support to the priorities of the UN Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Armed Conflict;
30. Urges participating States to support the decision taken in September 2009 by the UN General Assembly to establish a new gender entity at the UN in order to strengthen the gender dimension of the work of the UN with the aim to make women and men equal partners and beneficiaries of development, human rights, and peace and security.

## **ANNUAL SESSION KYEV 2007**

### **RESOLUTION ON WOMEN IN PEACE AND SECURITY**

1. Underlining the fact that civilians, particularly women and children, account for the vast majority of those affected by armed conflicts,
2. Recalling that armed conflicts are a breeding ground for atrocities against women and other vulnerable groups of civilians such as children and elderly people,

3. Underlining the fact that the participation of women and girls and the inclusion of gender perspectives in both formal and informal peace processes are crucial in the establishment of sustainable peace,
4. Welcoming the discussions and decisions initiated by the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security,
5. Welcoming the fact that several OSCE participating States have already developed and adopted National Action Plans on UNSC Resolution 1325,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

6. Encourages OSCE participating States to develop, adopt and implement national action plans on women, peace and security;
7. Recommends that the OSCE works as a regional network supporting, coordinating and reviewing the development and implementation of national activities in this field.

## **ANNUAL SESSION WASHINGTON 2005**

### **RESOLUTION ON IMPROVING GENDER EQUALITY IN THE OSCE**

1. Recalling the Assembly's past recommendation on improving gender equality within the OSCE and its recommendations to fight gender based discrimination,
2. Recognizing the increased visibility of gender issues within the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly as an important step,
3. Regretting that in spite of the goodwill expressed in the 2000 OSCE Gender Action Plan, very little actual progress is visible with regard to the gender equality situation within the Organization itself,
4. Realizing that many national Delegations to the OSCE PA still include very few women and that some Delegations include no women at all,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

5. Welcomes the 2004 Ministerial Council decision adopting the new Gender Action Plan and insists on an immediate implementation of the provisions included;
6. Again calls upon the OSCE Secretary General and participating states to take positive action to promote the recruitment of women candidates within OSCE bodies and



Institutions, especially at higher levels; and to improve the culture and working atmosphere in the Organization, and encourages national OSCE PA Delegations to assist their respective Governments in identifying qualified female candidates;

7. Reiterates the Assembly's recommendation to provide equal opportunities for men and women in the OSCE in order for the Organization to live up to its own principles;

8. Requests that the OSCE improve the mainstreaming of the gender perspective in its reports, resolutions and all other documents, as gender neutral often means gender blind, and, at the same time, encourages the OSCE PA International Secretariat to continue its monitoring and reporting of this;

9. Recommends that Parliamentary Delegations to the OSCE monitor the work of their Permanent National Delegations in Vienna in order to ensure that they promote gender balance in all OSCE activities by, for instance, requesting reports on this matter;

10. Strongly urges parliaments in the OSCE area to take positive action in order to obtain gender balance in their national delegations to the OSCE PA;

11. Calls upon Heads of OSCE PA Delegations to take positive action to promote the nomination and appointment of women candidates in the OSCE PA for elected positions and with regard to participation in field-related activities;

12. Invites all Members of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly to promote participation of women in politics and civil society-building in their home countries, starting at their respective constituencies;

13. Encourages the OSCE PA Special Representative on Gender Issues to continue the efforts to ensure that OSCE PA reports and resolutions are gender mainstreamed and that a gender perspective be included in the work of the Assembly, and stresses the importance of the informal network of the Special Representative on Gender Issues;

14. Welcomes the efforts of the International Secretariat to promote gender equality in the OSCE and calls upon the OSCE PA Secretary General to continue his efforts to maintain a good and equal working environment in the International Secretariat.