



757th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 757, Agenda item 4

**DECISION No. 891
ELECTION SUPPORT TEAM TO AFGHANISTAN**

The Permanent Council,

Recalling the UN Security Council resolution 1868 (2009), which underscores the importance of the upcoming presidential and provincial council elections to Afghanistan's democratic development and which calls for all efforts to be made to ensure the credibility, safety and security of the elections and for members of the international community to provide the necessary assistance,

Taking note of the letter by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Dr. Rangin Dadfar Spanta, to the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office of 22 February 2009, inviting the OSCE to support the Presidential and Provincial Council elections in Afghanistan,

Taking into consideration the status of Afghanistan as a Partner for Co-operation of the OSCE, which has an important impact also on neighbouring regions of the OSCE,

Underscoring the importance of democratic elections for fostering democracy and human rights and for furthering stability in Afghanistan, and contributing to international efforts to combat terrorism,

Taking note of Permanent Council Decision No. 622 of 29 July 2004 on sending an OSCE Election Support Team for the Presidential elections in Afghanistan on 9 October 2004 and the recommendations issued by that Support Team on 18 October 2004,

Taking note of Permanent Council Decision No. 686 of 7 July 2005 on sending an OSCE Election Support Team for the National Assembly and Provincial elections in Afghanistan on 18 September 2005 and the recommendations issued by that Support Team on 6 October 2005,

Taking into account conditions in Afghanistan, in particular the security situation,

Decides, as an extraordinary measure, in response to the specific request of the Government of Afghanistan, to send an election support team to be organised by ODIHR to assist government and international efforts on the Presidential and Provincial Council elections in Afghanistan scheduled for August 2009;

Tasks the election support team to prepare a report, to be distributed to participating States, on the electoral process, based on its findings, including a set of recommendations to the Government of Afghanistan for implementation as appropriate in the post-election period, with a view to enhancing the conduct of future elections and improving Afghanistan's legal framework and procedures;

Requests that the ODIHR closely co-ordinate with international and regional election monitoring and support missions in Afghanistan, including the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and the European Union Observation Mission;

Tasks the ODIHR to determine the appropriate size of the election support team, which is not to exceed 50 election staff;

Tasks the Secretariat together with the ODIHR to conduct consultations with the Government of Afghanistan, international military forces and international actors, including the United Nations, in order to spell out clearly in the appropriate form and put in place the necessary security arrangements for the election support team;

Expenses for the election support team will be covered by extrabudgetary contributions;

This decision does not set a precedent for OSCE activities beyond its geographical area of responsibility.