



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Permanent Council**

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DECLARATION ON THE UPCOMING ELECTIONS IN AFGHANISTAN

1. We, the members of the Permanent Council of the OSCE, being aware that developments in the ongoing security, political, and economic transitions in Afghanistan, in particular the completion of the International Security Assistance Force mission in 2014, will have potential implications for the security situation in the whole OSCE region,
2. Declare our strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity of Afghanistan and emphasize our strong interest in the successful long term transformation of Afghanistan;
3. In this regard, stress the responsibility of the Afghan authorities for transparent, inclusive, free and fair elections, in line with its national legislation and international standards, recalling Permanent Council Decision No. 1094 (2013) to send an OSCE/ODIHR Election Support Team to assist Government and international efforts on the Presidential and Provincial Council elections in Afghanistan scheduled for 5 April 2014, and encourage Afghanistan to make good use of recommendations made, in keeping with the Afghan people's desire for a stable, secure and democratic State.