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# **SUPPLEMENTARY ITEM**

**DRAFT RESOLUTION**

**ON**

**“THE SITUATION IN EASTERN EUROPE”**

**PRINCIPAL SPONSOR**  
**Mr. Christian Holm Barenfeld**  
**Sweden**

**MINSK, 5 - 9 JULY 2017**

## DRAFT RESOLUTION

### The Situation in Eastern Europe

Principal Sponsor: Mr Christian Holm Barenfeld (Sweden)

1. Concerned by the deteriorating democratic development, the continuing and increasing violation of human rights, and the difficult situation for political opposition, civil society, journalists, and other freedom defenders in Russia, Belarus and Azerbaijan,
2. Stressing that the Russian Federation has committed itself to upholding the principles enshrined in the 1975 Helsinki Final Act, which include sovereign equality, respect for the rights inherent to sovereignty, refraining from the threat or use of force, inviolability of frontiers, territorial integrity of States, peaceful settlement of disputes, non-intervention in internal affairs, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, equal rights and self-determination of peoples, co-operation among States, and fulfilment in good faith of obligations under international law,
3. Stressing that under international law, no territorial acquisition resulting from the threat or use of force shall be recognized as legal,
4. Noting with concern the continuing presence of Russian Federation-backed armed groups, military trainers, and mercenaries in the territory of Ukraine,
5. Regretting that the nature of human rights violations in Belarus remain structural and endemic, underscored by the centralization of the legislative and executive powers in the office of the President, whose decrees are a key legislative mechanism in the country, undermining the role of Parliament,
6. Expressing deep sympathy for the millions of people affected by the crisis in and around Ukraine, including internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees,
7. Worried by the situation for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people in the Russian Federation in general and in the Chechnyan region in particular, following reports of torture and imprisonment of gay people,
8. Regretting that elections in Belarus, including the October 2015 presidential election and the September 2016 parliamentary elections, have been neither free nor fair,
9. Deploring the restrictions placed on freedom of assembly, including a near de facto ban on picketing, demonstrations, and meetings by civil society and opposition groups in Belarus,
10. Deeply regretting the lack of media freedom in Belarus, including increasing instances of harassment of journalists and restrictive laws with regard to broadcasting and internet freedom, as well as selective application of justice with regard to independent journalists,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

11. Underscores the need for the Russian Federation itself to meet in full its commitments in the 2014 Minsk Agreements and the 2015 Package of Measures for the Implementation of the Minsk Agreements, as well as to use its considerable influence over the pro-Russian illegal armed groups in certain areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine to do the same;
12. Condemns the Russian Federation's annexation of Crimea;
13. Calls on the Government of Belarus to immediately release and rehabilitate all political prisoners in Belarus, including those given suspended sentences and those whose freedom of movement has been limited, immediately and unconditionally, and to guarantee the full restoration of their civil and political rights;
14. Condemns the recent mass arrests in Belarus and the authorities' violations of the right to demonstrate;
15. Condemns the adoption of a series of repressive laws in Belarus restricting fundamental rights to freedom of assembly, expression and association, and giving additional powers and immunity from prosecution to State Security Committee (KGB) officers;
16. Reiterates its call on the authorities to implement the recommendations of the International Labour Organization with regard to trade unions, and to ensure that workers are able to freely leave their jobs, including in State industries;
17. Calls on the Russian authorities to strengthen anti-discrimination legislation, including ensuring safeguards to prevent harassment of LGBT persons and associations;
18. Calls on the Russian Government to act in order to secure the situation for LGBT people in Chechnya;
19. Calls on the authorities in Belarus to abolish Article 193.1 of the Criminal Code, which envisages a punishment of up to two years for "acting on behalf of an unregistered organization," and violates the right to freedom of association, as well as other OSCE commitments;
20. Urges the Government of Belarus to respect its OSCE commitments with regard to freedom of assembly and freedom of expression, and to liberalize both legislation and practices, allowing citizens the right to public protest both online and offline;
21. Urges the Government of Belarus to immediately withdraw all issued death sentences, and to work to abolish the death penalty;
22. Urges the Government of Belarus to undertake the necessary measures in order to ensure that future elections will be free and fair, including the time before, during and after the election;

23. Calls on the Government of Azerbaijan to undertake the necessary measures to ensure political pluralism, freedom of media and expression, and respect for human rights in the country.