



17th Annual Session  
ASTANA, 28 June - 03 July 2008

**OSCE PA**

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe  
**PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY**

**ASTANA  
DECLARATION  
OF THE  
OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY  
AND  
RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED  
AT THE SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION**

**ASTANA, 29 JUNE to 3 JULY 2008**

**Principal Sponsor  
Mr. Christopher Smith  
United States of America**

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## RESOLUTION ON COMBATING THE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN

1. Acknowledging that according to some estimates as many as 1.2 million children are trafficked each year,
2. Recognizing that cyber space is home to more than one million images of tens of thousands of children being subjected to sexual abuse and exploitation, that the victims portrayed in images of child pornography are getting younger and younger and the images are becoming more graphic and more violent, and that an estimated 200 new images of child pornography are posted daily,
3. Deeply concerned by the impact of all forms of child sexual exploitation on the wellbeing of children,
4. Recalling the 2006 *Brussels Resolution* of the OSCE PA on Combating Trafficking and the Exploitation of Children in Pornography and Decision No. 9/07 of the Ministerial Council on *Combating Sexual Exploitation of Children on the Internet*,
5. Deploring child sexual exploitation and abuse in any form,
6. Deeply concerned over the cases that have been brought to light of sexual abuse and/or maltreatment of children by members of peacekeeping forces, private security forces and humanitarian organizations in a number of conflict areas, and stressing the urgent need for the international community to adopt measures of “zero tolerance” against this crime,
7. Noting that research and law enforcement experience have documented a correlation between possession of child pornography and committing sexual abuse upon a child, and that every image of child pornography that is acquired encourages the further growth of this illicit industry,
8. Commending POLIS for creating an expert forum to facilitate access by participating States’ law enforcement agencies to best practices and available investigative techniques or software, access to legislative drafting assistance and/or legislative models, and provide awareness-raising information and web links for the public,
9. Noting with deepest regret that no country is immune from child sexual exploitation and that the lives of children are forever altered as a result of exploitation and abuse,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

10. Condemns child sexual exploitation in all its forms;

11. Reiterates the call for participating States to ensure that the production, distribution, dissemination, importation, exportation, offering, selling, or possessing of child pornography (regardless of intent to distribute), or any attempt to commit any of these acts, or any complicity or participation in any of these acts, are fully covered under national criminal or penal law, whether such offences are committed domestically or transnationally or on an individual or organized basis, and are punishable by appropriate penalties that take into account their grave nature;
12. Calls on participating States to ratify the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse;
13. Encourages participating States to establish national operational centres, or other structures as appropriate, to increase co-ordination and to involve to the fullest extent possible public-private partnerships to address issues related to child sexual exploitation more effectively;
14. Calls on participating States to collect and store information, in accordance with national provisions on the protection of personal data, on persons convicted of child sexual exploitation or abuse in order to facilitate the apprehension of perpetrators and monitoring of their probation, and to develop, where appropriate, instruments to enable the international exchange of information pertaining to sex offenders' convictions and disqualifications among law enforcement agencies;
15. Urges participating States also to provide notice to appropriate officials of another country or countries when a known sex offender intends to travel to that country or countries and, for that purpose, to ensure that their domestic legislation requires that registered child sex offenders notify the appropriate officials before departure to a foreign country and penalizes those failing to comply;
16. Requests the OSCE Secretariat to set up within the POLIS website of its Strategic Police Matters Unit a multilingual section devoted to combating child sexual exploitation on the Internet;
17. Urges the OSCE Secretariat to continue organizing OSCE online workshops through the POLIS website on child sexual exploitation on the Internet;
18. Encourages participating States, in accordance with national legislation concerning the protection of personal data, to work not only on a national basis but also on an international basis with Internet service providers, credit card companies, banks, and other relevant corporations to prevent the use of the Internet for commercial child sexual exploitation and to impede payment methods to make the crime less profitable and to address demand for child pornography on the Internet.