



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Ministerial Council
Maastricht 2003**

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**DECISION No. 5/03
ELECTIONS**

The Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming the provisions of the Document of the Copenhagen Meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension of the CSCE (1990),

Noting that relevant provisions of the Lisbon Summit Declaration (1996) and the Istanbul Summit Declaration (1999) have supplemented those commitments,

Reaffirming its determination to implement these commitments,

Recalling Decision No. 7 adopted at the Tenth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council in Porto in 2002,

Acknowledging that democratic elections can be conducted under a variety of different electoral systems and laws,

Recognizing the ODIHR's expertise in assisting participating States in the implementation of election-related commitments and standards,

Welcoming the continuing efficient co-operation between the ODIHR and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in election monitoring,

Welcoming the document "Existing Commitments for Democratic Elections in OSCE Participating States: A Progress Report" (ODIHR.GAL/39/03), which was prepared by the ODIHR and submitted to the participating States in June of this year,

Recognizing in particular the need for confidence by the electorate in the entire process, for transparency of election procedures, and for accountability on the part of authorities conducting elections, calls upon participating States to further enhance their co-operation with the ODIHR in this field,

Tasks the ODIHR to consider ways to improve the effectiveness of its assistance to participating States in following up recommendations made in ODIHR election-observation reports and inform the Permanent Council on progress made in fulfilling this task;

Tasks the Permanent Council, drawing on expertise from the ODIHR, to consider the need for additional commitments on elections, supplementing existing ones, and report to the next Ministerial Council.