

Resolution No. 2

Chisinau, Republic of Moldova
20 September 2016

Resolution

on the effective monitoring of human rights in conflict areas by strengthening the protection of human rights defenders in the Eastern Partnership countries

adopted at the Conference

“On the frontline: human rights situation in the Eastern Partnership countries”

During the Conference, participants have considered and discussed the following problems:

- Human rights monitoring and protection in conflict zones
- Human rights challenges in the Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries and international mechanisms
- Human rights defenders: best practices in campaigning, networking and fundraising

Adopting this resolution, the participants of the Conference of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum (EaP CSF) would like to confirm their adherence to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, International Covenants on Human Rights, as well as the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.¹

Since 1998 the appeals to all States to promote and put the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders into practice have been included into the UN General Assembly's annual resolutions on this Declaration. The participants of the Conference consider it necessary to adjust the legislation in the EaP countries in accordance with the provisions of the Declaration in order to promote the implementation by the governments.

The effective protection of civil society is extremely important as the escalating pressure upon human rights defenders who work in the frozen conflicts' areas undermines the efforts aimed at monitoring the implementation of human rights.

Human rights defenders play an important role in democratic societies and the difficult situation in which human rights defenders find themselves in a number of the EaP countries should be taken into consideration., While they regularly face threats and infringement of

¹ Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, 1998, Article 1,
http://www.un.org/ru/documents/decl_conv/declarations/defender.shtml.

their personal security, as well as smear campaigns. there is a need for the special and strengthened protection of human rights defenders in the EaP countries at national and regional levels.

The primary responsibility for the protection of human rights defenders rests with the states. Both positive and negative obligations concerning human rights defenders' rights are imposed on them. On the basis of the above-mentioned, in order to observe the international obligations undertaken by the EaP countries, the Conference participants of have formulated their common position concerning all the discussed issues mentioned above and developed the following recommendations:

- To consider and discuss during open public hearings a possibility of adopting a special law on protection and support for human rights defenders on the basis of the Model Law for the Recognition and Protection of Human Rights Defenders developed by the *International Service for Human Rights (ISHR)*.²
- To amend the existing national legislation that contradicts the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders in order to provide human rights defenders with more possibilities for their work on protecting rights and freedoms.
- To study the [Report on Good Practices in the Protection of Human Rights Defenders](#) by the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders in order to make a decision regarding the establishment of a national mechanism for the protection of human rights defenders.
- To carry out a fast, impartial, and effective investigation of each case of threats to human rights defenders and to inform society on the results of such an investigation.
- To create an independent and well-resourced mechanism (commission) that would be able to gather the information on infringements of human rights defenders' rights.
- To strengthen the role of local authorities with regard to the support and protection of human rights defenders.
- To address an invitation to the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders to visit the country on a regular basis. To reply to the Special Rapporteur's messages and to provide due account of recommendations.
- To develop an action plan on the implementation of the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

The participants of the Conference express their confidence that this resolution will serve as a solid basis for further work aimed at strengthening the support and protection of human rights defenders in the EaP countries.

² ISHR Legal protection of human rights defenders <http://www.ishr.ch/news/legal-recognition-protection>