

968th Plenary Meeting

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**DECISION No. 1094
ELECTION SUPPORT TEAM TO AFGHANISTAN**

The Permanent Council,

Recalling UN Security Council resolution 2096 (2013), which underscores the importance of upcoming elections to Afghanistan's democratic development, welcomes the commitment of the Government of Afghanistan to make further improvements to the electoral process and calls upon members of the international community to provide assistance as appropriate,

Taking note of the letter of 10 September 2013 of the Independent Election Commission of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, in which the OSCE/ODIHR is invited to support the presidential and Provincial Council elections in Afghanistan scheduled for 5 April 2014,

Taking into consideration the status of Afghanistan as a Partner for Co-operation of the OSCE, which has an important impact on neighbouring regions of the OSCE,

Underscoring the importance of democratic elections for fostering democracy and human rights and for furthering stability in Afghanistan and contributing to international efforts to combat terrorism,

Taking note of the Permanent Council Decisions Nos. 622, 686, 891 and 953 on sending OSCE/ODIHR Election Support Teams for different elections in Afghanistan and the recommendations issued by those Support Teams,

Taking into account conditions in Afghanistan, in particular the security situation,

Decides, as an extraordinary measure, in response to the specific request of the Government of Afghanistan, to send an Election Support Team to be organized by the ODIHR to assist government and international efforts on the presidential and Provincial Council elections in Afghanistan scheduled for 5 April 2014;

Tasks the Election Support Team to prepare a report, to be distributed to participating States, on the electoral process, based on its findings, including a set of recommendations to the Government of Afghanistan for implementation as appropriate in the post-election period,

with a view to enhancing the conduct of future elections and improving Afghanistan's legal framework and procedures;

Requests that the ODIHR closely co-ordinate with relevant national, regional and international actors involved in electoral processes in Afghanistan, including the Independent Election Commission of Afghanistan, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the European Union;

Tasks the ODIHR to determine the appropriate size of the Election Support Team, which is not to exceed twenty election staff; and

Tasks the Secretariat, together with the ODIHR, to conduct consultations with the Government of Afghanistan, international military forces and international actors, including the United Nations, in order to spell out clearly in the appropriate form and put in place the necessary security arrangements for the Election Support Team.

Expenses for the Election Support Team will be covered by extrabudgetary contributions.

This decision does not set a precedent for OSCE activities beyond its geographical area of responsibility.