

**Second Meeting of the Council**  
**Summary of Conclusions**  
**Prague Document on Further Development**  
**of CSCE Institutions and Structures**  
**Declaration on Non-Proliferation and Arms Transfers**

30 + 31 janvier 1992



Prague Meeting of the CSCE Council

30-31 January 1992

Summary of Conclusions

I

1. The Council of the CSCE held its second Meeting in Prague on 30 and 31 January 1992.
2. The Ministers welcomed Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kirgistan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan as participating States, following receipt of letters accepting CSCE commitments and responsibilities from each of them (Annex).
3. The Ministers granted observer status to Croatia and Slovenia in the CSCE process.
4. They welcomed as guests of honour the representatives of the heads of the following international institutions and organizations: United Nations; United Nations Economic Commission for Europe; Council of Europe; Western European Union; North Atlantic Treaty Organization; Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

## II

5. The Ministers had political consultations on the transformation in Europe - the role of the CSCE and the contribution of European and other institutions, and on the strengthening of CSCE institutions and structures and orientations for the Helsinki Follow-up Meeting. They adopted with immediate effect the Prague Document on the further development of the CSCE institutions and structures.

## III

6. The Ministers agreed that the Helsinki Follow-up Meeting should be an important milestone in the development of the CSCE process and should provide a clear vision for its future course. Representatives to the Follow-up Meeting should, in particular, be guided by:

- the CSCE's comprehensive concept of security and stability, which includes human rights, political, military, economic and environmental components;
- the important role of the CSCE in fostering democratic development and fully integrating participating States into the network of shared CSCE values, principles and norms and its role in promoting a stable security environment in Europe;
- the importance of a thorough implementation review, particularly in the area of human rights and fundamental freedoms, which will take account of the new situation in Europe and the enlarged number of CSCE participating States;
- the objective of the CSCE to prevent conflict and consolidate peace through eliminating the root causes of tensions, by attaining in particular full respect for human rights, including those inscribed in the CSCE provisions on national minorities, by building democratic institutions and by fostering economic and social progress;

- the need to strengthen the capacity of the CSCE to contribute, in accordance with CSCE principles, to a peaceful solution of problems involving national minorities which could lead to tensions and conflict - both within and between States - including possibilities for "early warning";
- the need for further development of the CSCE's capability for conflict prevention, crisis management and peaceful settlement of disputes;
- the need to strengthen the effectiveness of CSCE institutions by matching their functions more closely to the achievement of these objectives.

#### IV

7. The Ministers had a comprehensive discussion on the Yugoslav crisis. They welcomed the cease-fire agreements reached under the auspices of the United Nations, which are in the process of implementation, and renewed their strong appeal for strict compliance with those agreements.

The Ministers also warned against any extension of the present conflict.

They reaffirmed their support for the efforts undertaken by the Secretary-General and the Security Council of the United Nations, and reiterated the need to create the conditions for an early deployment of United Nations peace-keeping forces on the basis of resolution 727 of the United Nations Security Council on Yugoslavia. They endorsed the concept of the United Nations peace-keeping operation and expressed their hope that it would facilitate the political settlement of the Yugoslav crisis.

The Ministers reiterated the commitment of the participating States to seek a peaceful and lasting settlement of the crisis, in accordance with the commitments and provisions of the CSCE and the equal legitimate aspirations of all the peoples concerned. The Ministers agreed that this requires from all the concerned parties:

- respect for international obligations with regard to the rule of law, democracy and human rights;
- guarantees for the rights of ethnic and national communities and minorities, in accordance with the commitments subscribed to in the framework of the CSCE;
- respect for the inviolability of all borders, whether internal or external, which can only be changed by peaceful means and by common agreement;
- commitment to settle by agreement all questions concerning State succession and regional disputes;
- guarantees for the absence of territorial claims towards any neighbouring State, including abstention from hostile propaganda activities that would, inter alia, promote such territorial claims.

The Ministers reiterated the determination of their States to co-operate closely in the search for a comprehensive solution to the crisis, in particular to refrain from any action impeding these goals. They stressed the special need for dialogue and enhanced co-operation between neighbouring States to this end.

The Ministers expressed their profound concern about the humanitarian aspects of the crisis. They insisted that all parties involved allow emergency aid to reach all people and communities in need. They declared their support for all efforts, in particular those by the humanitarian agencies of the United Nations, to facilitate the return to their homes of all persons displaced by the hostilities who desire to do so.

They reminded all those responsible for acts of violence and for violations of cease-fire agreements that under international law they are personally accountable for their actions that are in contravention of relevant norms of international humanitarian law.

The Ministers fully endorsed the efforts of the Committee of Senior Officials, including those undertaken within the framework of the mechanism for consultation and co-operation with regard to emergency situations.

The Ministers expressed their appreciation for the activities of the Monitor Mission and recalled their support for the Conference on Yugoslavia, and its Chairman, taking place under the sponsorship of the European Community and its member States, expressing the hope that agreement on a global settlement of the Yugoslav crisis, including all issues under consideration by the Conference, will soon be reached.

A CSCE Human Rights Rapporteur Mission visited Yugoslavia and submitted its report. Taking into account the conclusions of this report, the Ministers expressed their view that the human rights situation in Yugoslavia, including the situation of national minorities, should be kept under review by the CSCE, and that full use should be made to that end of the various CSCE mechanisms, including, if necessary, other missions. They requested the Committee of Senior Officials at its next meeting to examine the need for further action.

V

8. The Ministers expressed their concern over new signs of intolerance, aggressive nationalism, xenophobia and racism. They recalled the importance of non-discrimination and stressed the need to build their societies according to the basic values of the CSCE.

The Ministers requested the Helsinki Follow-up Meeting to address the need to ensure full compliance through appropriate means with commitments to protect individuals and groups from racial, ethnic and religious discrimination.

## VI

The Ministers also came to the following conclusions:

9. The Ministers reaffirmed that the CSCE has a vital role to play in the building and consolidation of a new Europe. The contribution that the CSCE has to make to the fostering of political stability and security is indispensable. The CSCE, with its comprehensive mandate and wide participation, constitutes a unique forum for security negotiations.

10. The Ministers stressed that the CSCE also has a prominent role to play in the evolving European architecture and that the challenges facing Europe call for multi-faceted forms of co-operation, and a close relationship among European, transatlantic and other international institutions and organizations, drawing as appropriate upon their respective competences.

They requested their representatives at the Helsinki Follow-up Meeting to study further ways and means of fostering such co-operation with a view to enhancing its effectiveness and to avoid duplication.

## VII

11. The Ministers adopted the Declaration on Non-Proliferation and Arms Transfers.

12. They stressed that the establishment, by 1992, from the conclusion of the Helsinki Follow-up Meeting, of new negotiations on disarmament and confidence- and security-building open to all participating States - as well as of a broader security dialogue and of effective mechanisms for conflict prevention - will mark an important step in consolidating a new co-operative order in Europe. They assessed the progress made so far in the informal consultations in Vienna for the new forum. They requested that these consultations be accelerated and that their conclusions be transmitted to the Helsinki Follow-up Meeting at its beginning.

13. They agreed that the CFE Treaty forms an important element for stability and security in Europe. They called upon all signatories and all relevant newly independent States to take all the necessary steps to ensure the early entry into force of the Treaty.

14. They assessed the progress made so far in the negotiations in Vienna.

They instructed their representatives at the Negotiations on Confidence- and Security-building Measures to conclude them prior to the opening of the Helsinki Follow-up Meeting with a substantial new CSBM package.

They expressed the hope that an Open Skies Agreement will be ready for conclusion in time for the opening of the Helsinki Follow-up Meeting.

They welcomed the determination of the participants in the Negotiation on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe to conclude, in connection with the entry into force of the CFE Treaty, an agreement limiting the personnel strength of their conventional armed forces within the area of application in time for the Helsinki Follow-up Meeting. In this context they stressed the need for the early participation of the relevant newly independent States in these negotiations.

15. They took note of the discussion at the Second Seminar on Military Doctrine held within the framework of the Conflict Prevention Centre.

#### VIII

16. They took note and endorsed, as appropriate, the results of

- the Geneva Meeting of Experts on National Minorities;
- the Moscow Meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension of the CSCE;
- the Oslo Seminar of Experts on Democratic Institutions.

17. They noted the Report of the Rapporteur Mission to Albania.



18. They noted with satisfaction that the CSCE communications network is now operational and they expressed their expectations that full use will be made of it. They expressed special thanks to the Netherlands for the key role which that country had played in establishing this network.

19. The Ministers agreed that, in the light of the conclusions of the rapporteur missions to new CSCE States and of any requests received from them, and from other States recently admitted to the CSCE process, informal consultations under the direction of the Chairman of the CSO should take place at Helsinki, during the Follow-up Meeting, in order to establish the modalities for a programme of co-ordinated support to such States, through which appropriate diplomatic, academic, legal and administrative expertise and advice on CSCE matters could be made available.

20. The Ministers encouraged the establishment and strengthening of independent chambers of commerce in countries in transition to open market economies, to function as a point of contact for private business and financial interests, and to encourage entrepreneurial activity. The Ministers would welcome the development and expansion of the activities of the International Chamber of Commerce in this area in co-operation with other institutions undertaking similar work.

21. The Ministers took note of a proposal to invite a high-level group of legal experts from CSCE participating States to elaborate a draft statute for a CSCE conciliation and arbitration body, taking into account the work already done within the CSCE. They welcomed the intention to submit this draft to the Helsinki Follow-up Meeting.

22. They agreed that the next meeting of the Council will be held in Stockholm in early December 1992. They will seek to confirm the specific days for this meeting at the opening of the Helsinki Follow-up Meeting based on the proposal of the host country (3-4 December 1992).

23. Recalling that the Heads of State or Government decided in the Charter of Paris to meet on the occasion of the CSCE Helsinki Follow-up Meeting, the Council proposed that the Summit Meeting should be held over two days beginning on 9 July 1992.

Wording of letters of accession, accepting CSCE commitments and responsibilities, submitted by:

- Mr. Raffi K. Hovannisian, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia
- Mr. G. M. Sadihov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan
- Mr. Pyotr K. Kravchanka, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus
- Mr. Tuleutai Suleimenov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan
- Mr. M. Imanaliev, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Kirgistan
- Mr. Nicolae Tiu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Moldova
- Lakim Kayumov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan
- Mr. Avdi Kuliev, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Turkmenistan
- Mr. Anatoly Zlenko, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine
- Fatih G. Teshabayev, First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Uzbekistan

## Annex

Dear Mr. Minister,

The Government of [name of the State] hereby adopts the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris for a New Europe, and all other documents of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe.

The Government of [name of the State] accepts in their entirety all commitments and responsibilities contained in those documents, and declares its determination to act in accordance with their provisions.

Concerning the Vienna Document on Confidence- and Security-building Measures, the Government of [name of the State] agrees to apply all the provisions of the Vienna Document on CSBMs, and to an understanding that the geographic scope of its application should be revised as soon as possible in order to ensure full effect of the rules of transparency, predictability and conflict prevention on its territory. Specific provisions on the above matter will be negotiated in the CSBM Negotiations and included in the Vienna Document 1992.

The Government of [name of the State] recognizes the requirement for prompt entry into force of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe. To that end, the Government of [name of the State] underlines the need for States with territory in the CFE area of application to undertake to move forward promptly with the ratification of the CFE Treaty and to assume, in co-operation with other relevant newly independent States, all CFE obligations of the former Soviet Union.

The Government of [name of the State] invites and will fully facilitate the visit of a Rapporteur Mission to be arranged by the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the CSCE. This Mission will report to the participating States on progress in [name of the State] toward full implementation of CSCE commitments and provide assistance toward that objective.

The Government of [name of the State] will concur in the admission of all other States established on the territory of the former Soviet Union as full participating States.

The Government of [name of the State] expresses its readiness for signature of the Helsinki Final Act and the Charter of Paris by the Head of State or Government of [name of the State] at the earliest convenience.

I kindly ask you, Mr. Minister, to circulate copies of this letter to all representatives of the participating States of the CSCE Council of Ministers.

Please accept, Mr. Minister, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Sincerely,

Praque Document on Further Development  
of CSCE Institutions and Structures

1. The Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to pursue actively all the objectives set out in the Charter of Paris for a New Europe, and their determination to further strengthen CSCE institutions and structures for this purpose. To this end they took the following decisions and established certain guidelines for the discussions at the Helsinki Follow-up Meeting.

I

Overview and co-ordination

2. Between meetings of the CSCE Council, the Committee of Senior Officials will be responsible for overview, management and co-ordination and will act as the Council's agent in taking appropriate decisions.

3. In order to increase its effectiveness, the Committee of Senior Officials will meet more regularly, at least every three months. In conformity with the Charter of Paris and building on established practice, the Committee of Senior Officials may delegate tasks to other CSCE institutions or to open-ended ad hoc groups of participating States with a precise mandate.

II

Political consultations

4. In order to further strengthen the political consultation process, the Committee of Senior Officials may set aside certain meetings, or parts thereof, for addressing previously agreed specific issues. Other relevant policy-level officials could attend such meetings.

5. The facilities of the CSCE communications network will be made available to the Chairman-in-Office of the Committee of Senior Officials for transmission of urgent messages related to the work of the Committee.

### III

#### Human dimension

6. The Ministers agreed that monitoring and promoting progress in the human dimension remains a key function of the CSCE.
7. Issues related to the human dimension will therefore be considered by the Council or the Committee of Senior Officials whenever necessary.
8. In addition, meetings of a short duration may also be decided upon by the Committee of Senior Officials to address clearly defined issues. Results of such meetings will be submitted to the Council through the Committee of Senior Officials for consideration or decisions as required.
9. In order to extend practical co-operation among participating States in the human dimension, the Ministers decided to give additional functions to the Office for Free Elections which will henceforth be called the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights.
10. Under the general guidance of the CSO, the Office should, inter alia:
- organize a short CSCE meeting at the seat of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights to address implementation of CSCE human dimension commitments every year in which a follow-up meeting does not take place. The Helsinki Follow-up Meeting will work out the organizational modalities for such meetings;
  - serve as an institutional framework for sharing and exchanging information on available technical assistance, expertise, and national and international programmes aimed at assisting the new democracies in their institution-building;

- facilitate contacts between those offering such resources and those wishing to make use of them;
- develop co-operation with the Council of Europe in order to make use of its database of such resources and services;
- establish contacts with non-governmental organizations active in the field of democratic institution-building, with a view to enabling interested participating States to make use of their extensive resources and expertise;
- facilitate co-operation in training and education in disciplines relevant to democratic institutions;
- organize meetings and seminars among all participating States on subjects related to the building and revitalization of democratic institutions, such as a short seminar on free media and, at an appropriate time, one on migration. These meetings and seminars will be held in Warsaw unless otherwise decided.

11. In order to avoid duplication of work specially in the fields enumerated above, the Ministers directed the Office to work closely with other institutions active in the field of democratic institution-building and human rights, particularly the Council of Europe and the European Commission for Democracy through Law.

12. The CSO will on an annual basis examine the need for meetings and seminars on the human dimension and democratic institutions and will establish a work programme.

13. The Ministers requested the Helsinki Follow-up Meeting to further specify the task of the Warsaw Office and to decide how the human dimension activities of the CSCE may be further carried forward.

14. The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights is designated as the CSCE institution charged with the tasks in connection with expert and rapporteur missions according to the Document of the Moscow Meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension of the CSCE.

15. The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights will be connected to the CSCE communications network.

#### IV

##### Safeguarding human rights, democracy and the rule of law

16. The Council decided, in order to develop further the CSCE's capability to safeguard human rights, democracy and the rule of law through peaceful means, that appropriate action may be taken by the Council or the Committee of Senior Officials, if necessary in the absence of the consent of the State concerned, in cases of clear, gross and uncorrected violations of relevant CSCE commitments. Such actions would consist of political declarations or other political steps to apply outside the territory of the State concerned. This decision is without prejudice to existing CSCE mechanisms.

17. The Council requested the Helsinki Follow-up Meeting to consider further modalities in applying this decision.

#### V

##### Economic Co-operation

18. The Ministers agreed on the need to continue their efforts to strengthen the focus of CSCE on the transition to and development of free-market economies as an essential contribution to the building of democracy.

19. To this end, they agreed to establish an Economic Forum within the framework of the CSO. The CSO would convene as the economic forum to give political stimulus to the dialogue on these topics, to suggest practical efforts for the development of free-market systems and economic co-operation, and to encourage activities already underway within organizations such as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the European



Investment Bank (EIB), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE). The Forum will meet periodically in Prague and can invite contributions to its meetings by those European and transatlantic organizations relevant to the subject under discussion. It was agreed that the first meeting of the Economic Forum would be in early 1993.

20. The Ministers agreed that the Helsinki Follow-up Meeting will consider appropriate further measures to promote discussions in the framework of the CSCE on economic co-operation and related topics.

## VI

### Crisis management and conflict prevention instruments

21. The Council agreed that the capabilities of the CSCE to engage in crisis management and conflict prevention and resolution should be improved.

22. To this end, the Council requested the Helsinki Follow-up Meeting to study possibilities for improving the following instruments:

- fact finding and rapporteur missions;
- monitor missions;
- good offices;
- counselling and conciliation;
- dispute settlement.

23. In this context the Helsinki Follow-up Meeting should also give careful consideration to possibilities for CSCE peacekeeping or a CSCE role in peacekeeping.

24. Provision should be made for the further operational implementation within the CSCE of decisions by the Council or the Committee of Senior Officials.

25. Tasks may be delegated to the Chairman-in-Office of the Committee of Senior Officials, to the Consultative Committee of the Conflict Prevention Centre or to open-ended groups of participating States of an ad hoc character. In each case a precise mandate and arrangements for reporting back should be established.

#### Conflict Prevention Centre

26. In addition to the tasks already given to the Conflict Prevention Centre in the Supplementary Document of the Paris Charter and in the Summary of Conclusions of the Berlin Meeting of the CSCE Council, the functions and working methods of the CPC are enhanced as follows:

27. The Consultative Committee will serve as a forum in the security field wherein the CSCE participating States will conduct comprehensive and regular consultations on security issues with politico-military implications. In this context, any participating State may, in order to reduce the risk of conflict, promptly raise an issue which in its view has such implications. This is without prejudice to later decisions on the structure of a new security/arms control forum and the relationship it may have to the CPC.

28. The Consultative Committee will serve as a forum for consultation and co-operation in conflict prevention and for co-operation in the implementation of decisions on crisis management taken by the Council or by the CSO acting as its agent.

29. The Consultative Committee has the authority to initiate and, with the assistance of the CPC Secretariat, execute fact-finding and monitor missions in connection with paragraph 17 of the Vienna Document 1990 (Mechanism for Consultation and Co-operation as regards Unusual Military Activities).

30. The Consultative Committee, with the assistance of the CPC Secretariat, will execute any additional tasks assigned to it by the Council, or by the Committee of Senior Officials acting as its agent. This will include full responsibility in the implementation of such tasks. The Consultative Committee will report in an appropriate manner on the implementation of these tasks to the Committee of Senior Officials.
31. The Consultative Committee will develop general guidelines for the implementation of its operational tasks including, in due time, those that may be assigned to it by the Helsinki Follow-up Meeting and in the future.
32. In addition to the existing support to the implementation of CSEMs, the CPC will fulfil other functions as regards the implementation and verification of agreements in the field of disarmament and arms control, if so requested by the parties to those agreements and agreed upon by the Consultative Committee.
33. The Consultative Committee may at any time draw the attention of the Committee of Senior Officials to a situation which it considers requires the consideration of the Committee of Senior Officials.
34. The Consultative Committee will meet regularly, as a rule at least once a month. Working schedules should be flexible and additional meetings may be held, in the light of circumstances and future requirements.
35. The Consultative Committee may establish subsidiary working bodies, including open-ended ad hoc groups entrusted with specific tasks.
36. The regular meetings of the Consultative Committee will be chaired in alphabetical rotation. The Chairmanship will rotate immediately after the last regular meeting in every month.
37. The Chairman of the Consultative Committee and the Chairman of the Committee of Senior Officials will maintain contact with each other.

38. The Chairman of the Consultative Committee or his representative will attend meetings of the Committee of Senior Officials which are relevant to the tasks of the CPC.

39. In accordance with the paragraph on "CSCE Relationship with International Organizations", European, Transatlantic and other international organizations, such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the Western European Union (WEU) and relevant United Nations bodies, will be invited to make appropriate contributions to future seminars organized by the CPC.

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40. The Helsinki Follow-up Meeting should also examine further how the CSCE could co-operate with other international organizations in these fields.

## VII

### Parliamentary Assembly

41. In the interest of encouraging an active dialogue with the CSCE Parliamentary Assembly, the Chairman-in-Office of the Council will be in contact with the Chairman of the Committee of Heads of Delegation of the Assembly in order to explore possible interest in the presence of the Chairman of the Council at the Budapest Meeting of the Assembly in July 1992. The Chairman of the Council will be prepared to make himself available to report on the work of the CSCE; to answer parliamentarians' questions in this regard; and to take note of parliamentarians' views for subsequent transmission to the Council.

## VIII

Non-Governmental Organizations

42. The Council requests the Helsinki Follow-up Meeting to strengthen relations between the CSCE and non-governmental organizations, in order to increase the role of non-governmental organizations in implementing CSCE goals and commitments. In particular, the Follow-up Meeting will develop opportunities and procedures for meaningful non-governmental organization involvement in the CSCE and possibilities for non-governmental organizations to communicate with CSCE structures and institutions, recalling inter alia the texts on non-governmental organizations agreed by the Sofia and Moscow Meetings and by the Oslo Seminar.

## IX

CSCE relationship with international organizations

43. The Council of Europe, ECE, NATO, the Western European Union, OECD, EBRD, EIB and other European and transatlantic organizations which may be agreed will be invited to make contributions on the basis of CSCE precedent and practice to specialized CSCE Meetings where they have relevant expertise.

44. To ensure full co-ordination, the Ministers would welcome it if the above organizations would inform the CSCE Secretariat annually of their current work programme and of the facilities available for work relevant to the CSCE.

## X

Relations with non-participating States

45. The Council requests the Helsinki Follow-up Meeting to recommend practical ways to establish a flexible dialogue between the CSCE and interested non-participating States or groups of States, for example through contacts between the said States and the Chairman-in-Office of the Council or of the Committee of Senior Officials.

## XI

Financial arrangements of the CSCE and cost-effectiveness

46. The Council requested the Helsinki Follow-up Meeting to develop procedures which would ensure greater predictability and transparency of the costs of CSCE meetings and other activities. Measures to provide for increased cost-effectiveness should also be examined.

47. States proposing to host future CSCE meetings will present draft budgets along with their proposals. Detailed provisions in this respect will be developed at the Helsinki Follow-up Meeting.

Declaration of the CSCE Council on Non-Proliferation and Arms Transfers

The Ministers reiterated the commitment of their Governments to the prevention of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the control of missile technology. They underlined their willingness to contribute to the ongoing efforts and international co-operation to this end. In this context, they expressed their support for the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and for universal adherence to it. They welcomed the intention of all those CSCE-States not yet party to the NPT to accede to it and urged other States, who are not yet party to it, to do so as well. They also renewed their support for a global, comprehensive and effectively verifiable chemical weapons convention to be concluded in 1992. They also reaffirmed their support for the biological weapons convention, welcomed the results of the September 1991 review conference and called for universal adherence to it.

They expressed their view that excessive build-ups of conventional weapons beyond legitimate defensive needs pose a threat to international peace and security in particular in regions of tension. Based on the principles of transparency, consultation and restraint, they declared their commitment to address the threat of excessive accumulations of conventional weapons and committed themselves to exercise responsibility, in particular with regard to arms transfers to States engaging in such excessive accumulations and to regions of tension.

They confirmed their support for and firmly committed themselves to provide full information to the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms. They called upon all other States to take the same action.

They agreed that effective national control of weapons and equipment transfer is acquiring the greatest importance. They declared their readiness to exchange views and to provide mutual assistance in the establishment of efficient national control mechanisms.

They agreed that in this connection the conversion of arms production to civilian production is also acquiring special importance.

The Ministers decided that the question of non-proliferation, including the transfer of sensitive expertise, and the establishment of a responsible approach to international armaments transfers should be included as a matter of priority in the work programme for the post Helsinki arms control process.