

Annex

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

Istanbul Summit Declaration¹

Istanbul, November 1999

1. We, the Heads of State or Government of the participating States of the OSCE, have assembled in Istanbul on the eve of the twenty-first century and of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act. Since we last met we have transformed the OSCE to meet unprecedented challenges. When we met in Lisbon, the first large-scale OSCE field operation had just been established, in Bosnia and Herzegovina. During the three intervening years, we have increased dramatically the number and size of our field operations. Our common institutions have grown in number and in the level of their activities. The OSCE has expanded the scale and substance of its efforts. This has greatly strengthened the OSCE's contribution to security and co-operation across the OSCE area. We pay special tribute to the women and men whose dedication and hard work have made the Organization's achievements possible.

2. Today, we adopted a Charter for European Security in order to strengthen security and stability in our region and improve the operational capabilities of our Organization. We task the OSCE Permanent Council to take the necessary decisions to implement promptly the new steps agreed upon in this Charter. We need the contribution of a strengthened OSCE to meet the risks and challenges facing the OSCE area, to improve human security and thereby to make a difference in the life of the individual, which is the aim of all our efforts. We reiterate unreservedly our commitment to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms and to abstain from any form of discrimination. We also reiterate our respect for international humanitarian law. We pledge our commitment to intensify efforts to prevent conflicts in the OSCE area, and when they occur to resolve them peacefully. We will work closely with other international organizations and institutions on the basis of the Platform for Co-operative Security, which we adopted as a part of our Charter.

3. The situation in Kosovo, FRY, in particular the humanitarian situation, remains a major challenge for the OSCE. Our thoughts still go out to the large number of Kosovo Albanians and others who lost their lives, those who saw their property destroyed and the hundreds of thousands who were expelled from and abandoned their homes. Now most of these refugees have returned. As the difficult work of rehabilitation advances, remaining refugees will be able to return. The OSCE Mission in Kosovo forms an essential part of the broader United Nations Mission working under United Nations Secu-

1 SUM.DOC/2/99, 19 November 1999.

riety Council Resolution 1244. The OSCE Mission today has more than 1,400 staff members, and plays a vital role in the process of rebuilding a multi-ethnic society in Kosovo; the first class from the OSCE Police School has graduated, and the OSCE training of judicial and administrative personnel has started. The Organization assists in developing a civil society, in supporting the formation of a pluralistic political party landscape, free media and a viable NGO community. The OSCE plays a leading role in promoting and protecting human rights, and establishing respect for the rule of law. The success of this work is essential if democracy is to take root. We pledge to give it our full support. As we advance in these areas, we accelerate our work towards creating the necessary conditions for the first free elections in Kosovo, which the OSCE has been tasked to organize. We will seek to involve the local population increasingly in the efforts of the OSCE Mission.

4. Against the background of years of repression, intolerance and violence in Kosovo, the challenge is to build a multi-ethnic society on the basis of substantial autonomy respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, pending final settlement in accordance with UNSCR 1244. We expect this Resolution to be fully implemented and strictly adhered to by all concerned. We will assist all inhabitants of Kosovo. But they, and those who aspire to be their leaders, must work together towards a multi-ethnic society where the rights of each citizen are fully and equally respected. They must fight decisively against the cycle of hate and revenge and bring about reconciliation among all ethnic groups. Over the recent months, we have witnessed a new exodus from Kosovo, this time of Serbs and other non-Albanians. The necessary conditions must be restored so that those who have fled recently can return and enjoy their rights. Those who fought and suffered for their rights must now stand up for the equal rights of others. We firmly reject any further violence and any form of ethnic discrimination. Failure to oppose such acts will affect the security of the region.

5. The democratic shortcomings in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia remain one of the fundamental sources of grave concern in the region. The leaders and people of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia must put the country firmly on the path towards democracy and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. When conditions permit, the OSCE stands ready to assist in order to accelerate democratization, promote independent media and hold free and fair elections in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. We emphasize our desire to see the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia as a full partner. Real progress towards democracy will be a positive step towards equal participation of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in the international community, including in the OSCE, and will create a new basis for growth and prosperity.

6. We remain committed to a democratic, multi-ethnic Bosnia and Herzegovina based on the General Framework Agreement for Peace. We underline the importance of improving the functioning of common institutions, and of

the continued assumption by those and other institutions of tasks undertaken by the international community. We expect Bosnia and Herzegovina to rapidly adopt the permanent election law, so that it can be implemented prior to the general elections scheduled for the autumn of 2000. We appeal to all the leaders of Bosnia and Herzegovina to take decisive steps towards bringing its two entities closer together and to create a situation where persons, goods and services can circulate freely within a single State to the benefit of stability and prosperity. We underline the importance of respect for the rule of law and of vigorous efforts to fight organized crime and corruption, which constitute a great threat to economic reform and prosperity. We remain committed to the return of refugees and internally displaced persons, in particular minority returns.

7. We underscore the importance of working with Croatian authorities to intensify efforts towards reconciliation in Croatia. The OSCE pledges to continue its assistance to a multi-ethnic Croatia through post-war confidence-building and reconciliation. We look forward to faster progress towards the return of refugees and displaced persons and the implementation of relevant international standards, particularly those related to equal treatment without regard to ethnicity, freedom of the media, and free and fair elections. The OSCE's police monitoring in the Danubian region of Croatia, which has played a valuable role in protecting the rights of individuals, demonstrates the OSCE's ability to develop new operational capabilities quickly and efficiently.

8. We reaffirm our commitment to assist Albania as it continues its social, political and economic reform process following the setbacks caused by the upheaval of 1997 and the Kosovo refugee crisis of 1999. Noting the recent progress, we call upon the Government and all political parties to improve the political atmosphere, thereby strengthening democratic institutions. We encourage the new Government of Albania to continue its fight against crime and corruption. The OSCE is committed to continue its assistance and to work closely with the European Union and international organizations within the framework of the "Friends of Albania".

9. We commend the Government of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia for its commitment to domestic reforms designed to enhance stability and economic prosperity. We reaffirm the OSCE's determination to support its efforts in this process, and emphasize the importance of continued attention to the development of inter-ethnic relations.

10. We pay tribute to the Governments and peoples of Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, as most affected countries, as well as those of other neighbouring countries for their hospitality during the Kosovo refugee crisis and for their generosity in shouldering a heavy political and economic burden during this period.

11. Our experiences in South Eastern Europe demonstrate the need for a broader view of the region. We therefore welcome the adoption by the Co-

logne Ministerial Conference on 10 June 1999 of the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe, launched on the initiative of the European Union, which plays a leading role in co-operation with other participating and facilitating States, international organizations and institutions. We reinforce the message from the Sarajevo Summit: regional co-operation will serve as a catalyst for the integration of countries in the region into broader structures. The OSCE, under whose auspices the Stability Pact is placed, has a key role to play in contributing to its success, and we task the Permanent Council to develop a regional strategy to support its aims. We welcome the reports provided to us by the Special Co-ordinator for the Stability Pact and the Special Envoy of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office. The OSCE will work in close concert with our participating States and with non-governmental organizations in the region.

12. We consider that the work of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia is crucial to achieving lasting peace and justice in the region, and reiterate the obligation of all to co-operate fully with the Tribunal.

13. During this year we have witnessed a significant increase in our co-operation with the five participating States in Central Asia. Political dialogue has gained from a growing number of high-level visits from the Central Asian States to the OSCE and by OSCE representatives to Central Asia. With the continuing support of our partners in Central Asia, the OSCE has now established offices in all five States. This in particular has contributed to an expansion of our co-operative activities in all OSCE dimensions. Reiterating our target of achieving comprehensive security throughout the OSCE area, we strongly welcome these positive developments. We are convinced that necessary progress in the difficult and complex transition process will be stimulated by an increase in our efforts based on co-operation and our common commitments. Strengthening the rule of law, the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms as well as the development of civil societies constitute one of the centrepieces in our broad framework of co-operative efforts. In this regard, we welcome the process of signing of Memoranda of Understanding between the ODIHR and the Central Asian participating States.

14. We share the concerns expressed by the participating States in Central Asia regarding international terrorism, violent extremism, organized crime and drug and arms trafficking. We agree that national, regional and joint action by the international community is necessary to cope with these threats, including those stemming from areas neighbouring the OSCE participating States. We further recognize the importance of addressing economic and environmental risks in the region, such as issues related to water resources, energy and erosion. We are convinced that strengthening regional co-operation will promote stability and security in Central Asia, and we welcome the active approach taken by the Chairman-in-Office to this effect.

15. Reaffirming our strong support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia, we stress the need for solving the conflicts with regard to the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia and Abkhazia, Georgia, particularly by defining the political status of these regions within Georgia. Respect for human rights and development of joint democratic institutions as well as the prompt, safe and unconditional return of refugees and internally displaced persons will contribute to peaceful settlement of these conflicts. We underscore the importance of taking concrete steps in this direction. We welcome progress reached at this Summit Meeting in the Georgian-Russian negotiations on the reduction of Russian military equipment in Georgia.

16. With regard to the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, Georgia, some progress has been made towards solving the conflict. We emphasize the importance of maintaining and intensifying the dialogue which is now under way. In light of further progress, we believe that an early meeting in Vienna, with participation of experts from this region, should be used to take decisive steps towards a solution. The establishment by the parties concerned of a legal framework for refugee and internally displaced persons housing and property restitution will facilitate the early return of refugees and internally displaced persons to the region. We also urge the early signing of the Georgian-Russian economic rehabilitation agreement and encourage further international economic assistance.

17. We continue to support the leading role of the United Nations in Abkhazia, Georgia. We emphasize the importance of breaking the current deadlock with regard to finding a peaceful solution to the conflict. In this respect we - and in particular those of us who belong to the Friends of the United Nations Secretary-General - are ready to work with the United Nations to prepare and submit a draft document addressing the distribution of constitutional competencies between the central authorities of Georgia and authorities of Abkhazia, Georgia. We reiterate our strong condemnation as formulated in the Budapest and Lisbon Summit Documents, of the "ethnic cleansing" resulting in mass destruction and forcible expulsion of predominantly Georgian population in Abkhazia, Georgia, and of the violent acts in May 1998 in the Gali region. In light of the precarious situation of the returnees, we recommend that a fact-finding mission with the participation of the OSCE and the United Nations be dispatched early next year to the Gali region to assess, *inter alia*, reported cases of continued "ethnic cleansing". Such a mission would provide a basis for increased international support for the unconditional and safe return of refugees and internally displaced persons and contribute to the general stability in the area. We consider the so-called presidential elections and referendum in Abkhazia, Georgia, this year as unacceptable and illegitimate.

18. We welcome the encouraging steps which have been recently taken in the process of the settlement of the Trans-Dniestrian problem. The Summit in Kiev (July 1999) became an important event in this regard. However, there have been no tangible shifts on the major issue - defining the status of the

Trans-Dniestrian region. We reaffirm that in the resolution of this problem the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova should be ensured. We stand for the continuation and deployment of the negotiation process and call on all sides and in particular the Trans-Dniestrian authorities to demonstrate the political will required to negotiate a peaceful and early elimination of the consequences of the conflict. We appreciate the continuation of the mediating efforts of the Russian Federation, Ukraine and the OSCE in the negotiation process on the future status of the Trans-Dniestrian region within the Republic of Moldova. We take note of the positive role of the joint peacekeeping forces in securing stability in the region.

19. Recalling the decisions of the Budapest and Lisbon Summits and Oslo Ministerial Meeting, we reiterate our expectation of an early, orderly and complete withdrawal of Russian troops from Moldova. In this context, we welcome the recent progress achieved in the removal and destruction of the Russian military equipment stockpiled in the Trans-Dniestrian region of Moldova and the completion of the destruction of non-transportable ammunition.

We welcome the commitment by the Russian Federation to complete withdrawal of the Russian forces from the territory of Moldova by the end of 2002. We also welcome the willingness of the Republic of Moldova and of the OSCE to facilitate this process, within their respective abilities, by the agreed deadline.

We recall that an international assessment mission is ready to be dispatched without delay to explore removal and destruction of Russian ammunition and armaments. With the purpose of securing the process of withdrawal and destruction, we will instruct the Permanent Council to consider the expansion of the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Moldova in terms of ensuring transparency of this process and co-ordination of financial and technical assistance offered to facilitate withdrawal and destruction. Furthermore, we agree to consider the establishment of a fund for voluntary international financial assistance to be administered by the OSCE.

20. We received the report of the Co-Chairmen of the OSCE Minsk Group on the evolving situation and recent developments connected with the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and commend their efforts. We applaud in particular the intensified dialogue between the Presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan, whose regular contacts have created opportunities to dynamize the process of finding a lasting and comprehensive solution to the problem. We firmly support this dialogue and encourage its continuation, with the hope of resuming negotiations within the OSCE Minsk Group. We also confirm that the OSCE and its Minsk Group, which remains the most appropriate format for finding a solution, stand ready to further advance the peace process and its future implementation, including by providing all necessary assistance to the parties.

21. We welcome the opening of an OSCE Office in Yerevan this year and the decision to open a similar office in Baku. These steps will enable the OSCE to strengthen our co-operation with Armenia and Azerbaijan.

22. We strongly support the work of the Advisory and Monitoring Group in Belarus, which has worked closely with the Belarusian authorities as well as with opposition parties and leaders and NGOs in promoting democratic institutions and compliance with OSCE commitments, thus facilitating a resolution of the constitutional controversy in Belarus. We emphasize that only a real political dialogue in Belarus can pave the way for free and democratic elections through which the foundations for real democracy can be developed. We would welcome early progress in this political dialogue with the OSCE participation, in close co-operation with the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. We stress the necessity of removing all remaining obstacles to this dialogue by respecting the principles of the rule of law and the freedom of the media.

23. In connection with the recent chain of events in North Caucasus, we strongly reaffirm that we fully acknowledge the territorial integrity of the Russian Federation and condemn terrorism in all its forms. We underscore the need to respect OSCE norms. We agree that in light of the humanitarian situation in the region it is important to alleviate the hardships of the civilian population, including by creating appropriate conditions for international organizations to provide humanitarian aid. We agree that a political solution is essential, and that the assistance of the OSCE would contribute to achieving that goal. We welcome the willingness of the OSCE to assist in the renewal of a political dialogue. We welcome the agreement of the Russian Federation to a visit by the Chairman-in-Office to the region. We reaffirm the existing mandate of the OSCE Assistance Group in Chechnya. In this regard, we also welcome the willingness of the Russian Federation to facilitate these steps, which will contribute to creating conditions for stability, security, and economic prosperity in the region.

24. In a year which has seen the deployment of our largest ever mission, we have been able to welcome the successful conclusion of the work of one of our smallest, the OSCE Representative to the Joint Committee on the Skrunda Radar Station. We congratulate the parties involved in decommissioning the Radar Station on their efforts, undertaken in a spirit of constructive co-operation.

25. We welcome the successful completion of the work of the OSCE Mission to Ukraine. This work has been an important contribution by the OSCE to the process of stabilization in its Autonomous Republic of Crimea. We look forward to continued co-operation between Ukraine and the OSCE, including through the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine, on the basis of its mandate and the Memorandum of Understanding.

26. With a large number of elections ahead of us, we are committed to these being free and fair, and in accordance with OSCE principles and commit-

ments. This is the only way in which there can be a stable basis for democratic development. We appreciate the role of the ODIHR in assisting countries to develop electoral legislation in keeping with OSCE principles and commitments, and we agree to follow up promptly ODIHR's election assessments and recommendations. We value the work of the ODIHR and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly - before, during and after elections - which further contributes to the democratic process. We are committed to secure the full right of persons belonging to minorities to vote and to facilitate the right of refugees to participate in elections held in their countries of origin. We pledge to ensure fair competition among candidates as well as parties, including through their access to the media and respect for the right of assembly.

27. We commit ourselves to ensuring the freedom of the media as a basic condition for pluralistic and democratic societies. We are deeply concerned about the exploitation of media in areas of conflict to foment hatred and ethnic tension and the use of legal restrictions and harassment to deprive citizens of free media. We underline the need to secure freedom of expression, which is an essential element of political discourse in any democracy. We support the Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media in its efforts to promote free and independent media.

28. In the year of the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and putting the OSCE's Copenhagen commitments into practice, we commit ourselves to actively promote children's rights and interests, especially in conflict and post-conflict situations. We will regularly address the rights of children in the work of the OSCE, including by organizing a special meeting dedicated to children in armed conflict during the year 2000. We will pay particular attention to the physical and psychological well-being of children involved in or affected by armed conflict.

29. The Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities should, under the authority of the Chairman-in-Office and the Secretary General and in close co-operation with the relevant OSCE field operations, develop regular reports concerning economic and environmental risks to security. These reports should include questions of promoting public awareness of the relationship between economic and environmental problems and security and the relationship between our Organization and others concerned with the promotion of economic and environmental security within the OSCE area. Such reports will be discussed by the Permanent Council.

30. We reaffirm our commitment to ensure that laws and policies fully respect the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, in particular in relation to issues affecting cultural identity. Specifically, we emphasize the requirement that laws and policies regarding the educational, linguistic and participatory rights of persons belonging to national minorities conform to applicable international standards and conventions. We also support the adoption and full implementation of comprehensive anti-discrimination leg-

isolation to promote full equality of opportunities for all. We commend the essential work of the High Commissioner on National Minorities. We reaffirm that we will increase our efforts to implement the recommendations of the High Commissioner on National Minorities.

31. We deplore violence and other manifestations of racism and discrimination against minorities, including the Roma and Sinti. We commit ourselves to ensure that laws and policies fully respect the rights of Roma and Sinti and, where necessary, to promote anti-discrimination legislation to this effect. We underline the importance of careful attention to the problems of the social exclusion of Roma and Sinti. These issues are primarily a responsibility of the participating States concerned. We emphasize the important role that the ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti issues can play in providing support. A further helpful step might be the elaboration by the Contact Point of an action plan of targeted activities, drawn up in co-operation with the High Commissioner on National Minorities and others active in this field, notably the Council of Europe.

32. In line with our commitment to ensure full equality between women and men, we look forward to an early approval and implementation of an OSCE gender action plan.

33. In the framework of our commitment to further strengthening of the operational capacities of the OSCE Secretariat, we will improve the OSCE employment conditions so that it can better compete for and retain well qualified personnel to enable the Secretariat to carry out its tasks and fulfil its other responsibilities. We will take into account the need for geographic diversity and gender balance when recruiting personnel to OSCE institutions and field operations.

34. We note that a large number of participating States have not been able to implement the 1993 Rome Ministerial Council decision on legal capacity of the OSCE institutions and on privileges and immunities. With a view to improve this situation, a determined effort should be made to review issues related to the implementation of commitments under the 1993 Rome Ministerial decision. To this end, we task the Permanent Council, through an informal open-ended working group to draw up a report to the next Ministerial Council Meeting, including recommendations on how to improve the situation.

35. To address the challenges in the OSCE area quickly and efficiently new instruments are required. We welcome the establishment, in the Charter, of a Rapid Expert Assistance and Co-operation Teams (REACT) programme for the OSCE. We commit ourselves to make this concept fully operational at the shortest possible time. We are determined as a matter of priority to implement the decision made in the Charter. We will provide the expertise required and commit the necessary resources according to established procedures. We take note of the letter from the Secretary General to the Permanent Council concerning the rapid deployment of expertise. We request the Permanent

Council and the Secretary General to establish a task force within the Conflict Prevention Centre aimed at developing the REACT programme and a budget that will enable REACT to be fully operational by 30 June 2000.

36. We task the Permanent Council and the Secretary General to implement within the same time frame, our decision in the Charter to set up an Operation Centre within the Conflict Prevention Centre, with a small core staff having expertise relevant for all kinds of OSCE operations, which can be expanded rapidly when required, and the decisions made to strengthen the Secretariat and our field operations.

37. We have in the Charter reaffirmed our commitment to the rule of law and stressed the need to combat corruption. We task the Permanent Council to examine how best to contribute to efforts to combat corruption, taking into account efforts of other organizations such as the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, Council of Europe and the United Nations. The results of this work will be reported to the 2000 Ministerial Meeting.

38. The fact that we are meeting in Turkey, which only recently suffered terrible earthquakes, brings home to us the major impact of natural disasters. We need to strengthen the international community's ability to respond to such events, by improving the co-ordination of the efforts of participating States, international organizations and NGOs. We task the Permanent Council to discuss this matter further.

39. We welcome the successful adaptation of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe. The adapted Treaty will provide a greater degree of military stability through a stricter system of limitations, increased transparency and lower levels of conventional armed forces in its area of application. We hope the States Parties will move forward expeditiously to facilitate completion of national ratification procedures, taking into account their common commitment to, and the central importance of, full and continued implementation of the Treaty and its associated documents until and following entry into force of the Agreement on Adaptation. Upon entry into force of the Agreement on Adaptation, OSCE participating States with territory in the area between the Atlantic Ocean and the Ural Mountains may apply for accession to the adapted Treaty, thereby providing an important additional contribution to European stability and security.

40. We welcome the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation's efforts to advance security dialogue, co-operation, transparency and mutual confidence, as well as its work on the OSCE concept of comprehensive and indivisible security in accordance with its mandate of Helsinki 1992. We welcome the conclusion of the review process resulting in the adoption of the Vienna Document 1999 on confidence- and security-building measures, a key element of politico-military co-operation and stability. It improves current CSBMs and emphasizes the importance of regional co-operation. We remain fully committed to the principles contained in the Code of Conduct on politico-military aspects of security. We welcome the decision of the FSC to

launch a broad and comprehensive discussion on all aspects of the problem of the spread of small arms and light weapons and to study concrete measures to deal with this issue, in order to respond to the challenge to peace and stability stemming from the excessive and destabilizing accumulation and uncontrolled spread of these weapons.

41. We note with satisfaction that the negotiations on regional stability, as foreseen under Article V of Annex 1-B of the General Framework Agreement for Peace have entered their substantive phase. A successful outcome to the on-going Article V negotiations would make a significant contribution to security and stability in the region. We urge the states participating in the Article V negotiations to aim to conclude their work by the end of 2000. We appreciate the OSCE's active role in facilitating the implementation of the Agreement on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control negotiated under Annex 1-B of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

42. We reaffirm the significance of the Open Skies Treaty: in this respect, convinced that trial flights are in no way a substitute for the regime of observation flights as set forth in the Treaty, we urge early completion of the process of its ratification and entry into force.

43. We note the widespread human suffering caused by anti-personnel mines and note the entry into force on 1 March 1999 of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction. We also note the entry into force on 3 December 1998 of the Amended Mines Protocol to the UN Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which may be deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to have Indiscriminate Effects. We reaffirm our support for international co-operation in promoting global humanitarian action against anti-personnel mines, including promoting mine clearance activities, mine awareness programs, and the care, rehabilitation and social and economic reintegration of mine victims.

44. We take note of the report of the Chairman-in-Office on discussions held this year with regard to reviewing the scale and criteria for financing OSCE activities and instruct the Permanent Council to continue its discussions with a view to reaching agreement before the OSCE Ministerial Council Meeting in November/December 2000, so that this agreement can be applied after 31 December 2000, in accordance with the decision taken at the 1997 Copenhagen Ministerial Council Meeting.

45. We reconfirm the importance we attach to the relationship with our Partners for Co-operation as set out in the Charter for European Security. In light of our relationship with our Mediterranean Partners, Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia, we reaffirm that strengthening security and co-operation in the Mediterranean area is of major importance to the stability in the OSCE area. We therefore intend to enhance our dialogue and joint activi-

ties with them. We will furthermore strengthen our relationship with Japan and the Republic of Korea. We appreciate the contributions made by Japan to OSCE activities.

46. We express our gratitude to the High Commissioner on National Minorities, Mr. Max van der Stoep, for his willingness to continue in his position until a new High Commissioner on National Minorities has been appointed at the latest at the OSCE Ministerial Meeting in Vienna in November/December 2000.

47. The next Ministerial Council will take place in Vienna in November/December 2000, and will take a decision on the time and place of the next meeting of the Heads of State or Government of the OSCE participating States.

48. We welcome and accept the offer of Romania to exercise the function of Chairman-in-Office in 2001.

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

Charter for European Security¹

Istanbul, November 1999

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Charter for European Security

Istanbul, November 1999

1. At the dawn of the twenty-first century we, the Heads of State or Government of the OSCE participating States, declare our firm commitment to a free, democratic and more integrated OSCE area where participating States are at peace with each other, and individuals and communities live in freedom, prosperity and security. To implement this commitment, we have decided to take a number of new steps. We have agreed to:

- Adopt the Platform for Co-operative Security, in order to strengthen co-operation between the OSCE and other international organizations and institutions, thereby making better use of the resources of the international community;
- Develop the OSCE's role in peacekeeping, thereby better reflecting the Organization's comprehensive approach to security;
- Create Rapid Expert Assistance and Co-operation Teams (REACT), thereby enabling the OSCE to respond quickly to demands for assistance and for large civilian field operations;
- Expand our ability to carry out police-related activities in order to assist in maintaining the primacy of law;
- Establish an Operation Centre, in order to plan and deploy OSCE field operations;
- Strengthen the consultation process within the OSCE by establishing the Preparatory Committee under the OSCE Permanent Council.

We are committed to preventing the outbreak of violent conflicts wherever possible. The steps we have agreed to take in this Charter will strengthen the OSCE's ability in this respect as well as its capacity to settle conflicts and to rehabilitate societies ravaged by war and destruction. The Charter will contribute to the formation of a common and indivisible security space. It will advance the creation of an OSCE area free of dividing lines and zones with different levels of security.

1. Our Common Challenges

2. The last decade of the twentieth century has brought great achievements in the OSCE area, co-operation has replaced previous confrontation, but the danger of conflicts between States has not been eliminated. We have put Europe's old divisions behind us, but new risks and challenges have emerged. Since we signed the Charter of Paris it has become more obvious that threats

to our security can stem from conflicts within States as well as from conflicts between States. We have experienced conflicts which have often resulted from flagrant violations of OSCE norms and principles. We have witnessed atrocities of a kind we had thought were relegated to the past. In this decade it has become clear that all such conflicts can represent a threat to the security of all OSCE participating States.

3. We are determined to learn from the dangers of confrontation and division between States as well as from tragedies of the last decade. Security and peace must be enhanced through an approach which combines two basic elements, we must build confidence among people within States and strengthen co-operation between States. Therefore, we will strengthen existing instruments and develop new ones to provide assistance and advice. We will reinforce our efforts to ensure full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the rights of persons belonging to national minorities. In parallel, we will strengthen our capacity to enhance confidence and security between States. We are determined to develop the means at our disposal to settle peacefully disputes between them.

4. International terrorism, violent extremism, organized crime and drug trafficking represent growing challenges to security. Whatever its motives, terrorism in all its forms and manifestations is unacceptable. We will enhance our efforts to prevent the preparation and financing of any act of terrorism on our territories and deny terrorists safe havens. The excessive and destabilizing accumulation and uncontrolled spread of small arms and light weapons represent a threat to peace and security. We are committed to strengthening our protection against these new risks and challenges; strong democratic institutions and the rule of law are the foundation for this protection. We are also determined to co-operate more actively and closely with each other to meet these challenges.

5. Acute economic problems and environmental degradation may have serious implications for our security. Co-operation in the fields of economy, science and technology and the environment will be of critical importance. We will strengthen our responses to such threats through continued economic and environmental reforms, by stable and transparent frameworks for economic activity and by promoting market economies, while paying due attention to economic and social rights. We applaud the unprecedented process of economic transformation taking place in many participating States. We encourage them to continue this reform process, which will contribute to security and prosperity in the entire OSCE area. We will step up our efforts across all dimensions of the OSCE to combat corruption and to promote the rule of law.

6. We confirm that security in areas nearby, in particular in the Mediterranean area as well as areas in direct proximity to participating States, such as those of Central Asia, is of increasing importance to the OSCE. We recognize that instability in these areas creates challenges that directly affect the security and prosperity of OSCE States.

II. Our Common Foundations

7. We reaffirm our full adherence to the Charter of the United Nations, and to the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris and all other OSCE documents to which we have agreed. These documents represent our common commitments and are the foundation for our work. They have helped us to bring about an end to the old confrontation in Europe and to foster a new era of democracy, peace and solidarity throughout the OSCE area. They established clear standards for participating States' treatment of each other and of all individuals within their territories. All OSCE commitments, without exception, apply equally to each participating State. Their implementation in good faith is essential for relations between States, between governments and their peoples, as well as between the organizations of which they are members. Participating States are accountable to their citizens and responsible to each other for their implementation of their OSCE commitments. We regard these commitments as our common achievement and therefore consider them to be matters of immediate and legitimate concern to all participating States.

We reaffirm the OSCE as a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations and as a primary organization for the peaceful settlement of disputes within its region and as a key instrument for early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation. The OSCE is the inclusive and comprehensive organization for consultation, decision-making and co-operation in its region.

8. Each participating State has an equal right to security. We reaffirm the inherent right of each and every participating State to be free to choose or change its security arrangements, including treaties of alliance, as they evolve. Each State also has the right to neutrality. Each participating State will respect the rights of all others in these regards. They will not strengthen their security at the expense of the security of other States. Within the OSCE no State, group of States or organization can have any pre-eminent responsibility for maintaining peace and stability in the OSCE area or can consider any part of the OSCE area as its sphere of influence.

9. We will build our relations in conformity with the concept of common and comprehensive security, guided by equal partnership, solidarity and transparency. The security of each participating State is inseparably linked to that of all others. We will address the human, economic, political and military dimensions of security as an integral whole.

10. We will continue to uphold consensus as the basis for OSCE decision-making. The OSCE's flexibility and ability to respond quickly to a changing political environment should remain at the heart of the OSCE's co-operative and inclusive approach to common and indivisible security.

11. We recognize the primary responsibility of the United Nations Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security and its crucial role in contributing to security and stability in our region. We reaffirm

our rights and obligations under the Charter of the United Nations, including our commitment on the issue of the non-use of force or the threat of force. In this connection, we also reaffirm our commitment to seek the peaceful resolution of disputes as set out in the Charter of the United Nations.

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Based on these foundations we will strengthen our common response and improve our common instruments in order to meet the challenges confronting us more efficiently.

III. Our Common Response

Co-operation with Other Organizations: the Platform for Co-operative Security

12. The risks and challenges we face today cannot be met by a single State or organization. Over the last decade, we have taken important steps to forge new co-operation between the OSCE and other international organizations. In order to make full use of the resources of the international community, we are committed to even closer co-operation among international organizations.

We pledge ourselves, through the Platform for Co-operative Security, which is hereby adopted as an essential element of this Charter, to further strengthen and develop co-operation with competent organizations on the basis of equality and in a spirit of partnership. The principles of the Platform for Co-operative Security, as set out in the operational document attached to this Charter, apply to any organization or institution whose members individually and collectively decide to adhere to them. They apply across all dimensions of security; politico-military, human and economic. Through this Platform we seek to develop and maintain political and operational coherence, on the basis of shared values, among all the various bodies dealing with security, both in responding to specific crises and in formulating responses to new risks and challenges. Recognizing the key integrating role that the OSCE can play, we offer the OSCE, when appropriate, as a flexible co-ordinating framework to foster co-operation, through which various organizations can reinforce each other drawing on their particular strengths. We do not intend to create a hierarchy of organizations or a permanent division of labour among them.

We are ready in principle to deploy the resources of international organizations and institutions of which we are members in support of the OSCE's work, subject to the necessary policy decisions as cases arise.

13. Subregional co-operation has become an important element in enhancing security across the OSCE area. Processes such as the Stability Pact for South-

Eastern Europe, which has been placed under the auspices of the OSCE, help to promote our common values. They contribute to improved security not just in the subregion in question but throughout the OSCE area. We offer the OSCE, in accordance with the Platform for Co-operative Security, as a forum for subregional co-operation. In this respect, and in accordance with the modalities in the operational document, the OSCE will facilitate the exchange of information and experience between subregional groups and may, if so requested, receive and keep their mutual accords and agreements.

Solidarity and Partnership

14. Peace and security in our region is best guaranteed by the willingness and ability of each participating State to uphold democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights. We individually confirm our willingness to comply fully with our commitments. We also have a joint responsibility to uphold OSCE principles. We are therefore determined to co-operate within the OSCE and with its institutions and representatives and stand ready to use OSCE instruments, tools and mechanisms. We will co-operate in a spirit of solidarity and partnership in a continuing review of implementation. Today we commit ourselves to joint measures based on co-operation, both in the OSCE and through those organizations of which we are members, in order to offer assistance to participating States to enhance their compliance with OSCE principles and commitments. We will strengthen existing co-operative instruments and develop new ones in order to respond efficiently to requests for assistance from participating States. We will explore ways to further increase the effectiveness of the Organization to deal with cases of clear, gross and continuing violations of those principles and commitments.

15. We are determined to consider ways of helping participating States requesting assistance in cases of internal breakdown of law and order. We will jointly examine the nature of the situation and possible ways and means of providing support to the State in question.

16. We reaffirm the validity of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security. We will consult promptly, in conformity with our OSCE responsibilities, with a participating State seeking assistance in realizing its right to individual or collective self-defence in the event that its sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence are threatened. We will consider jointly the nature of the threat and actions that may be required in defence of our common values.

Our Institutions

17. The Parliamentary Assembly has developed into one of the most important OSCE institutions continuously providing new ideas and proposals. We welcome this increasing role, particularly in the field of democratic develop-

ment and election monitoring. We call on the Parliamentary Assembly to develop its activities further as a key component in our efforts to promote democracy, prosperity and increased confidence within and between participating States.

18. The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), the High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM) and the Representative on Freedom of the Media are essential instruments in ensuring respect for human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The OSCE Secretariat provides vital assistance to the Chairman-in-Office and to the activities of our Organization, especially in the field. We will also strengthen further the operational capacities of the OSCE Secretariat to enable it to face the expansion of our activities and to ensure that field operations function effectively and in accordance with the mandates and guidance given to them.

We commit ourselves to giving the OSCE institutions our full support. We emphasize the importance of close co-ordination among the OSCE institutions, as well as our field operations, in order to make optimal use of our common resources. We will take into account the need for geographic diversity and gender balance when recruiting personnel to OSCE institutions and field operations.

We acknowledge the tremendous developments and diversification of OSCE activities. We recognize that a large number of OSCE participating States have not been able to implement the 1993 decision of the Rome Ministerial Council, and that difficulties can arise from the absence of a legal capacity of the Organization. We will seek to improve the situation.

The Human Dimension

19. We reaffirm that respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law is at the core of the OSCE's comprehensive concept of security. We commit ourselves to counter such threats to security as violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief and manifestations of intolerance, aggressive nationalism, racism, chauvinism, xenophobia and anti-semitism.

The protection and promotion of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities are essential factors for democracy, peace, justice and stability within, and between, participating States. In this respect we reaffirm our commitments, in particular under the relevant provisions of the Copenhagen 1990 Human Dimension Document, and recall the Report of the Geneva 1991 Meeting of Experts on National Minorities. Full respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, besides being an end in itself, may not undermine, but strengthen territorial integrity and sovereignty. Various concepts of autonomy as well as other approaches outlined in the above-mentioned documents, which are in line with

OSCE principles, constitute ways to preserve and promote the ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious identity of national minorities within an existing State. We condemn violence against any minority. We pledge to take measures to promote tolerance and to build pluralistic societies where all, regardless of their ethnic origin, enjoy full equality of opportunity. We emphasize that questions relating to national minorities can only be satisfactorily resolved in a democratic political framework based on the rule of law.

We reaffirm our recognition that everyone has the right to a nationality and that no one should be deprived of his or her nationality arbitrarily. We commit ourselves to continue our efforts to ensure that everyone can exercise this right. We also commit ourselves to further the international protection of stateless persons.

20. We recognize the particular difficulties faced by Roma and Sinti and the need to undertake effective measures in order to achieve full equality of opportunity, consistent with OSCE commitments, for persons belonging to Roma and Sinti. We will reinforce our efforts to ensure that Roma and Sinti are able to play a full and equal part in our societies, and to eradicate discrimination against them.

21. We are committed to eradicating torture and cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment or punishment throughout the OSCE area. To this end, we will promote legislation to provide procedural and substantive safeguards and remedies to combat these practices. We will assist victims and co-operate with relevant international organizations and non-governmental organizations, as appropriate.

22. We reject any policy of ethnic cleansing or mass expulsion. We reaffirm our commitment to respect the right to seek asylum and to ensure the international protection of refugees as set out in the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, as well as to facilitate the voluntary return of refugees and internally displaced persons in dignity and safety. We will pursue without discrimination the reintegration of refugees and internally displaced persons in their places of origin.

In order to enhance the protection of civilians in times of conflict, we will seek ways of reinforcing the application of international humanitarian law.

23. The full and equal exercise by women of their human rights is essential to achieve a more peaceful, prosperous and democratic OSCE area. We are committed to making equality between men and women an integral part of our policies, both at the level of our States and within the Organization.

24. We will undertake measures to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women, and to end violence against women and children as well as sexual exploitation and all forms of trafficking in human beings. In order to prevent such crimes we will, among other means, promote the adoption or strengthening of legislation to hold accountable persons responsible for these acts and strengthen the protection of victims. We will also develop and implement measures to promote the rights and interests of children in armed

conflict and post-conflict situations, including refugees and internally displaced children. We will look at ways of preventing forced or compulsory recruitment for use in armed conflict of persons under 18 years of age.

25. We reaffirm our obligation to conduct free and fair elections in accordance with OSCE commitments, in particular the Copenhagen Document 1990. We recognize the assistance the ODIHR can provide to participating States in developing and implementing electoral legislation. In line with these commitments, we will invite observers to our elections from other participating States, the ODIHR, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and appropriate institutions and organizations that wish to observe our election proceedings. We agree to follow up promptly the ODIHR's election assessment and recommendations.

26. We reaffirm the importance of independent media and the free flow of information as well as the public's access to information. We commit ourselves to take all necessary steps to ensure the basic conditions for free and independent media and unimpeded transborder and intra-State flow of information, which we consider to be an essential component of any democratic, free and open society.

27. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) can perform a vital role in the promotion of human rights, democracy and the rule of law. They are an integral component of a strong civil society. We pledge ourselves to enhance the ability of NGOs to make their full contribution to the further development of civil society and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The Politico-Military Dimension

28. The politico-military aspects of security remain vital to the interests of participating States. They constitute a core element of the OSCE's concept of comprehensive security. Disarmament, arms control and confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs) are important parts of the overall effort to enhance security by fostering stability, transparency and predictability in the military field. Full implementation, timely adaptation and, when required, further development of arms control agreements and CSBMs are key contributions to our political and military stability.

29. The Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE) must continue to serve as a cornerstone of European security. It has dramatically reduced equipment levels. It provides a fundamental contribution to a more secure and integrated Europe. The States Parties to this Treaty are taking a critical step forward. The Treaty is being strengthened by adapting its provisions to ensure enhanced stability, predictability and transparency amidst changing circumstances. A number of States Parties will reduce further their equipment levels. The adapted Treaty, upon its entry into force, will be open to voluntary accession by other OSCE participating States in the area be-

tween the Atlantic Ocean and the Ural Mountains and thereby will provide an important additional contribution to European stability and security.

30. The OSCE Vienna Document 1999, together with other documents adopted by the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) on politico-military aspects of security, provide valuable tools for all OSCE participating States in building greater mutual confidence and military transparency. We will continue to make regular use of and fully implement all OSCE instruments in this field and seek their timely adaptation in order to ensure adequate response to security needs in the OSCE area. We remain committed to the principles contained in the Code of Conduct on politico-military aspects of security. We are determined to make further efforts within the FSC in order to jointly address common security concerns of participating States and to pursue the OSCE's concept of comprehensive and indivisible security so far as the politico-military dimension is concerned. We will continue a substantial security dialogue and task our representatives to conduct this dialogue in the framework of the FSC.

The Economic and Environmental Dimension

31. The link between security, democracy and prosperity has become increasingly evident in the OSCE area, as has the risk to security from environmental degradation and the depletion of natural resources. Economic liberty, social justice and environmental responsibility are indispensable for prosperity. On the basis of these linkages, we will ensure that the economic dimension receives appropriate attention, in particular as an element of our early warning and conflict prevention activities. We will do so, *inter alia*, with a view to promoting the integration of economies in transition into the world economy and to ensure the rule of law and the development of a transparent and stable legal system in the economic sphere.

32. The OSCE is characterized by its broad membership, its comprehensive approach to security, its large number of field operations and its long history as a norm-setting organization. These qualities enable it to identify threats and to act as a catalyst for co-operation between key international organizations and institutions in the economic and environmental areas. The OSCE stands ready to play this role, where appropriate. We will foster such co-ordination between the OSCE and relevant international organizations in accordance with the Platform for Co-operative Security. We will enhance the OSCE's ability to address economic and environmental issues in ways that neither duplicate existing work nor replace efforts that can be more efficiently undertaken by other organizations. We will focus on areas in which the OSCE has particular competence. The OSCE's efforts within the human dimension have significant economic effects and vice versa, for example by mobilizing human resources and talents and by helping to build vibrant civil societies. In the spirit of the 1998 Århus Convention on Access to Informa-

tion, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters, we will in particular seek to ensure access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters.

Rule of Law and Fight against Corruption

33. We reaffirm our commitment to the rule of law. We recognize that corruption poses a great threat to the OSCE's shared values. It generates instability and reaches into many aspects of the security, economic and human dimensions. Participating States pledge to strengthen their efforts to combat corruption and the conditions that foster it, and to promote a positive framework for good government practices and public integrity. They will make better use of existing international instruments and assist each other in their fight against corruption. As part of its work to promote the rule of law, the OSCE will work with NGOs that are committed to a strong public and business consensus against corrupt practices.

IV. Our Common Instruments

Enhancing Our Dialogue

34. We are determined to broaden and strengthen our dialogue concerning developments related to all aspects of security in the OSCE area. We charge the Permanent Council and the FSC within their respective areas of competence to address in greater depth security concerns of the participating States and to pursue the OSCE's concept of comprehensive and indivisible security.

35. The Permanent Council, being the regular body for political consultations and decision-making, will address the full range of conceptual issues as well as the day-to-day operational work of the Organization. To assist in its deliberations and decision-making and to strengthen the process of political consultations and transparency within the Organization, we will establish a Preparatory Committee under the Permanent Council's direction. This open-ended Committee will normally meet in informal format and will be tasked by the Council, or its Chairman, to deliberate and to report back to the Council.

36. Reflecting our spirit of solidarity and partnership, we will also enhance our political dialogue in order to offer assistance to participating States, thereby ensuring compliance with OSCE commitments. To encourage this dialogue, we have decided, in accordance with established rules and practices, to make increased use of OSCE instruments, including:

- Dispatching delegations from the OSCE institutions, with the participation of other relevant international organizations, when appropriate, to provide advice and expertise for reform of legislation and practices;
- Dispatching Personal Representatives of the Chairman-in-Office, after consultations with the State concerned, for fact-finding or advisory missions;
- Bringing together representatives of the OSCE and States concerned in order to address questions regarding compliance with OSCE commitments;
- Organizing training programmes aimed at improving standards and practices, *inter alia*, within the fields of human rights, democratization and the rule of law;
- Addressing matters regarding compliance with OSCE commitments at OSCE review meetings and conferences as well as in the Economic Forum;
- Submitting such matters for consideration by the Permanent Council, *inter alia*, on the basis of recommendations by the OSCE institutions within their respective mandates or by Personal Representatives of the Chairman-in-Office;
- Convening meetings of the Permanent Council in a special or reinforced format in order to discuss matters of non-compliance with OSCE commitments and to decide on appropriate courses of action;
- Establishing field operations with the consent of the State concerned.

OSCE Field Operations

37. The Permanent Council will establish field operations. It will decide on their mandates and budgets. On this basis, the Permanent Council and the Chairman-in-Office will provide guidance to such operations.

38. The development of OSCE field operations represents a major transformation of the Organization that has enabled the OSCE to play a more prominent role in promoting peace, security and compliance with OSCE commitments. Based on the experience we have acquired, we will develop and strengthen this instrument further in order to carry out tasks according to their respective mandates, which may, *inter alia*, include the following:

- Providing assistance and advice or formulating recommendations in areas agreed by the OSCE and the host country;
- Observing compliance with OSCE commitments and providing advice or recommendations for improved compliance;
- Assisting in the organization and monitoring of elections;
- Providing support for the primacy of law and democratic institutions and for the maintenance and restoration of law and order;

- Helping to create conditions for negotiation or other measures that could facilitate the peaceful settlement of conflicts;
- Verifying and/or assisting in fulfilling agreements on the peaceful settlement of conflicts;
- Providing support in the rehabilitation and reconstruction of various aspects of society.

39. Recruitment to field operations must ensure that qualified personnel are made available by participating States. The training of personnel is an important aspect of enhancing the effectiveness of the OSCE and its field operations and will therefore be improved. Existing training facilities in OSCE participating States and training activities of the OSCE could play an active role in achieving this aim in co-operation, where appropriate, with other organizations and institutions.

40. In accordance with the Platform for Co-operative Security, co-operation between OSCE and other international organizations in performing field operations will be enhanced. This will be done, *inter alia*, by carrying out common projects with other partners, in particular the Council of Europe, allowing the OSCE to benefit from their expertise while respecting the identity and decision-making procedures of each organization involved.

41. The host country of an OSCE field operation should, when appropriate, be assisted in building its own capacity and expertise within the area of responsibility. This would facilitate an efficient transfer of the tasks of the operation to the host country, and consequently the closure of the field operation.

Rapid Response (REACT)

42. We recognize that the ability to deploy rapidly civilian and police expertise is essential to effective conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation. We are committed to developing a capability within the participating States and the OSCE to set up Rapid Expert Assistance and Co-operation Teams (REACT) that will be at the disposal of the OSCE. This will enable OSCE bodies and institutions, acting in accordance with their respective procedures, to offer experts quickly to OSCE participating States to provide assistance, in compliance with OSCE norms, in conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation. This rapidly deployable capability will cover a wide range of civilian expertise. It will give us the ability to address problems before they become crises and to deploy quickly the civilian component of a peacekeeping operation when needed. These Teams could also be used as surge capacity to assist the OSCE with the rapid deployment of large-scale or specialized operations. We expect REACT to develop and evolve, along with other OSCE capabilities, to meet the needs of the Organization.

Operation Centre

43. Rapid deployment is important for the OSCE's effectiveness in contributing to our conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation efforts and depends on effective preparation and planning. To facilitate this, we decide to set up an Operation Centre within the Conflict Prevention Centre with a small core staff, having expertise relevant for all kinds of OSCE operations, which can be expanded rapidly when required. Its role will be to plan and deploy field operations, including those involving REACT resources. It will liaise with other international organizations and institutions as appropriate in accordance with the Platform for Co-operative Security. The Centre's core staff will, to the extent possible, be drawn from personnel with appropriate expertise seconded by participating States and from existing Secretariat resources. This core will provide the basis for rapid expansion, to deal with new tasks as they arise. The precise arrangements will be decided in accordance with existing procedures.

Police-Related Activities

44. We will work to enhance the OSCE's role in civilian police-related activities as an integral part of the Organization's efforts in conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation. Such activities may comprise:

- Police monitoring, including with the aim of preventing police from carrying out such activities as discrimination based on religious and ethnic identity;
- Police training, which could, *inter alia*, include the following tasks:
 - Improving the operational and tactical capabilities of local police services and reforming paramilitary forces;
 - Providing new and modern policing skills, such as community policing, and anti-drug, anti-corruption and anti-terrorist capacities;
 - Creating a police service with a multi-ethnic and/or multi-religious composition that can enjoy the confidence of the entire population;
 - Promoting respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in general.

We will encourage the provision of modern equipment appropriate to police services that receive training in such new skills.

In addition, the OSCE will examine options and conditions for a role in law enforcement.

45. We shall also promote the development of independent judicial systems that play a key role in providing remedies for human rights violations as well as providing advice and assistance for prison system reforms. The OSCE will

also work with other international organizations in the creation of political and legal frameworks within which the police can perform its tasks in accordance with democratic principles and the rule of law.

Peacekeeping

46. We remain committed to reinforcing the OSCE's key role in maintaining peace and stability throughout our area. The OSCE's most effective contributions to regional security have been in areas such as field operations, post-conflict rehabilitation, democratization, and human rights and election monitoring. We have decided to explore options for a potentially greater and wider role for the OSCE in peacekeeping. Reaffirming our rights and obligations under the Charter of the United Nations, and on the basis of our existing decisions, we confirm that the OSCE can, on a case-by-case basis and by consensus, decide to play a role in peacekeeping, including a leading role when participating States judge it to be the most effective and appropriate organization. In this regard, it could also decide to provide the mandate covering peacekeeping by others and seek the support of participating States as well as other organizations to provide resources and expertise. In accordance with the Platform for Co-operative Security, it could also provide a co-ordinating framework for such efforts.

The Court of Conciliation and Arbitration

47. We reiterate that the principle of the peaceful settlement of disputes is at the core of OSCE commitments. The Court of Conciliation and Arbitration, in this respect, remains a tool available to those, a large number of participating States, which have become parties to the 1992 Convention of Stockholm. We encourage them to use this instrument to resolve disputes between them, as well as with other participating States which voluntarily submit to the jurisdiction of the Court. We also encourage those participating States which have not yet done so to consider joining the Convention.

V. Our Partners for Co-operation

48. We recognize the interdependence between the security of the OSCE area and that of Partners for Co-operation, as well as our commitment to the relationship and the dialogue with them. We emphasize in particular the longstanding relations with our Mediterranean partners, Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia. We recognize the increased involvement in and support for the work of the OSCE by our Partners for Co-operation. Building on this interdependence, we are ready to develop this process further. Implementing and building on the Helsinki Document 1992 and the Bu-

dapest Document 1994, we will work more closely with the Partners for Co-operation to promote OSCE norms and principles. We welcome their wish to promote the realization of the Organization's norms and principles, including the fundamental principle of resolving conflicts through peaceful means. To this end, we will invite the Partners for Co-operation on a more regular basis to increased participation in the work of the OSCE as the dialogue develops.

49. The potential of the Contact Group and the Mediterranean seminars must be fully explored and exploited. Drawing on the Budapest mandate, the Permanent Council will examine the recommendations emerging from the Contact Group and the Mediterranean seminars. We will encourage the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation to draw on our expertise in setting up structures and mechanisms in the Mediterranean for early warning, preventive diplomacy and conflict prevention.

50. We welcome the increased participation in our work by Japan and the Republic of Korea. We welcome the contribution by Japan to OSCE field activities. We will seek to strengthen further our co-operation with our Asian partners in meeting challenges of common interest.

VI. Conclusion

51. This Charter will benefit the security of all participating States by enhancing and strengthening the OSCE as we enter the twenty-first century. Today we have decided to develop its existing instruments and to create new tools. We will use them fully to promote a free, democratic and secure OSCE area. The Charter will thus underpin the OSCE's role as the only pan-European security organization entrusted with ensuring peace and stability in its area. We appreciate the completion of the work of the Security Model Committee.

52. The original of the present Charter, drawn up in English, French, German, Italian, Russian and Spanish, will be transmitted to the Secretary General of the Organization, who will transmit a certified true copy of this Charter to each of the participating States.

We, the undersigned High Representatives of the participating States, mindful of the high political significance that we attach to the present Charter and declaring our determination to act in accordance with the provisions contained in the above text, have subscribed our signatures below.

Operational Document - the Platform for Co-operative Security

I. The Platform

1. The goal of the Platform for Co-operative Security is to strengthen the mutually reinforcing nature of the relationship between those organizations and institutions concerned with the promotion of comprehensive security within the OSCE area.

2. The OSCE will work co-operatively with those organizations and institutions whose members individually and collectively, in a manner consistent with the modalities appropriate to each organization or institution, now and in the future:

- Adhere to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the OSCE principles and commitments as set out in the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris, the Helsinki Document 1992, the Budapest Document 1994, the OSCE Code of Conduct on politico-military aspects of security and the Lisbon Declaration on a Common and Comprehensive Security Model for Europe for the twenty-first century;
- Subscribe to the principles of transparency and predictability in their actions in the spirit of the Vienna Document 1999 of the Negotiations on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures;
- Implement fully the arms control obligations, including disarmament and CSBMs, to which they have committed themselves;
- Proceed on the basis that those organizations and institutions of which they are members will adhere to transparency about their evolution;
- Ensure that their membership in those organizations and institutions is based on openness and free will;
- Actively support the OSCE's concept of common, comprehensive and indivisible security and a common security space free of dividing lines;
- Play a full and appropriate part in the development of the relationships between mutually reinforcing security-related institutions in the OSCE area;
- Are ready in principle to deploy the institutional resources of international organizations and institutions of which they are members in support of the OSCE's work, subject to the necessary policy decisions as cases arise. In this regard, participating States note the particular relevance of co-operation in the areas of conflict prevention and crisis management.

3. Together these principles and commitments form the Platform for Co-operative Security.

II. Modalities for Co-operation

1. Within the relevant organizations and institutions of which they are members, participating States will work to ensure the organizations' and institutions' adherence to the Platform for Co-operative Security. Adherence, on the basis of decisions taken by each member State within relevant organizations and institutions, will take place in a manner consistent with the modalities appropriate to each organization or institution. Contacts and co-operation of the OSCE with other organizations and institutions will be transparent to participating States and will take place in a manner consistent with the modalities appropriate to the OSCE and those organizations and institutions.

2. At the 1997 Ministerial Meeting in Copenhagen, a decision was taken on the Common Concept for the Development of Co-operation between Mutually Reinforcing Institutions. We acknowledge the extensive network of contacts elaborated since then, in particular the growing co-operation with organizations and institutions active both in the politico-military field and in the human and economic dimensions of security, and the strengthening of co-operation between the OSCE and the various United Nations bodies and agencies, recalling the OSCE's role as a regional arrangement under the Charter of the United Nations. We are determined to develop this further.

3. The growing importance of subregional groupings in the work of the OSCE is another important area, and we support the growth in co-operation with these groups based on this Platform.

4. Development of co-operation can be further enhanced through extensive use of the following instruments and mechanisms:

- Regular contacts, including meetings; a continuous framework for dialogue; increased transparency and practical co-operation, including the identification of liaison officers or points of contact; cross-representation at appropriate meetings; and other contacts intended to increase understanding of each organization's conflict prevention tools.

5. In addition, the OSCE may engage in special meetings with other organizations, institutions and structures operating in the OSCE area. These meetings may be held at a political and/or executive level (to co-ordinate policies or determine areas of co-operation) and at a working level (to address the modalities of co-operation).

6. The development of the OSCE field operations in recent years has represented a major transformation of the Organization. In view of the adoption of the Platform for Co-operative Security, existing co-operation between the OSCE and other relevant international bodies, organizations and institutions in field operations should be developed and built upon in accordance with their individual mandates. Modalities for this form of co-operation could include: regular information exchanges and meetings, joint needs assessment

missions, secondment of experts by other organizations to the OSCE, appointment of liaison officers, development of common projects and field operations, and joint training efforts.

7. Co-operation in responding to specific crises:

- The OSCE, through its Chairman-in-Office and supported by the Secretary General, and the relevant organizations and institutions are encouraged to keep each other informed of what actions they are undertaking or plan to undertake to deal with a particular situation;
- To this end, participating States encourage the Chairman-in-Office, supported by the Secretary General, to work with other organizations and institutions to foster co-ordinated approaches that avoid duplication and ensure efficient use of available resources. As appropriate, the OSCE can offer to serve as a flexible framework for co-operation of the various mutually reinforcing efforts. The Chairman-in-Office will consult with participating States on the process and will act in accordance with the results of these consultations.

8. The Secretary General shall prepare an annual report for the Permanent Council on interaction between organizations and institutions in the OSCE area.

The Lund Recommendations on the Effective Participation of National Minorities in Public Life and Explanatory Note

Foundation on Inter-Ethnic Relations

September 1999

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Introduction

In its Helsinki Decisions of July 1992, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) established the position of High Commissioner on National Minorities to be "an instrument of conflict prevention at the earliest possible stage". This mandate was created largely in reaction to the situation in the former Yugoslavia which some feared would be repeated elsewhere in Europe, especially among the countries in transition to democracy, and could undermine the promise of peace and prosperity as envisaged in the Charter of Paris for a New Europe adopted by the Heads of State and Government in November 1990.

On 1 January 1993, Mr. Max van der Stoep took up his duties as the first OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM). Drawing on his considerable personal experience as a former Member of Parliament, Foreign Minister of The Netherlands, Permanent Representative to the United Nations, and long-time human rights advocate, Mr. van der Stoep turned his attention to the many disputes between minorities and central authorities in Europe which had the potential, in his view, to escalate. Acting quietly through diplomatic means, the HCNM has become involved in over a dozen States, including Albania, Croatia, Estonia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Romania, Slovakia and Ukraine. His involvement has focused primarily on those situations involving persons belonging to national/ethnic groups who constitute the numerical majority in one State but the numerical minority in another State, thus engaging the interest of governmental authorities in each State and constituting a potential source of inter-State tension if not conflict. Indeed, such tensions have defined much of European history.

In addressing the substance of tensions involving national minorities, the HCNM approaches the issues as an independent, impartial and co-operative actor. While the HCNM is not a supervisory mechanism, he employs the international standards to which each State has agreed as his principal framework of analysis and the foundation of his specific recommendations. In this relation, it is important to recall the commitments undertaken by all OSCE participating States, in particular those of the 1990 Copenhagen Document of the Conference on the Human Dimension which, in Part IV, articulates detailed standards relating to national minorities. All OSCE States are also bound by United Nations obligations relating to human rights, including minority rights, and the great majority of OSCE States are further bound by the standards of the Council of Europe.

Through the course of more than six years of intense activity, the HCNM has identified certain recurrent issues and themes which have become the subject of his attention in a number of States in which he is involved. Among these are issues of minority education and use of minority languages, in particular as matters of great importance for the maintenance and development of the identity of

persons belonging to national minorities. With a view to achieving an appropriate and coherent application of relevant minority rights in the OSCE area, the HCNM requested the Foundation on Inter-Ethnic Relations - a non-governmental organization established in 1993 to carry out specialized activities in support of the HCNM - to bring together two groups of internationally recognized independent experts to elaborate two sets of recommendations: The Hague Recommendations regarding the Education Rights of National Minorities (1996) and the Oslo Recommendations regarding the Linguistic Rights of National Minorities (1998). Both sets of recommendations have subsequently served as references for policy- and law-makers in a number of States. The recommendations are available (in several languages) from the Foundation on Inter-Ethnic Relations free of charge.

A third recurrent theme which has arisen in a number of situations in which the HCNM has been involved is that of forms of effective participation of national minorities in the governance of States. In order to gain a sense of the views and experiences of OSCE participating States on this issue and to allow States to share their experiences with each other, the HCNM and the OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights convened a conference of all OSCE States and relevant international organisations entitled "Governance and Participation: Integrating Diversity", which was hosted by the Swiss Confederation in Locarno from 18 to 20 October 1998. The Chairman's Statement issued at the end of the conference summarized the themes of the meeting and noted the desirability of "concrete follow-up activities, including the further elaboration of the various concepts and mechanisms of good governance with the effective participation of minorities, leading to integration of diversity within the State." To this end, the HCNM called upon the Foundation on Inter-Ethnic Relations, in co-operation with the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, to bring together a group of internationally recognized independent experts to elaborate recommendations and outline alternatives, in line with the relevant international standards.

The result of the above initiative is The Lund Recommendations on the Effective Participation of National Minorities in Public Life - named after the Swedish city in which the experts last met and completed the recommendations. Among the experts were jurists specializing in relevant international law, political scientists specializing in constitutional orders and election systems, and sociologists specializing in minority issues. Specifically, under the Chairmanship of the Director of the Raoul Wallenberg Institute, Professor Gudmundur Alfredsson, the experts were:

Professor Gudmundur Alfredsson (Icelandic), Director of the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, Lund University; Professor Vernon Bogdanor (British), Professor of Government, Oxford University; Professor Vojin Dimitrijević (Yugoslavian), Director of the Belgrade Centre for Human Rights; Dr. Asbjørn Eide (Norwegian),

Senior Fellow at the Norwegian Institute of Human Rights; Professor Yash Ghai (Kenyan), Sir YK Pao Professor of Public Law, University of Hong Kong; Professor Hurst Hannum (American), Professor of International Law, Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University; Mr. Peter Harris (South African), Senior Executive to the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance; Dr. Hans-Joachim Heintze (German), Director of the Institut für Friedenssicherungsrecht und Humanitäres Völkerrecht, Ruhr-Universität Bochum; Professor Ruth Lapidoth (Israeli), Professor of International Law and Chairman of the Academic Committee of the Institute for European Studies, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem; Professor Rein Müllerson (Estonian), Chair of International Law, King's College, University of London; Dr. Sarlotta Pufflerova (Slovak), Director, Foundation Citizen and Minority/Minority Rights Group; Professor Steven Ratner (American), Professor of International Law, University of Texas; Dr. Andrew Reynolds (British), Assistant Professor of Government, University of Notre Dame; Mr. Miquel Strubell (Spanish and British), Director of the Institute of Catalan Socio-Linguistics, Generalitat de Catalunya; Professor Markku Suksi (Finnish), Professor of Public Law, Åbo Akademi University; Professor Danilo Türk (Slovene), Professor of International Law, Ljubljana University; Dr. Fernand de Varennes (Canadian), Senior Lecturer in Law and Director of the Asia-Pacific Centre for Human Rights and the Prevention of Ethnic Conflict, Murdoch University; Professor Roman Wieruszewski (Polish), Director of the Poznan Human Rights Centre, Polish Academy of Sciences.

Insofar as existing standards of minority rights are part of human rights, the starting point of the consultations among the experts was to presume compliance by States with all other human rights obligations including, in particular, freedom from discrimination. It was also presumed that the ultimate object of all human rights is the full and free development of the individual human personality in conditions of equality. Consequently, it was presumed that civil society should be open and fluid and, therefore, integrate all persons, including those belonging to national minorities. Moreover, insofar as the objective of good and democratic governance is to serve the needs and interests of the whole population, it was presumed that all governments seek to ensure the maximum opportunities for contributions from those affected by public decision-making.

The purpose of the Lund Recommendations, like The Hague and Oslo Recommendations before them, is to encourage and facilitate the adoption by States of specific measures to alleviate tensions related to national minorities and thus to serve the ultimate conflict prevention goal of the HCNM. The Lund Recommendations on the Effective Participation of National Minorities in Public Life attempt to clarify in relatively straight-forward language and build upon the content of minority rights and other standards generally applicable in the situations in which the HCNM is involved. The standards have been interpreted spe-

cifically to ensure the coherence of their application in open and democratic States. The Recommendations are divided into four sub-headings which group the twenty-four recommendations into general principles, participation in decision-making, self-governance, and ways of guaranteeing such effective participation in public life. The basic conceptual division within the Lund Recommendations follows two prongs: participation in governance of the State as a whole, and self-governance over certain local or internal affairs. A wide variety of arrangements are possible and known. In several recommendations, alternatives are suggested. All recommendations are to be interpreted in accordance with the General Principles in Part I. A more detailed explanation of each recommendation is provided in an accompanying Explanatory Note wherein express reference to the relevant international standards is found.

The Lund Recommendations on the Effective Participation of National Minorities in Public Life

I. General Principles

1. Effective participation of national minorities in public life is an essential component of a peaceful and democratic society. Experience in Europe and elsewhere has shown that, in order to promote such participation, governments often need to establish specific arrangements for national minorities. These Recommendations aim to facilitate the inclusion of minorities within the State and enable minorities to maintain their own identity and characteristics, thereby promoting the good governance and integrity of the State.
2. These Recommendations build upon fundamental principles and rules of international law, such as respect for human dignity, equal rights, and non-discrimination, as they affect the rights of national minorities to participate in public life and to enjoy other political rights. States have a duty to respect internationally recognized human rights and the rule of law, which allow for the full development of civil society in conditions of tolerance, peace, and prosperity.
3. When specific institutions are established to ensure the effective participation of minorities in public life, which can include the exercise of authority or responsibility by such institutions, they must respect the human rights of all those affected.
4. Individuals identify themselves in numerous ways in addition to their identity as members of a national minority. The decision as to whether an individual is a member of a minority, the majority, or neither rests with that individual and shall not be imposed upon her or him. Moreover, no person shall suffer any disadvantage as a result of such a choice or refusal to choose.
5. When creating institutions and procedures in accordance with these Recommendations, both substance and process are important. Governmental authorities and minorities should pursue an inclusive, transparent, and accountable process of consultation in order to maintain a climate of confidence. The State should encourage the public media to foster intercultural understanding and address the concerns of minorities.

II. Participation in Decision-Making

(A) Arrangements at the Level of the Central Government

6. States should ensure that opportunities exist for minorities to have an effective voice at the level of the central government, including through spe-

cial arrangements as necessary. These may include, depending upon the circumstances:

- special representation of national minorities, for example, through a reserved number of seats in one or both chambers of parliament or in parliamentary committees; and other forms of guaranteed participation in the legislative process;
- formal or informal understandings for allocating to members of national minorities cabinet positions, seats on the supreme or constitutional court or lower courts, and positions on nominated advisory bodies or other high-level organs;
- mechanisms to ensure that minority interests are considered within relevant ministries, through, e.g., personnel addressing minority concerns or issuance of standing directives; and
- special measures for minority participation in the civil service as well as the provision of public services in the language of the national minority.

(B) Elections

7. Experience in Europe and elsewhere demonstrates the importance of the electoral process for facilitating the participation of minorities in the political sphere. States shall guarantee the right of persons belonging to national minorities to take part in the conduct of public affairs, including through the rights to vote and stand for office without discrimination.
8. The regulation of the formation and activity of political parties shall comply with the international law principle of freedom of association. This principle includes the freedom to establish political parties based on communal identities as well as those not identified exclusively with the interests of a specific community.
9. The electoral system should facilitate minority representation and influence.
 - Where minorities are concentrated territorially, single-member districts may provide sufficient minority representation.
 - Proportional representation systems, where a political party's share in the national vote is reflected in its share of the legislative seats, may assist in the representation of minorities.
 - Some forms of preference voting, where voters rank candidates in order of choice, may facilitate minority representation and promote inter-communal co-operation.
 - Lower numerical thresholds for representation in the legislature may enhance the inclusion of national minorities in governance.
10. The geographic boundaries of electoral districts should facilitate the equitable representation of national minorities.

(C) *Arrangements at the Regional and Local Levels*

11. States should adopt measures to promote participation of national minorities at the regional and local levels such as those mentioned above regarding the level of the central government (paragraphs 6-10) The structures and decision-making processes of regional and local authorities should be made transparent and accessible in order to encourage the participation of minorities.

(D) *Advisory and Consultative Bodies*

12. States should establish advisory or consultative bodies within appropriate institutional frameworks to serve as channels for dialogue between governmental authorities and national minorities. Such bodies might also include special purpose committees for addressing such issues as housing, land, education, language, and culture. The composition of such bodies should reflect their purpose and contribute to more effective communication and advancement of minority interests.
13. These bodies should be able to raise issues with decisionmakers, prepare recommendations, formulate legislative and other proposals, monitor developments and provide views on proposed governmental decisions that may directly or indirectly affect minorities. Governmental authorities should consult these bodies regularly regarding minority-related legislation and administrative measures in order to contribute to the satisfaction of minority concerns and to the building of confidence. The effective functioning of these bodies will require that they have adequate resources.

III. *Self-Governance*

14. Effective participation of minorities in public life may call for non-territorial or territorial arrangements of self-governance or a combination thereof. States should devote adequate resources to such arrangements.
15. It is essential to the success of such arrangements that governmental authorities and minorities recognize the need for central and uniform decisions in some areas of governance together with the advantages of diversity in others.
 - Functions that are generally exercised by the central authorities include defense, foreign affairs, immigration and customs, macroeconomic policy, and monetary affairs.
 - Other functions, such as those identified below, may be managed by minorities or territorial administrations or shared with the central authorities.
 - Functions may be allocated asymmetrically to respond to different minority situations within the same State.

16. Institutions of self-governance, whether non-territorial or territorial, must be based on democratic principles to ensure that they genuinely reflect the views of the affected population.

(A) *Non-Territorial Arrangements*

17. Non-territorial forms of governance are useful for the maintenance and development of the identity and culture of national minorities.
18. The issues most susceptible to regulation by these arrangements include education, culture, use of minority language, religion, and other matters crucial to the identity and way of life of national minorities.
 - Individuals and groups have the right to choose to use their names in the minority language and obtain official recognition of their names.
 - Taking into account the responsibility of the governmental authorities to set educational standards, minority institutions can determine curricula for teaching of their minority languages, cultures, or both.
 - Minorities can determine and enjoy their own symbols and other forms of cultural expression.

(B) *Territorial Arrangements*

19. All democracies have arrangements for governance at different territorial levels. Experience in Europe and elsewhere shows the value of shifting certain legislative and executive functions from the central to the regional level, beyond the mere decentralization of central government administration from the capital to regional or local offices. Drawing on the principle of subsidiarity, States should favourably consider such territorial devolution of powers, including specific functions of self-government, particularly where it would improve the opportunities of minorities to exercise authority over matters affecting them.
20. Appropriate local, regional, or autonomous administrations that correspond to the specific historical and territorial circumstances of national minorities may undertake a number of functions in order to respond more effectively to the concerns of these minorities.
 - Functions over which such administrations have successfully assumed primary or significant authority include education, culture, use of minority language, environment, local planning, natural resources, economic development, local policing functions, and housing, health, and other social services.
 - Functions shared by central and regional authorities include taxation, administration of justice, tourism, and transport.
21. Local, regional, and autonomous authorities must respect and ensure the human rights of all persons, including the rights of any minorities within their jurisdiction.

IV. Guarantees

(A) Constitutional and Legal Safeguards

22. Self-governance arrangements should be established by law and generally not be subject to change in the same manner as ordinary legislation. Arrangements for promoting participation of minorities in decision-making may be determined by law or other appropriate means.
 - Arrangements adopted as constitutional provisions are normally subject to a higher threshold of legislative or popular consent for their adoption and amendment.
 - Changes to self-governance arrangements established by legislation often require approval by a qualified majority of the legislature, autonomous bodies or bodies representing national minorities, or both.
 - Periodic review of arrangements for self-governance and minority participation in decision-making can provide useful opportunities to determine whether such arrangements should be amended in the light of experience and changed circumstances.
23. The possibility of provisional or step-by-step arrangements that allow for the testing and development of new forms of participation may be considered. These arrangements can be established through legislation or informal means with a defined time period, subject to extension, alteration, or termination depending upon the success achieved.

(B) Remedies

24. Effective participation of national minorities in public life requires established channels of consultation for the prevention of conflicts and dispute resolution, as well as the possibility of ad hoc or alternative mechanisms when necessary. Such methods include:
 - judicial resolution of conflicts, such as judicial review of legislation or administrative actions, which requires that the State possess an independent, accessible, and impartial judiciary whose decisions are respected; and
 - additional dispute resolution mechanisms, such as negotiation, fact finding, mediation, arbitration, an ombudsman for national minorities, and special commissions, which can serve as focal points and mechanisms for the resolution of grievances about governance issues.

Explanatory Note to the Lund Recommendations on the Effective Participation of National Minorities in Public Life

I. General Principles

1. Both the Charter of the United Nations (hereafter the "UN Charter") and the foundational documents of the CSCE/OSCE seek to maintain and strengthen international peace and security through the development of friendly and co-operative relations between equally sovereign States respecting human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. Indeed, history shows that failure to respect human rights, including minority rights, can undermine stability within the State and negatively affect relations between States, thus endangering international peace and security.

Beginning with Principle VII of the decalogue of the 1975 Helsinki Final Act, the OSCE participating States have emphasised the fundamental link between respecting the legitimate interests of persons belonging to national minorities and the maintenance of peace and stability. This link has been reiterated in subsequent basic documents such as the 1983 Concluding Document of Madrid (Principle 15), the 1989 Concluding Document of Vienna (Principles 18 and 19), and the 1990 Charter of Paris for a New Europe, in addition to subsequent Summit Documents, e.g. the 1992 Helsinki Document (Part IV, paragraph 24) and the 1996 Lisbon Document (Part I, Lisbon Declaration on a Common and Comprehensive Security Model for Europe for the Twenty-First Century, paragraph 2). At the level of the United Nations, the link between protection and promotion of minority rights and maintenance of peace and stability is expressed, *inter alia*, in the preamble to the 1992 UN Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities (hereafter the "UN Declaration on Minorities"). Moreover, following adoption of the Charter of Paris for a New Europe, all OSCE participating States are committed to democratic governance.

Full opportunities for the equal enjoyment of the human rights of persons belonging to minorities entails their effective participation in decision-making processes, especially with regard to those decisions specially affecting them. While situations vary greatly and ordinary democratic processes may be adequate to respond to the needs and aspirations of minorities, experience also shows that special measures are often required to facilitate the effective participation of minorities in decision-making. The following international standards commit States to take such action in such situations: according to paragraph 35 of the 1990 Document of the Copenhagen Meeting on the Human Dimension (hereafter the "Copenhagen

Document"), OSCE participating States "will respect the right of persons belonging to national minorities to effective participation in public affairs, including participation in the affairs relating to the protection and promotion of the identity of such minorities"; according to Article 2, paragraphs 2 and 3, of the 1992 UN Declaration on Minorities, "[p]ersons belonging to minorities have the right to participate effectively in [...] public life" and "the right to participate effectively in decisions on the national and, where appropriate, regional level concerning the minority to which they belong or the regions in which they live"; and, according to Article 15 of the Council of Europe's 1994 Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (hereafter the "Framework Convention"), States Parties "shall create the conditions necessary for the effective participation of persons belonging to national minorities in cultural, social and economic life and in public affairs, in particular those affecting them."

The creation of opportunities for effective participation takes for granted that such participation will be voluntary. Indeed, the underlying notion of social and political integration is distinguished from processes and outcomes which constitute coerced assimilation, as cautioned in Article 5 of the Framework Convention. Only through voluntary processes may the pursuit of the legitimate interests of persons belonging to minorities be a peaceful process which offers the prospect of optimal outcomes in public policy- and law-making. Such inclusive, participatory processes thus serve the objective of good governance by responding to the interests of the whole population - weaving all interests into the fabric of public life and ultimately strengthening the integrity of the State. The international standards referring to effective participation of minorities in public life underscore the fact that they do not imply any right to engage in activities contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations, OSCE or Council of Europe, including sovereign equality, territorial integrity and political independence of States (see paragraph 37 of the Copenhagen Document, Article 8(4) of the UN Declaration on Minorities, and the preamble of the Framework Convention).

2. In the spirit of paragraph 25 of Part VI of the 1992 Helsinki Document, these recommendations build upon the relevant commitments insofar as they offer OSCE participating States "further avenues for more effective implementation of their CSCE commitments, including those related to the protection and the creation of conditions for the promotion of the ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious identity of national minorities".

Article 1(3) of the UN Charter specifies that one of the purposes of the organisation is "To achieve international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion" - which is further specified in Article 55(c) as including "univer-

sal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion." The Charter is based upon the intimate relationship between respect for human rights and international peace and security, and the fundamental value of human dignity is further expressed in Article 1 of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the preambles of the 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the 1966 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the 1965 International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. Such dignity is equally inherent in all human beings and accompanied by equal and inalienable rights.

Following from the premise of equal dignity and inalienable rights is the principle of non-discrimination as expressed in virtually all international human rights instruments, including notably Article 2 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Articles 2 and 26 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and Article 2 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Article 1 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination makes clear that this instrument prohibits discrimination also on the basis of "descent, or national or ethnic origin". Article 14 of the 1950 European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (hereafter the "European Convention on Human Rights") also expressly extends the principle of non-discrimination to cover grounds of "national or social origin, [or] association with a national minority", whenever the rights and freedoms guaranteed by the convention are engaged. Indeed, the constitutions of most OSCE participating States incorporate these affirmations and principles.

Insofar as persons belonging to national minorities are entitled to the right to effective participation in public life, they are to enjoy this right without discrimination, as expressed in paragraph 31 of the Copenhagen Document, Article 4 of the Framework Convention, and Article 4(1) of the UN Declaration on Minorities. However, according to Article 4(2) of the Framework Convention, concern for equal dignity extends beyond the principle of non-discrimination towards "full and effective equality between persons belonging to a national minority and those belonging to the majority" for which States should "adopt, where necessary, adequate measures ... in all areas of ... political ... life" in respect of which "they shall take due account of the specific conditions of the persons belonging to national minorities."

The connection made in the recommendation between respect for human rights and the development of civil society reflects the call for an "effective political democracy" which, according to the Preamble of the European Convention on Human Rights, is intimately related to justice and peace in the world. OSCE participating States have further affirmed in the Charter

- of Paris for a New Europe that democratic governance, including respect for human rights, is the basis for prosperity.
3. When specific institutions are established to ensure the effective participation of national minorities in public life, this must not be at the expense of others' rights. All human rights must be respected at all times, including by such institutions which may be delegated authority by the State. According to paragraph 33 of the Copenhagen Document, when participating States take measures necessary for the protection of the identity of persons belonging to national minorities, "Any such measures will be in conformity with the principles of equality and non-discrimination with respect to the other citizens of the participating State concerned." The Copenhagen Document further stipulates at paragraph 38 that OSCE "participating States, in their efforts to protect and promote the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, will fully respect their undertakings under existing human rights conventions and other relevant international instruments". The Framework Convention has a similar stipulation in Article 20: "In the exercise of the rights and freedoms flowing from the principles enshrined in the present framework Convention, any person belonging to a national minority shall respect the national legislation and the rights of others, in particular those of persons belonging to the majority or to other national minorities." This addresses in particular the case of "minorities within minorities", especially in the territorial context (see recommendations 16 and 21 below). This would also include respect for the human rights of women, including freedom from discrimination in relation to "the political and public life of the country" as stipulated at Article 7 of the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
 4. The principle of self-identification of persons belonging to minorities is based on several fundamental commitments. Paragraph 32 of the Copenhagen Document specifies that "To belong to a national minority is a matter of a person's individual choice and no disadvantage may arise from the exercise of such choice". Article 3(1) of the Framework Convention provides similarly that "Every person belonging to a national minority shall have the right freely to choose to be treated or not to be treated as such and no disadvantage shall result from this choice or from the exercise of the rights which are connected to that choice." Article 3(2) of the UN Declaration on Minorities includes the same prohibition against any disadvantage resulting "for any person belonging to a minority as the consequence of the exercise or non-exercise of the rights set forth in the present Declaration." An individual's freedom to identify oneself as one chooses is necessary to ensure respect for individual autonomy and liberty. An individual may possess several identities that are relevant not only for private life, but also in the sphere of public life. Indeed, in open societies with increasing movements of persons and ideas, many individuals have multiple identities

which are coinciding, coexisting or layered (in an hierarchical or non-hierarchical fashion), reflecting their various associations. Certainly, identities are not based solely on ethnicity, nor are they uniform within the same community; they may be held by different members in varying shades and degrees. Depending upon the specific matters at issue, different identities may be more or less salient. As a consequence, the same person might identify herself or himself in different ways for different purposes, depending upon the salience of the identification and arrangement for her or him. For example, in some States a person may choose a certain language for submission on tax forms, yet identify herself or himself differently in a local community for other purposes.

5. In the framework of democracy, the process of decision-making is as important as the substance of decisions made. Since good governance is not only of the people but also for the people, its processes should always be inclusive of those concerned, transparent for all to see and judge, and accountable to those affected. Only such processes will inspire and maintain public confidence. Inclusive processes may comprise consultation, polling, referenda, negotiation and even the specific consent of those directly affected. Decisions resulting from such processes are likely to inspire voluntary compliance. In situations where the views of the public authorities and the affected community may differ substantially, good governance may suggest using the services of a third party to assist in finding the most satisfactory arrangement.

In relation specifically to national minorities, paragraph 33 of the Copenhagen Document commits OSCE participating States to take measures to "protect the ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious identity of national minorities on their territory and create conditions for the promotion of that identity [...] after due consultations, including contacts with organizations or associations of such minorities". In Part VI, paragraph 26, of the Helsinki Document, OSCE participating States further committed themselves to "address national minority issues in a constructive manner, by peaceful means and through dialogue among all parties concerned on the basis of CSCE principles and commitments". In connection with "all parties concerned", paragraph 30 of the Copenhagen Document recognizes "the important role of non-governmental organizations, including political parties, trade unions, human rights organizations and religious groups, in the promotion of tolerance, cultural diversity and the resolution of questions relating to national minorities."

Inclusive processes require conditions of tolerance. A social and political climate of mutual respect and equality needs to be assured by law and also taught as a social ethic shared by the whole population. The media have a special role in this regard. Article 6(1) of the Framework Convention provides that "the Parties shall encourage a spirit of tolerance and intercultural dialogue and take effective measures to promote mutual respect and under-

standing and co-operation among all persons living on their territory, irrespective of those persons' ethnic, cultural, linguistic or religious identity, in particular in the fields of education, culture and the media." In particular, States should act to stop the public use of derogatory or pejorative names and terms and should take steps to counteract negative stereotypes. Ideally, the representatives of the affected community should participate in the choice and design of any steps taken to overcome such problems.

II. *Participation in Decision-Making*

(A) *Arrangements at the Level of the Central Government*

6. Building upon paragraph 35 of the Copenhagen Document, paragraph 1 of Part III of the 1991 Report of the CSCE (Geneva) Meeting of Experts on National Minorities underlines that "when issues relating to the situation of national minorities are discussed within their countries, they themselves should have the effective opportunity to be involved ... [and] that [such] democratic participation of persons belonging to national minorities or their representatives in decision-making or consultative bodies constitutes an important element of effective participation in public affairs." Paragraph 24 of Part VI of the Helsinki Document committed OSCE participating States to "intensify in this context their efforts to ensure the free exercise by persons belonging to national minorities, individually or in community with others, of their human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to participate fully, in accordance with the democratic decision-making procedures of each State, in the political, economic, social, and cultural life of their countries including through democratic participation in decision-making and consultative bodies at the national, regional, and local level, *inter alia*, through political parties and associations."

The essence of participation is involvement, both in terms of the opportunity to make substantive contributions to decision-making processes and in terms of the effect of those contributions. The notion of good governance includes the premise that simple majoritarian decision-making is not always sufficient. In terms of the structure of the State, various forms of decentralization may be appropriate to assure the maximum relevance and accountability of decision-making processes for those affected, both at the level of the State and at sub-State levels. This may be accomplished through various ways in a unitary State or in federal and confederal systems. Minority representation in decision-making bodies may be assured through reserved seats (by way of quotas, promotions or other measures), while other forms of participation include assured membership in relevant committees, with or without voting rights. Representation on executive, judicial, administrative and other bodies may be assured through similar means, whether by formal requirement or by customary practice. Special bodies may also be established to accommodate minority concerns.

Meaningful opportunities to exercise all minority rights require specific steps to be taken in the public service, including ensuring "equal access to public service" as articulated in Article 5(c) of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

(B) *Elections*

7. Representative government through free, fair and periodic elections is the hallmark of contemporary democracy. The fundamental objective is, in the words of Article 21(3) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, that "The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government". This basic standard is articulated in universal and European treaties, namely Article 25 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and Article 3 of Protocol I additional to the European Convention on Human Rights. For OSCE participating States, paragraphs 5 and 6 of the Copenhagen Document specify that, "among those elements of justice which are essential to the full expression of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all human beings", "the will of the people, freely and fairly expressed through periodic and genuine elections, is the basis of the authority and legitimacy of all government".

While States have considerable latitude in choosing the specific manner in which to comply with these obligations, they must do so without discrimination and should aim for as much representativeness as possible. Indeed, within the context of the United Nations, the Human Rights Committee has explained in paragraph 12 of its General Comment 25 on Article 25 (57th Session 1996) that "Freedom of expression, assembly and association are essential conditions for the effective exercise of the right to vote and must be fully protected. [...] Information and materials about voting should be available in minority languages." Moreover, paragraph 5 of General Comment 25 clarifies that "The conduct of public affairs [...] is a broad concept which relates to the exercise of political power, in particular the exercise of legislative, executive and administrative powers. It covers all aspects of public administration, and the formulation and implementation of policy at international, national, regional and local levels."

Insofar as no electoral system is neutral from the perspective of varying views and interests, States should adopt the system which would result in the most representative government in their specific situation. This is especially important for persons belonging to national minorities who might otherwise not have adequate representation.

8. In principle, democracies should not interfere with the way in which people organize themselves politically - as long as their means are peaceful and respectful of the rights of others. Essentially, this is a matter of freedom of association, as articulated in a wide variety of international instruments including: Article 20 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; Article 22 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; Ar-

ticle 11 of the European Convention on Human Rights; and paragraph 6 of the Copenhagen Document. Freedom of association has also been guaranteed specifically for persons belonging to national minorities under paragraph 32.6 of the Copenhagen Document and Article 7 of the Framework Convention. More specifically, paragraph 24 of Part VI of the Helsinki Document commits OSCE participating States "to ensure the free exercise by persons belonging to national minorities, individually or in community with others, of their human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to participate fully, [...] in the political [...] life of their countries including [...] through political parties and associations."

While full respect for equal rights and non-discrimination will reduce or eliminate the demand and need for political parties formed on the basis of ethnic ties, in some situations such communal parties may be the only hope for effective representation of specific interests and, thus, for effective participation. Of course, parties may be formed on other bases, e.g. regional interests. Ideally, parties should be open and should cut across narrow ethnic issues; thus, mainstream parties should seek to include members of minorities to reduce the need or desire for ethnic parties. The choice of electoral system may be important in this regard. In any event, no political party or other association may incite racial hatred, which is prohibited by Article 20 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and Article 4 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

9. The electoral system may provide for the selection of both the legislature and other bodies and institutions, including individual officials. While single member constituencies may provide sufficient representation for minorities, depending upon how the constituencies are drawn and the concentration of minority communities, proportional representation might help guarantee such minority representation. Various forms of proportional representation are practised in OSCE participating States, including the following: "preference voting", whereby voters rank candidates in order of choice; "open list systems", whereby electors can express a preference for a candidate within a party list, as well as voting for the party; "*panachage*", whereby electors can vote for more than one candidate across different party lines; and "*cumulation*", whereby voters can cast more than one vote for a preferred candidate. Thresholds should not be so high as to hamper minority representation.
10. In drawing the boundaries of electoral districts, the concerns and interests of national minorities should be taken into account with a view to assuring their representation in decision-making bodies. The notion of "equity" means that no one should be prejudiced by the chosen method and that all concerns and interests should be given fair consideration. Ideally, boundaries should be determined by an independent and impartial body to ensure, among other concerns, respect for minority rights. This is often accom-

plished in OSCE participating States by means of standing, professional electoral commissions.

In any event, States should not alter electoral boundaries, or otherwise alter the proportions of the population in a district, for the purpose of diluting or excluding minority representation. This is expressly prohibited by Article 16 of the Framework Convention, while Article 5 of the European Charter of Local Self-Government stipulates that "Changes in local authority boundaries shall not be made without prior consultation of the local communities concerned, possibly by means of a referendum where this is permitted by statute" (see recommendation 19 regarding territorial arrangements).

(C) Arrangements at the Regional and Local Levels

11. This Recommendation applies to all levels of government below the central authorities (e.g. provinces, departments, districts, prefectures, municipalities, cities and towns, whether units within a unitary State or constituent units of a federal State, including autonomous regions and other authorities). The consistent enjoyment of all human rights by everyone equally means that the entitlements enjoyed at the level of the central government should be enjoyed throughout the structures below. However, the criteria used to create structures at the regional and local level may be different from those used at the level of the central government. Structures may also be established asymmetrically, with variation according to differing needs and expressed desires.

(D) Advisory and Consultative Bodies

12. Paragraph 24 of Part VI of the Helsinki Document commits OSCE participating States "to ensure the free exercise by persons belonging to national minorities, individually or in community with others, of their human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to participate fully [...] in the political [...] life of their countries including through democratic participation in [...] consultative bodies at the national, regional, and local level". Such bodies can be standing or ad hoc, part of or attached to the legislative or executive branch or independent therefrom. Committees attached to parliamentary bodies, such as minority round tables, are known in several OSCE participating States. They can and do function at all levels of government, including self-government arrangements. In order to be effective, these bodies should be composed of minority representatives and others who can offer special expertise, provided with adequate resources, and given serious attention by decisionmakers. Aside from advice and counsel, such bodies can constitute a useful intermediary institution between decisionmakers and minority groups. They can also stimulate action at the level of government and among minority communities. Such bodies may also perform specific tasks related to the implementation of programs,

e.g. in the field of education. In addition, special purpose committees may hold particular significance for certain minorities who should be represented therein.

13. The possibilities for constructive use of such bodies vary with the situations. However, in all cases, good governance requires positive steps on the part of the authorities to engage established advisory and consultative bodies, to refer to them as needs may arise and to invite their input. An open and inclusive approach on the part of the authorities vis-à-vis these bodies and their members will contribute to better decisions and to greater confidence of the wider society.

III. *Self-Governance*

14. The term "self-governance" implies a measure of control by a community over matters affecting it. The choice of the term "governance" does not necessarily imply exclusive jurisdiction. In addition, it may subsume administrative authority, management, and specified legislative and judicial jurisdiction. The State may achieve this through delegation or devolution, or, in the case of a federation, an initial division of constituent powers. Among OSCE participating States, "self-governance" arrangements are variously referred to as delegations of autonomy, self-government, and home rule. In no case is this to include any ethnic criterion for territorial arrangements.

In paragraph 35 of the Copenhagen Document, OSCE participating States have noted "the efforts undertaken to protect and create conditions for the promotion of the ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious identity of certain national minorities by establishing, as one of the possible means to achieve these aims, appropriate local or autonomous administrations corresponding to the specific historical and territorial circumstances of such minorities and in accordance with the policies of the State concerned." Following upon this, the Report of the CSCE (Geneva) Meeting of Experts on National Minorities noted in paragraph 7 of Part IV "that positive results have been obtained by some [participating States] in an appropriate democratic manner by, *inter alia*: [...] local and autonomous administration, as well as autonomy on a territorial basis, including the existence of consultative, legislative and executive bodies chosen through free and periodic elections; self-administration by a national minority of aspects concerning its identity in situations where autonomy on a territorial basis does not apply; decentralized or local forms of government; [...] provision of financial and technical assistance to persons belonging to national minorities who so wish to exercise their right to establish and maintain their own educational, cultural and religious institutions, organizations and associations [...]". Of a more general nature, the Preamble to the European Charter of Local Self-Government stresses "the principles of democracy and the decentralisation

of power" as a contribution to "the safeguarding and reinforcement of local self-government in the different European countries". In this last connection, the European Charter of Local Self-Government provides in Article 9 for the entitlement of adequate financial resources for the exercise of such decentralized authorities.

15. Insofar as the State holds responsibility in certain fields affecting the whole State, it must assure their regulation through the central authorities of the State. These typically include: defense, which is essential to maintain the territorial integrity of the State; macroeconomic policy, which is important insofar as the central government serves as a sort of equalizer between economically disparate regions; and the classical affairs of diplomacy. Insofar as other fields may have important national implications, these too must be regulated at least to some degree by the central authorities. Regulation in these fields may also be shared, including with specially affected territorial units or minority groups (see recommendations 18 and 20). Such sharing of regulatory authority must nevertheless be consistent with human rights standards and be managed in a practical and co-ordinated manner. One field which is well-established as being shared on either a territorial or a non-territorial basis, or both, and holds special importance both for the State as a whole and also for minority groups, is education. Article 5.1 of the UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education spells out in some detail how such sharing in this field should be achieved: "The States Parties to this Convention agree that: [...]"

- (b) It is essential to respect the liberty of parents and, where applicable, of legal guardians, firstly to choose for their children institutions other than those maintained by the public authorities but conforming to such minimum educational standards as may be laid down or approved by the competent authorities and, secondly, to ensure in a manner consistent with the procedures followed in the State for the application of its legislation, the religious and moral education of the children in conformity with their own convictions; and no person or group of persons should be compelled to receive religious instruction inconsistent with his or their conviction;
- (c) It is essential to recognize the right of members of national minorities to carry on their own educational activities, including the maintenance of schools and, depending on the educational policy of each State, the use or the teaching of their own language, provided however: (i) That this right is not exercised in a manner which prevents the members of these minorities from understanding the culture and language of the community as a whole and from participating in its activities, or which prejudices national sovereignty; (ii) That the standard of education is not lower than the general standard laid down or approved by the competent authorities; and (iii) That attendance at such schools is optional."

16. The principle of democratic governance, as articulated in Article 21 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 25 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 3 of Protocol I to the European Convention on Human Rights and in OSCE standards is applicable at all levels and for all elements of governance. When institutions of self-governance are needed or desirable, the equal enjoyment by everyone of their rights requires application of the principle of democracy within these institutions.

(A) *Non-Territorial Arrangements*

17. This section addresses non-territorial autonomy - often referred to as "personal" or "cultural autonomy" - which is most likely to be useful when a group is geographically dispersed. Such divisions of authority, including control over specific subject-matter, may take place at the level of the State or within territorial arrangements. In all cases, respect for the human rights of others must be assured. Moreover, such arrangements should be assured adequate financial resources to enable performance of their public functions and should result from inclusive processes (see Recommendation 5).
18. This is not an exhaustive list of possible functions. Much will depend upon the situation, including especially the needs and expressed desires of the minority. In different situations, different subjects will be of greater or lesser interest to minorities, and decisions in these fields will affect them to varying degrees. Some fields may be shared. One area of special concern for minorities is control over their own names, both for representative institutions and individual members, as provided in Article 11(1) of the Framework Convention. With regard to religion, the Recommendation does not advocate governmental interference in religious matters other than in relation to those powers (e.g. concerning personal civil status) delegated to religious authorities. This Recommendation also does not intend that minority institutions should control the media - although persons belonging to minorities should have the possibility to create and use their own media, as guaranteed by Article 9(3) of the Framework Convention. Of course, culture has many aspects extending to fields such as welfare, housing and child care; the State should take into account minority interests in governance in these fields.

(B) *Territorial Arrangements*

19. There is a general trend in European States towards devolution of authority and implementation of the principle of subsidiarity, such that decisions are taken as close as possible to, and by, those most directly concerned and affected. Article 4(3) of the European Charter of Local Self-Government expresses this objective as follows: "Public responsibilities shall generally be exercised, in preference, by those authorities which are closest to the citizen. Allocation of responsibility to another authority should weigh up the

extent and nature of the task and requirements of efficiency and economy." Territorial self-government can help preserve the unity of States while increasing the level of participation and involvement of minorities by giving them a greater role in a level of government that reflects their population concentration. Federations may also accomplish this objective, as may particular autonomy arrangements within unitary States or federations. It is also possible to have mixed administrations. As noted in recommendation 15, arrangements need not be uniform across the State, but may vary according to needs and expressed desires.

20. Autonomous authorities must possess real power to make decisions at the legislative, executive or judicial levels. Authority within the State may be divided among central, regional and local authorities and also among functions. Paragraph 35 of the Copenhagen Document notes the alternatives of "appropriate local or autonomous administrations corresponding to the specific historical and territorial circumstances". This makes clear that there need not be uniformity within the State. Experience shows that powers can be divided even with respect to fields of public authority traditionally exercised by central government, including devolved powers of justice (both substantive and procedural) and powers over traditional economies. At a minimum, affected populations should be systematically involved in the exercise of such authority. At the same time, the central government must retain powers to ensure justice and equality of opportunities across the State.
21. Where powers may be devolved on a territorial basis to improve the effective participation of minorities, these powers must be exercised with due account for the minorities within these jurisdictions. Administrative and executive authorities must be accountable to the whole population of the territory. This follows from paragraph 5.2 of the Copenhagen Document which commits OSCE participating States to assure at all levels and for all persons "a form of government that is representative in character, in which the executive is accountable to the elected legislature or the electorate".

IV. Guarantees

(A) Constitutional and Legal Safeguards

22. This section addresses the issue of "entrenchment", that is, solidifying arrangements in law. Very detailed legal arrangements may be useful in some cases, while frameworks may be sufficient in other cases. In all cases, as noted in recommendation 5, arrangements should result from open processes. However, once concluded, stability is required in order to assure some security for those affected, especially persons belonging to national minorities. Articles 2 and 4 of the European Charter of Local Self-Government express a preference for constitutional arrangements. To achieve the desired balance between stability and flexibility, it may be use-

ful to specify some reconsideration at fixed intervals, thereby depoliticizing the process of change in advance and making the review process less adversarial.

23. This Recommendation differs from Recommendation 22 insofar as it encourages the testing of new and innovative regimes, rather than specifying terms for alteration of existing arrangements. Responsible authorities may wish to follow different approaches in different situations among central authorities and minority representatives. Without compromising final positions, such an approach may yield good experiences, not least through the processes of innovation and implementation.

(B) *Remedies*

24. In paragraph 30 of the Copenhagen Document, OSCE participating States "recognize that the questions relating to national minorities can only be satisfactorily resolved in a democratic political framework based on the rule of law, with a functioning independent judiciary." The idea of effective remedies is also provided in Article 2(3) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, while "a judicial remedy" is specified in Article 11 of the European Charter of Local Self-Government.

Judicial review can be performed by constitutional courts and, in effect, by relevant international human rights bodies. Non-judicial mechanisms and institutions, such as national commissions, ombudspersons, inter-ethnic or "race" relations boards, etc., may also play critical roles, as envisaged by paragraph 27 of the Copenhagen Document, Article 14(2) of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and paragraph 36 of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights in 1993.

Forms and Fora of Co-operation in the OSCE Area

G-7/G-8 (Group of Seven/Eight)

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

Council of Europe (CoE)

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC)

EAPC Observer

Partnership for Peace (PfP)

NATO-Russia-Founding Act/NATO-Russia Permanent Joint Council

NATO-Ukraine-Charter/NATO-Ukraine Commission

European Union (EU)¹

EU Association Agreement

Western European Union (WEU)

Associate Members of the WEU²

Associate Partners of the WEU

WEU Observers³

Eurocorps

Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)

Baltic Defence Council

Barents Euro-Arctic Council

Nordic Council

Council of the Baltic Sea States

Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe

Central European Free Trade Agreement/Area (CEFTA)

Central European Initiative (CEI)

1 At the meeting of the European Council on 12 and 13 December 1997 in Luxembourg it was decided to begin negotiations on accession with Cyprus, The Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Poland and Slovenia. At the meeting of the European Council on 10 and 11 December 1999 in Helsinki it was decided to begin negotiations on accession with Slovakia, Romania, Bulgaria, Latvia, Lithuania and Malta.

2 The NATO member states Iceland, Norway and Turkey joined the WEU as associate members on 6 March 1995. In WEU practice no difference is made between associate and full members.

3 The EU countries Austria, Finland, Ireland and Sweden, which are not members of NATO, have observer status which, however, is confined to information exchange and presence in meetings in individual cases and on invitation.

Southeast European Cooperative Initiative (SECI)
Black Sea Economic Cooperation

North American Free Trade Area (NAFTA)

The 55 OSCE Participating States - Facts and Figures¹

1. Albania

Date of Accession: June 1991

Scale of Distribution: 0.19 per cent

Area: 28,748 km² (OSCE Ranking: 45)

Population: 3,741,000² (OSCE Ranking: 41)

GNP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP³: 2,864 (OSCE Ranking: 41)⁴

GNP growth: 7.9 per cent⁵ (OSCE Ranking: 5)⁶

Armed Forces (Active): (approximately 7,000-10,000, no reliable data)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: Council of Europe, EAPC, PfP, Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, CEI, SECI, Black Sea Economic Cooperation

2. Andorra

Date of Accession: April 1996

Scale of Distribution: 0.125 per cent

Area: 467.76 km² (50)

Population: 64,000 (1995) (51)

GNP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: no data given

GNP growth: no data given

Armed Forces (Active): none

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: Council of Europe

3. Armenia

Date of Accession: January 1992

Scale of Distribution: 0.185 per cent

Area: 29,800 km² (44)

Population: 3,967,000 (39)

GNP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 2,074 (44)

GNP growth: 3.4 per cent (22)

Armed Forces (Active): approximately 53,400 (19)⁷

1 Drawn up by Carsten Walter.

2 Data from: <http://www.un.org/Depts/unsd/social/poptn.htm>. The figures refer to 1999 if not mentioned otherwise.

3 PPP: Purchasing Power Parity (figures as of 1998 in US-\$). PPP is defined as the number of units of a country's currency required to buy the same amounts of goods and services in the domestic market as US-\$ 1 would buy in the United States. See The World Bank, World Development Indicators 2000, Washington, D.C. 2000.

4 Out of 47 registered countries.

5 Changes as regards to 1997.

6 Out of 43 registered countries.

7 Out of 48 registered countries.

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: EAPC, PfP, CIS, Black Sea Economic Cooperation

4. Austria

Date of Accession: November 1972

Scale of Distribution: 2.05 per cent

Area: 83,858 km² (29)

Population: 8,107,000 (25)

GNP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 23,145 (8)

GNP growth: 3.3 per cent (22)

Armed Forces (Active): 40,500 (28)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: OECD, Council of Europe, EAPC, PfP, EU, WEU Observer, Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, CEI

5. Azerbaijan

Date of Accession: January 1992

Scale of Distribution: 0.185 per cent

Area: 86,600 km² (28)

Population: 7,284,000 (26)

GNP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 2,168 (43)

GNP growth: 9.9 per cent (3)

Armed Forces (Active): 69,900 (17)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: EAPC, PfP, CIS, Black Sea Economic Cooperation

6. Belarus

Date of Accession: January 1992

Scale of Distribution: 0.7 per cent

Area: 207,595 km² (19)

Population: 10,470,00 (19)

GNP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 6,314 (31)

GNP growth: 10.5 per cent (2)

Armed Forces (Active): 80,900 (14)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: EAPC, PfP, CIS, CEI

7. Belgium

Date of Accession: November 1972

Scale of Distribution: 3.55 per cent

Area: 30,528 km² (43)

Population: 10,115,000 (20)

GNP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 23,622 (7)

GNP growth: 3.0 per cent (27)

Armed Forces (Active): 41,750 (27)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: OECD, Council of Europe, NATO, EAPC, EU, WEU, Eurocorps, Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe

8. Bosnia and Herzegovina

Date of Accession: April 1992

Scale of Distribution: 0.19 per cent

Area: 51,197 km² (36)

Population: approximately 4,150,000 (38)

GNP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: no data given

GNP growth: no data given

Armed Forces (Active): approximately 40,000 (29)⁸

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, CEI, SECI

9. Bulgaria

Date of Accession: November 1972

Scale of Distribution: 0.55 per cent

Area: 110,994 km² (23)

Population: 8,400,000 (24)

GNP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 4,683 (36)

GNP growth: 4.4 per cent (10)

Armed Forces (Active): 80,760 (15)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: Council of Europe, EAPC, PfP, EU Association Agreement, negotiations on accession to the EU, Associate Partner of the WEU, Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, CEFTA, CEI, SECI, Black Sea Economic Cooperation

10. Canada

Date of Accession: November 1972

Scale of Distribution: 5.45 per cent

Area: 9,970,610 km² (2)

Population: 29,236,000 (11)

GNP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 22,814 (10)

GNP growth: 2.9 per cent (28)

Armed Forces (Active): 60,600 (20)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: G-7/G-8, OECD, NATO, EAPC, NAFTA, Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe

8 The OSCE ranking refers to the Muslim-Croat Federation and the Republika Srpska as a whole.

11. Croatia

Date of Accession: March 1992

Scale of Distribution: 0.19 per cent

Area: 56,538 km² (35)

Population: approximately 4,794,000 (34)

GNP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 6,698 (29)

GNP growth: 1.8 per cent (36)

Armed Forces (Active): 61,000 (19)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: Council of Europe, Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, CEI, SECI, EAPC, PfP

12. Cyprus

Date of Accession: November 1972

Scale of Distribution: 0.19 per cent

Area: 9,251 km² (48)

Population: 870,000 (47)

GNP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 17,599 (19)

GNP growth: no data given

Armed Forces (Active): 10,000 (38)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: Council of Europe, negotiations on accession to the EU, EU Association Agreement

13. Czech Republic

Date of Accession: January 1993

Scale of Distribution: 0.67 per cent

Area: 78,866 km² (30)

Population: 10,480,000 (18)

GNP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 12,197 (24)

GNP growth: -2.2 per cent (39)

Armed Forces (Active): 58,200 (20)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: OECD, Council of Europe, NATO, EAPC, negotiations on accession to the EU, EU Association Agreement, Associate Partner of the WEU, Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, CEFTA, CEI

14. Denmark

Date of Accession: November 1972

Scale of Distribution: 2.05 per cent

Area: 43,094 km² (39)

Population: 5,256,000 (31)

GNP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 23,855 (6)

GNP growth: 2.7 per cent (31)

Armed Forces (Active): 24,300 (33)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: OECD, Council of Europe, NATO, EAPC, EU, WEU Observer, Barents Euro-Arctic Council, Nordic Council, Council of the Baltic Sea States, Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe

15. Estonia

Date of Accession: September 1991

Scale of Distribution: 0.19 per cent

Area: 45,227 km² (38)

Population: 1,445,000 (46)

GNP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 7,563 (27)

GNP growth: 5.7 per cent (7)

Armed Forces (Active): 4,800 (43)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: Council of Europe, EAPC, PfP, negotiations on accession to the EU, EU Association Agreement, Associate Partner of the WEU, Baltic Defence Council, Council of the Baltic Sea States

16. Finland

Date of Accession: November 1972

Scale of Distribution: 2.05 per cent

Area: 338,145 km² (13)

Population: 5,167,000 (32)

GNP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 20,641 (14)

GNP growth: 6.7 per cent (6)

Armed Forces (Active): 31,700 (30)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: OECD, Council of Europe, EAPC, PfP, EU, WEU Observer, Barents Euro-Arctic Council, Nordic Council, Council of the Baltic Sea States, Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe

17. France

Date of Accession: November 1972

Scale of Distribution: 9.0 per cent

Area: 551,500 km² (7)

Population: 59,165,000 (5)

GNP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 21,214 (13)

GNP growth: 3.2 per cent (25)

Armed Forces (Active): 317,300 (5)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: G-7/G-8, OECD, Council of Europe, NATO, EAPC, EU, WEU, Eurocorps, Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe

18. Georgia

Date of Accession: March 1992

Scale of Distribution: 0.185 per cent

Area: 69,700 km² (32)

Population: 5,448,000 (29)

GNP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 3,429 (39)

GNP growth: 2.7 per cent (31)

Armed Forces (Active): 26,300 (32)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: EAPC, Council of Europe⁹, PfP, CIS, Black Sea Economic Cooperation

19. Germany

Date of Accession: November 1972

Scale of Distribution: 9.0 per cent

Area: 357,022 km² (12)

Population: 82,057,000 (3)

GNP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 22,026 (12)

GNP growth: 2.8 per cent (29)

Armed Forces (Active): 332,800 (4)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: G-7/G-8, OECD, Council of Europe, NATO, EAPC, EU, WEU, Eurocorps, Council of the Baltic Sea States, Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe

20. Greece

Date of Accession: November 1972

Scale of Distribution: 0.7 per cent

Area: 131,957 km² (22)

Population: 10,645,000 (16)

GNP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 13,994 (23)

GNP growth: 3.3 per cent (22)

Armed Forces (Active): 165,670 (12)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: OECD, Council of Europe, NATO, EAPC, EU, WEU, Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, SECI, Black Sea Economic Cooperation

21. The Holy See

Date of Accession: November 1972

Scale of Distribution: 0.125 per cent

Area: 0.44 km² (55)

Population: 802 (55)

GNP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: no data given

9 Since 27 April 1999.

GNP growth: no data given

Armed Forces (Active): none (94 members of the Swiss Guard)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: none

22. Hungary

Date of Accession: November 1972

Scale of Distribution: 0.7 per cent

Area: 93,030 km² (26)

Population: 10,028,000 (21)

GNP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 9,832 (25)

GNP growth: 4.2 per cent (12)

Armed Forces (Active): 43,440 (26)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: OECD, Council of Europe, NATO, EAPC, negotiations on accession to the EU, EU Association Agreement, Associate Partner of the WEU, Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, CEFTA, CEI, SECI

23. Iceland

Date of Accession: November 1972

Scale of Distribution: 0.19 per cent

Area: 103,000 km² (24)

Population: 280,000 (50)

GNP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 24,774 (5)

GNP growth: no data given

Armed Forces (Active): none

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: OECD, Council of Europe, NATO, EAPC, Associate Partner of the WEU, Barents Euro-Arctic Council, Nordic Council, Council of the Baltic Sea States

24. Ireland

Date of Accession: November 1972

Scale of Distribution: 0.55 per cent

Area: 70,273 km² (31)

Population: 3,698,000 (42)

GNP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 17,991 (18)

GNP growth: 9.2 per cent (4)

Armed Forces (Active): 11,500 (36)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: OECD, Council of Europe, EU, WEU Observer, EAPC, PfP, Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe

25. Italy

Date of Accession: November 1972

Scale of Distribution: 9.0 per cent

Area: 301,318 km² (16)

Population: 57,917,000 (7)

GNP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 20,365 (15)

GNP growth: 1.4 per cent (38)

Armed Forces (Active): 265,500 (7)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: G-7/G-8, OECD, Council of Europe, NATO, EAPC, EU, WEU, Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, CEI

26. Kazakhstan

Date of Accession: January 1992

Scale of Distribution: 0.55 per cent

Area: 2,724,900 km² (4)

Population: 14,952,000 (15)

GNP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 4,317 (37)

GNP growth: -2.2 per cent (39)

Armed Forces (Active): 65,800 (18)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: EAPC, PfP, CIS

27. Kyrgyzstan

Date of Accession: January 1992

Scale of Distribution: 0.185 per cent

Area: 199,900 km² (20)

Population: 4,600,000 (35)

GNP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 2,247 (42)

GNP growth: 4.2 per cent (12)

Armed Forces (Active): 9,200 (40)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: EAPC, PfP, CIS

28. Latvia

Date of Accession: September 1991

Scale of Distribution: 0.19 per cent

Area: 64,589 km² (34)

Population: 2,450,000 (43)

GNP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 5,777 (34)

GNP growth: 3.4 per cent (20)

Armed Forces (Active): 5,730 (42)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: Council of Europe, EAPC, PfP, negotiations on accession to the EU, EU Association Agreement, Associate Partner of the WEU, Baltic Defence Council, Council of the Baltic Sea States

29. Liechtenstein

Date of Accession: November 1972

Scale of Distribution: 0.125 per cent

Area: 160 km² (52)

Population: 31,000 (52)

GNP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: no data given

GNP growth: no data given

Armed Forces (Active): none

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: Council of Europe, since 1923

Community of Law, Economy and Currency with Switzerland, since 1995

Member of the European Economic and Monetary Space

30. Lithuania

Date of Accession: September 1991

Scale of Distribution: 0.19 per cent

Area: 65,300 km² (33)

Population: 3,700,000 (as of July 1997) (40)

GNP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 6,283 (32)

GNP growth: 4.8 per cent (9)

Armed Forces (Active): 12,130 (35)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: Council of Europe, EAPC, PfP, negotiations on accession to the EU, EU Association Agreement, Associate Partner of the WEU, Baltic Defence Council, Council of the Baltic Sea States

31. Luxembourg

Date of Accession: November 1972

Scale of Distribution: 0.55 per cent

Area: 2,586 km² (49)

Population: 417,000 (48)

GNP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 36,703 (1)

GNP growth: no data given

Armed Forces (Active): 768 (46)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: OECD, Council of Europe, NATO, EAPC, EU, WEU, Eurocorps, Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe

32. Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Date of Accession: October 1995

Scale of Distribution: 0.19 per cent

Area: 25,713 km² (46)

Population: 2,303,000 (44)

GNP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 4,224 (38)

GNP growth: 3.1 per cent (26)

Armed Forces (Active): 16,000 (34)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: Council of Europe, EAPC, PfP, Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, CEI, SECI

33. Malta

Date of Accession: November 1972

Scale of Distribution: 0.125 per cent

Area: 315.6 km² (51)

Population: 377,000 (49)

GNP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 22,901 (9)

GNP growth: no data given

Armed Forces (Active): 1,900 (45)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: Council of Europe, negotiations on accession to the EU, EU Association Agreement

34. Moldova

Date of Accession: January 1992

Scale of Distribution: 0.19 per cent

Area: 33,851 km² (42)

Population: 4,414,000 (37)

GNP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 1,995 (46)

GNP growth: -9.5 per cent¹⁰ (44)

Armed Forces (Active): 10,650 (37)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: Council of Europe, EAPC, PfP, CIS, Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, CEI, SECI, Black Sea Economic Cooperation

35. Monaco

Date of Accession: November 1972

Scale of Distribution: 0.125 per cent

Area: 1.95 km² (54)

Population: 30,000 (53)

GNP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: no data given

GNP growth: no data given

Armed Forces (Active): none

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: Member of the European Economic and Monetary Space by special agreement with France

10 Without Trans-Dniestria.

36. Netherlands

Date of Accession: November 1972

Scale of Distribution: 3.55 per cent

Area: 41,526 km² (40)

Population: 15,724,000 (14)

GNP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 22,325 (11)

GNP growth: 3.3 per cent (22)

Armed Forces (Active): 56,380 (21)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: OECD, Council of Europe, NATO, EAPC, EU, WEU, Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe

37. Norway

Date of Accession: November 1972

Scale of Distribution: 2.05 per cent

Area: 323,758 km² (14)

Population: 4,425,000 (36)

GNP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 26,196 (4)

GNP growth: 2.3 per cent (34)

Armed Forces (Active): 31,000 (31)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: OECD, Council of Europe, NATO, EAPC, Associate Member of the WEU, Barents Euro-Arctic Council, Nordic Council, Council of the Baltic Sea States, Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe

38. Poland

Date of Accession: November 1972

Scale of Distribution: 1.4 per cent

Area: 312,685 km² (15)

Population: 38,854,000 (10)

GNP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 7,543 (28)

GNP growth: 4.4 per cent (10)

Armed Forces (Active): 240,650 (8)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: OECD, Council of Europe, NATO, EAPC, negotiations on accession to the EU, EU Association Agreement, Associate Partner of the WEU, Council of the Baltic Sea States, Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, CEFTA, CEI

39. Portugal

Date of Accession: November 1972

Scale of Distribution: 0.55 per cent

Area: 91,982 km² (27)

Population: 9,874,000 (22)

GNP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 14,569 (21)

GNP growth: 3.9 per cent (15)

Armed Forces (Active): 49,700 (24)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: OECD, Council of Europe, NATO, EAPC, EU, WEU, Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe

40. Romania

Date of Accession: November 1972

Scale of Distribution: 0.7 per cent

Area: 238,391 km² (18)

Population: 22,732,000 (13)

GNP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 5,572 (35)

GNP growth: -8.3 per cent (43)

Armed Forces (Active): 207,000 (10)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: Council of Europe, EAPC, PfP, negotiations on accession to the EU, EU Association Agreement, Associate Partner of the WEU, Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, CEFTA, CEI, SECI, Black Sea Economic Cooperation,

41. Russian Federation*

Date of Accession: November 1972

Scale of Distribution: 9.0 per cent

Area: 17,075,400 km² (1)

Population: 146,300,000 (2)

GNP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 6,180 (33)

GNP growth: -6.6 per cent (42)

Armed Forces (Active): 1,004,100 (2)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: G-8, Council of Europe, EAPC, PfP, NATO-Russia Founding Act, CIS, Barents Euro-Arctic Council, Council of the Baltic Sea States, Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, Black Sea Economic Cooperation

* The Russian Federation is the legal successor of the USSR in the OSCE

42. San Marino

Date of Accession: November 1972

Scale of Distribution: 0.125 per cent

Area: 60.57 km² (53)

Population: 25,000 (1995) (54)

GNP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: no data given

GNP growth: no data given

Armed Forces (Active): none

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: Council of Europe

43. Slovakia

Date of Accession: January 1993

Scale of Distribution: 0.33 per cent

Area: 49,036 km² (36)

Population: 5,280,000 (30)

GNP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 9,624 (26)

GNP growth: 4.2 per cent (12)

Armed Forces (Active): 44,880 (25)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: Council of Europe, EAPC, PfP, negotiations on accession to the EU EU Association Agreement, Associate Partner of the WEU, Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, CEFTA, CEI

44. Slovenia

Date of Accession: March 1992

Scale of Distribution: 0.19 per cent

Area: 20,256 km² (47)

Population: 2,017,000 (45)

GNP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 14,400 (22)

GNP growth: 3.9 per cent (15)

Armed Forces (Active): 9,550 (39)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: Council of Europe, EAPC, PfP, negotiations on accession to the EU, EU Association Agreement, Associate Partner of the WEU, Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, CEFTA, CEI, SECI

45. Spain

Date of Accession: November 1972

Scale of Distribution: 3.65 per cent

Area: 505,992 km² (8)

Population: 39,218,000 (9)

GNP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 15,960 (20)

GNP growth: 3.7 per cent (18)

Armed Forces (Active): 186,500 (11)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: OECD, Council of Europe, NATO, EAPC, EU, WEU, Eurocorps, Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe

46. Sweden

Date of Accession: November 1972

Scale of Distribution: 3.55 per cent

Area: 449,964 km² (10)

Population: 8,915,000 (23)

GNP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 19,848 (17)

GNP growth: 2.8 per cent (29)

Armed Forces (Active): 53,100 (23)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: OECD, Council of Europe, EAPC, PfP, EU, WEU Observer, Barents Euro-Arctic Council, Nordic Council, Council of the Baltic Sea States, Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe

47. Switzerland

Date of Accession: November 1972

Scale of Distribution: 2.3 per cent

Area: 41,285 km² (41)

Population: 7,080,000 (27)

GNP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 26,876 (3)

GNP growth: 1.8 per cent (36)

Armed Forces (Active): 3,470 (44)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: OECD, Council of Europe, PfP, EAPC, Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe

48. Tajikistan

Date of Accession: January 1992

Scale of Distribution: 0.185 per cent

Area: 143,100 km² (21)

Population: 6,620,000 (28)

GNP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 1,041 (47)

GNP growth: 15.2 per cent (1)

Armed Forces (Active): approximately 7,000 - 9,000 (41)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: EAPC, PfP, CIS

49. Turkey

Date of Accession: November 1972

Scale of Distribution: 1.0 per cent

Area: 779,815 km² (5)

Population: 65,161,000 (4)

GNP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 6,594 (30)

GNP growth: 3.9 per cent (15)

Armed Forces (Active): 639,000 (3)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: OECD, Council of Europe, NATO, EAPC, EU Association Agreement, Associate Member of the WEU, Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, SECI, Black Sea Economic Cooperation

50. Turkmenistan

Date of Accession: January 1992

Scale of Distribution: 0.185 per cent

Area: 488,100 km² (9)

Population: 5,000,000 (33)

GNP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: no data given

GNP growth: no data given

Armed Forces (Active): 17,000 - 19,000 (34)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: EAPC, PfP, CIS

51. Ukraine

Date of Accession: January 1992

Scale of Distribution: 1.75 per cent

Area: 603,700 km² (6)

Population: 49,980,000 (8)

GNP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 3,130 (40)

GNP growth: -2.4 per cent (41)

Armed Forces (Active): 311,400 (6)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: Council of Europe, EAPC, PfP, NATO-Ukraine Charter, CIS, Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, CEI, Black Sea Economic Cooperation

52. United Kingdom

Date of Accession: November 1972

Scale of Distribution: 9.0 per cent

Area: 242,900 km² (17)

Population: 58,763,000 (6)

GNP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 20,314 (16)

GNP growth: 2.1 per cent (35)

Armed Forces (Active): 212,400 (9)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: G-7/G-8, OECD, Council of Europe, NATO, EAPC, EU, WEU, Nordic Council, Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe

53. USA

Date of Accession: November 1972

Scale of Distribution: 9.0 per cent

Area: 9,363,520 km² (3)

Population: 273,133,000 (1)

GNP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 29,240 (2)

GNP growth: 2.5 per cent (33)

Armed Forces (Active): 1,371,500 (1)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: G-7/G-8, OECD, NATO, EAPC, Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, SECI, NAFTA

54. Uzbekistan

Date of Accession: January 1992

Scale of Distribution: 0.55 per cent

Area: 447,400 km² (11)

Population: 23,500,000 (12)

GNP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: 2,044 (45)

GNP growth: 5.2 per cent (8)

Armed Forces (Active): 74,000 (16)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: EAPC, PfP, CIS

55. Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)

Date of Accession: November 1972

Scale of Distribution: 0.55 per cent

Area: 102,173 km² (25)

Population: 10,600,000 (17)

GNP per Capita in US-\$ according to PPP: no data given

GNP growth: no data given

Armed Forces (Active): 108,700 (13)

Memberships and Forms of Co-operation: suspended

Sources: International Institute for Strategic Studies (Ed.), *The Military Balance 1999-2000*, London 1999;
Website of the OSCE: <http://www.osce.org>;
Website of the United Nations: <http://www.un.org>;
Website of the World Bank Group: <http://www.worldbank.org>;
The World Bank, *World Development Indicators 2000*, Washington, D.C. 2000.

OSCE Conferences, Meetings and Events 1999/2000

1999

14-16 July	The OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM), Max van der Stoep, visits the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM).
18-20 July	The Director of the ODIHR, Gerard Stoudmann, visits Montenegro on the occasion of the re-opening of the ODIHR office in Podgorica.
22 July	Bodo Hombach, Special Co-ordinator of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, addresses the OSCE Permanent Council.
27 July - 6 Aug.	A joint ODIHR and Council of Europe field mission visits Kosovo to assess the situation of the Roma community in Kosovo.
16-17 August	Second working group meeting to combat torture in Kazakhstan, Astana.
20-21 August	OSCE Secretary General Ján Kubiš visits OSCE Mission in Kosovo.
24-25 August	Visit of the HCNM to Latvia.
24-31 August	Seminar on the security and defence doctrine for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Vienna.
26-28 August	Workshop for Abkhazian, Georgian and South-Ossetian journalists, Warsaw.
31 August	In The Hague, Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands awards the HCNM the House Order of the Golden Lion of Nassau.
1-3 September	The Director of the ODIHR, Gerard Stoudmann, visits Azerbaijan.
2-3 September	The HCNM visits Bratislava in the Slovak Republic to evaluate inter-ethnic relations after the adoption of the Minority Language Law in July.
6 September	Under the auspices of the OSCE, the Article V negotiations on creating a regional balance in and around former Yugoslavia are resumed in Vienna. Third Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on the situation of Roma and Sinti in the OSCE area.
7 September	Opening of the OSCE Police Service School in Kosovo.
8-10 September	The HCNM visits FYROM. A joint delegation of the OSCE and the Council of Europe visits the Ukraine.

10-12 September	Round table on the role of the media in Montenegro, Serbia and Kosovo during the war in Kosovo.
12-16 September	The HCNM visits the Ukraine.
13-17 September	ODIHR and BBC seminar for journalists from Tajikistan.
20 Sept.-1 Oct.	OSCE Review Conference 1999, Vienna.
22 September	Round table held by the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, Freimut Duve, on protecting journalists in conflict areas, London.
23-24 September	The HCNM visits the Slovak Republic.
24-25 September	Training symposium for judges in Kosovo, Priština.
28 Sept.-4 Oct.	The Chairman-in-Office visits Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan.
29 September	Review Conference side meeting organized by ODIHR on "Combating Trafficking in Women in Post-Conflict Areas", Vienna.
4-5 October	Working visit of the OSCE Secretary General to Moscow.
5-7 October	The Chairman-in-Office visits Kosovo.
6 October	The German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer gives a speech at the OSCE Permanent Council.
9-12 October	OSCE Mission to Georgia members take part in a round table on "Early Responses to Early Conflict Warnings in the Caucasus", Tbilisi.
10 October	A delegation of OSCE Parliamentarians monitors parliamentary elections in Kazakhstan.
12 October	The OSCE Secretary General visits Paris.
13-15 October	Second Conference of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly on "Subregional Economic Co-operation Processes in Europe Faced with New Challenges", Nantes.
14-15 October	ODIHR workshop on the registration of permanent residents in Kyrgyzstan, Bishkek.
19-20 October	Seminar held by the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities on "Economic Rehabilitation and Next Steps in the Transition: Institution-Building, Rule of Law and the Role of Civil Society", Tashkent.
20 October	"2+2" Meeting between the Council of Europe and the OSCE, Berlin.
21 October	Meeting of the OSCE Troika (Norway, Austria, Poland) in Vienna. The Russian Federation hands back authority over the territory of the former radar station in Skrunda, Latvia, to the Republic of Latvia, after work on dismantling the

	radar station has been completed. With this success, the mission of the OSCE Representative to the Joint Committee ends.
24-31 October	The HCNM visits Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Kazakhstan.
31 Oct. and 14 Nov.	ODIHR observes parliamentary elections in Georgia.
31 Oct. and 14 Nov.	ODIHR observes presidential elections in FYROM.
31 Oct. and 14 Nov.	ODIHR observes presidential elections in Ukraine.
2-12 November	A series of workshops concludes the "Civic and Legal Education for Women" programme in Uzbekistan.
3-6 November	The OSCE Secretary General and the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities attend the Central European Initiative Summit in Prague.
4-5 November	Workshop on the registration of permanent residents in Azerbaijan, organized by ODIHR.
9-11 November	Seminar on management of trans-boundary water resources in Central Asia, Almaty.
10 November	Third meeting of the ODIHR Advisory Panel for the Prevention of Torture convenes in Istanbul.
10-13 November	The HCNM visits Croatia.
16 November	The OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation adopts the Vienna Document 1999 in Istanbul.
18-19 November	OSCE Summit in Istanbul. Adoption of the Charter for European Security, the Agreement on Adaptation of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe and the Istanbul Summit Declaration.
19 November	The OSCE Mission in Kosovo opens its first NGO Centre in Peja/Peć.
22-26 November	The final phase of the ODIHR's "Women in Politics" project takes place in Kyrgyzstan.
23-24 November	The OSCE Mission to Croatia hosts a meeting on organized crime in South-eastern Europe in Zagreb.
	The HCNM visits Hungary.
28 Nov.-1 Dec. November	The HCNM visits Romania.
	ODIHR organizes two meetings in Kazakhstan on the prevention of torture, Almaty.
2 December	The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media holds a public round table on "Free Media and Libel Legislation" in Kyiv.
5 December	Limited election assessment of the parliamentary elections in Uzbekistan by ODIHR.
6 December	OSCE Chairman-in-Office addresses UN General Assembly.

6-7 December	Mediterranean seminar held by the OSCE and its partners for co-operation, Egypt, Algeria, Israel, Morocco, Tunisia and Jordan, on "Implementation of Human Dimension Commitments", Amman.
10 December	Meeting of NGO and government representatives on freedom of religion in Kazakhstan, Almaty.
10-11 December	International Human Rights Conference focusing on raising awareness of and promote respect for the fundamental rights and freedoms in Kosovo.
10-13 December	Strategy development workshop on co-operation among NGOs in Uzbekistan, Chimgan.
11-16 December	Workshop held in FYROM for young Roma activists, Kumanovo.
13-14 December	Training course for Kosovo civil administrators.
13-14 December	Seminar on the environmental impact of conflicts and rehabilitation measures, Sarajevo.
14 December	Meeting of NGO and government representatives on law enforcement bodies in Kyrgyzstan, Bishkek.
14-16 December	Workshop on "Project Implementation in Central Asia", Dushanbe.
14-17 December	The HCNM visits FYROM and Kosovo.
16-18 December	Fourth regional civil society development conference on "Local Self-Government, Rule of Law and Regional Economic Development", Brest
16-18 December	Initial training seminar for the newly-appointed regional representatives of the Uzbek Ombudsman Office, Chimgan.
19 December	In co-operation with the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly, and the European Parliament, the ODIHR observes the parliamentary election in the Russian Federation.

2000

1 January	Austria assumes the OSCE Chairmanship from Norway.
2-3 January	ODIHR and the Parliamentary Assembly monitor parliamentary elections in Croatia.
6 January	The Centre for OSCE Research (CORE) at the Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy at the University of Hamburg is founded. Consultation of the HCNM with the Council of Europe, Strasbourg.

12-15 January	Journalists from Central Asia and Southern Caucasus meet in Vienna.
21 January	Meeting of the OSCE Troika, Vienna.
24 January	Seminar for journalists on media and human rights, Shkodra.
24 Jan. and 7 Feb.	ODIHR and the Parliamentary Assembly monitor the presidential elections in Croatia.
26-27 January	Seminar on approaches to post-conflict rehabilitation, Tbilisi.
27 January	ODIHR and UN set up a joint election observation mission in Tajikistan.
27-28 January	Seminar on strengthening Parliamentary Defence Committees in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bled.
31 Jan.-4 Feb. January	The HCNM visits Japan. The OSCE Office in Yerevan begins work after ratification of a Memorandum of Understanding.
1-3 February	Conference on Tajik electoral process and media, Dushanbe.
2-4 February	The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media visits Kosovo.
3-4 February	The OSCE Secretary General visits Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.
7-9 February	The HCNM visits FYROM.
14-16 February	An ODIHR delegation visits Moscow to discuss the problem of trafficking in the Russian Federation.
15-18 February	Second NGO strategy development meeting for Uzbekistan, near Tashkent.
20 February	ODIHR and the Parliamentary Assembly observe the parliamentary elections in Kyrgyzstan.
21-24 February	The HCNM visits Moscow.
22 February	The OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Austrian Foreign Minister Benita Ferrero-Waldner, visits the OSCE Mission in Kosovo.
23-24 February	The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media visits Ireland.
27 February	Joint UN/OSCE observation of parliamentary elections in Tajikistan.
28 February	Visit of the Secretary General to Turkmenistan.
28-29 February	The HCNM visits FYROM.
2-3 March	The ODIHR Director visits the Ukraine.
1-4 March	The HCNM visits Romania.
8 March	The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media visits Albania.
9-10 March	The HCNM visits Latvia.

10 March	Conference on the "Rights and Obligations of Journalists", Priština.
10-11 March	Seminar organized by the OSCE Mission to Latvia on "Regional Integration", Ligatne.
13 March	The Chairperson-in-Office visits FYROM.
13-14 March	NGO-government meeting on freedom of movement and free choice of place of residence, Almaty.
14-15 March	The Secretary General visits Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.
16-17 March	The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media visits Montenegro.
20 March	The ODIHR Director visits Chechnya.
20-21 March	The Secretary General visits Georgia.
20-24 March	The OSCE Mission to Moldova and the Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs organize a "Working Table on a Trans-Dniestrian Settlement" in Kyiv.
24-26 March	Seminar within the framework of projects to encourage the participation of Croatian youth in civil society, Sisak.
27 March	First OSCE Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on "Human Rights and Inhuman Treatment or Punishment", Vienna.
28 March	The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media presents the 1999/2000 Yearbook "Freedom and Responsibility".
30 March	Regional workshop on prevention of trafficking in human beings, Kharkiv.
31 March	OSCE Troika Ministers meet in Vienna.
2-8 April	The HCNM visits Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan.
3-5 April	FSC seminar on small arms and light weapons, Vienna.
4 April	The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media addresses the US Congress in Washington.
9 April	ODIHR observes the presidential elections in Georgia.
11-12 April	The Special Co-ordinator of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe visits the OSCE Mission to Croatia.
11-14 April	Eighth Meeting of the OSCE Economic Forum, Prague.
12 April	Annual "2+2" Meeting of the OSCE and the Council of Europe, Vienna.
12-13 April	Seminar of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly on "New Risks and Challenges: Minorities in the 21st Century", Antalya.
13-14 April	Conference on national human rights institutions in Montenegro, Podgorica.

13-15 April	The Chairperson-in-Office visits Moscow and Northern Caucasus.
17-20 April	Human rights monitoring and reporting training for NGOs in Uzbekistan, Tashkent. The HCNM visits FYROM.
21-29 April	ODIHR seminar on "Reform and Human Rights" for officials of the Kazakh penitentiary system.
24-28 April	The OSCE Liaison Office in Central Asia conducts a workshop on promoting community-level co-operation on small- and medium-size businesses and environmental concerns in Uzbekistan, Tashkent.
25-26 April	Local seminar on penitentiary reform and human rights in Kazakhstan, Shymkent.
26-27 April	Second regional meeting of the Gender Task Force, Zagreb.
26-28 April	Training workshop held by the ODIHR Gender Unit for women politicians, NGOs and government representatives, Baku. The Secretary General visits Kazakhstan.
27-28 April	Seminar on "Democracy and Religion", Bishkek.
28-29 April	The Secretary General visits Kyrgyzstan.
1-3 May	The Chairperson-in-Office visits Georgia.
3- 4 May	The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media takes part in celebrations marking World Press Freedom Day, Geneva.
5 May	Round table on "Drug Addiction among Youth" in Tajikistan.
8-9 May	The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media visits Romania.
10-12 May	Regional workshop on internal displacement in the South Caucasus, Tbilisi.
16-18 May	The HCNM visits Moldova and Romania.
17 May	The ODIHR Director visits Romania.
17-18 May	ODIHR conference on "Violence against Women", Baku.
18 May	OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina opens the Stability Pact Gender Task Force Clearinghouse Office in Sarajevo.
19-21 May	Seminar on mass media in Kyrgyzstan, Bishkek.
22-23 May	Meeting on the "Strategy for Capacity Building through Training", Vienna.
23-26 May	OSCE Human Dimension Seminar on "Children and Armed Conflict", Warsaw. The HCNM visits Croatia.

25-27 May	Second international forum on the "Role of Women's NGOs in Social, Economic and Political Life", Khujand.
28-30 May	The HCNM visits FYROM.
29 May-2 June	The Chairperson-in-Office and the Secretary General visit each of the five OSCE Central Asian participating States.
12 June	The first OSCE resource centre for NGOs in a Serbian area of Kosovo opens in Strpce/Shterpce.
13 June	The Kosovo Law Centre is opened in Priština.
14-16 June	The ODIHR Director visits Albania.
19 June	The OSCE Presence in Albania opens a new field station in Fier. The OSCE and Azerbaijan sign a Memorandum of Understanding
20-21 June	The OSCE Project Co-ordinator holds a seminar on the future of the military judiciary and law enforcement bodies in Ukraine, Kyiv.
23 June	Initial meeting of the Organization of Women in Local Governance (OWLG), Sarajevo.
29-30 June	Workshop on military budget transparency in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo.
3 July	Establishment of the office of an Ombudsperson for Kosovo.
5 July	The OSCE Troika meets in Bucharest.
6-7 July	The Chairperson-in-Office visits Moldova.
6-10 July	Ninth Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in Bucharest. Adrian Severin of Romania is elected as President of the Parliamentary Assembly to succeed Helle Degn.
14 July	The OSCE Presence in Albania opens a field station in Berat.
17-18 July	The Chairperson-in-Office visits Armenia and Azerbaijan.
18- 20 July	The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media visits Albania.

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Acronyms

ACDA	Arms Control and Disarmament Agency (US)
ARF	ASEAN Regional Forum
ASB	Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund Deutschland e.V. (Association of Good Samaritans Germany)
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
BSEC	Black Sea Economic Cooperation
CARDS	Community Assistance for Reconstruction, Development and Stabilisation Programme (EU)
CBMs	Confidence-Building Measures
CBSS	Council of the Baltic Sea States
CCMS	Committee on the Challenges of Modern Society (NATO)
CDE	Conference on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe
CEI	Central European Initiative
CFE I	Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe
CFE IA	Concluding Act of the Negotiations on Personnel Strength of Conventional Armed Forces in Europe
CFSP	Common Foreign and Security Policy (EU)
CiO	Chairman-in-Office
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CMEA	Council for Mutual Economic Assistance
CPC	Conflict Prevention Centre
CPN	Conflict Prevention Network
CSBMs	Confidence- and Security-Building Measures
CSCE	Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (since 1 January 1995: OSCE)
CSDP	(European) Common Security and Defence Policy (EU)
CSO	Committee of Senior Officials (since 1 January 1995: Senior Council)
DED	Deutscher Entwicklungsdienst/German Development Service
DPNM	Department for the Protection of National Minorities of the Romanian Government
DUHR	Democratic Union of Hungarians in Romania
EAPC	Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
ECMM	European Community Monitor Mission
EIB	European Investment Bank
ECHR	European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights

EPC	European Political Co-operation (EU)
EU	European Union
EUMC	European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia
FES	Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)
FRY	Federal Republic of Yugoslavia
FSC	Forum for Security Co-operation
FYROM	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
GTZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (German service company in international development co-operation)
G7/G8	Group of Seven (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, UK, USA)/G7 and Russia
HCNM	High Commissioner on National Minorities
HRMS	(Unified) Human Resources Management System
HRW	Human Rights Watch
IAC	Interim Administration Council (Kosovo)
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
ICTY	International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia
IFOR	Implementation Force
IMF	International Monetary Fund
INF	Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
IPTF	International Police Task Force
ISR	Inter-Ministerial Sub-Commission on the Roma (Romania)
ISSP	Information Systems Strategic Plan
IT	Information Technology
JCC	Joint Consultative Commission (Dayton Peace Accords)
KFOR	Kosovo Force
KVM	Kosovo Verification Mission
MBFR	Mutual and Balanced Force Reductions
MSF	Médecins Sans Frontières
NACC	North Atlantic Cooperation Council
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NPT	Non-Proliferation Treaty
OAS	Organization of American States
ODIHR	Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
ODCCP	Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
OEEC	Organization for European Economic Cooperation
OHCHR	Office of the (UN) High Commissioner for Human Rights
OHR	Office of the High Representative
OMIK	OSCE Mission in Kosovo
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

PA	Parliamentary Assembly
PC	Permanent Council
PfP	Partnership for Peace
PHARE	Poland and Hungary Assistance for the Reconstruction of the Economy
PIC	Peace Implementation Conference/Council (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
PIR	Party of Islamic Rebirth (Tajikistan)
REACT	Rapid Expert Assistance and Co-operation Teams
REC	Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe
RERP	Regional Environmental Reconstruction Programme (for South-eastern Europe)
RS	Republika Srpska
SAA	Stabilization and Association Agreements
SC	Senior Council
SCMM	Standing Committee on Military Matters (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
SECI	Southeast European Cooperative Initiative
SEECp	South Eastern European Cooperation Process
SFOR	Stabilization Force
SPECA	Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (UNECE)
SRCC	Sub-Regional Consultative Commission (Dayton Peace Accords)
TACIS	Technical Assistance for the CIS
THW	Technisches Hilfswerk (German governmental disaster relief organization)
TLE	Treaty Limited Equipment (CFE I Treaty)
TMK	Trupat E Mbrojtes Se Kosoves (Kosovo Protection Corps)
TRACECA	Transport Corridor Europe Caucasus Central Asia
UCK/KLA	Ushitria Clirimtare E Kosoves/Kosovo Liberation Army
UN/UNO	United Nations/United Nations Organization
UNDCP	United Nations Drug Control Programme
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNHCHR	United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
UNMAC	United Nations Mine Action Center
UNMIK	United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo

UNMOT	United Nations Mission of Observers to Tajikistan
UNODCCP	United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention
UNPROFOR	United Nations Protection Force
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
UTO	United Tajik Opposition
VD 90-99	Vienna Documents on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures (1990, 1992, 1994, 1999)
WCED	World Commission on Environment and Development
WEU	Western European Union
WGRA	Working Group of Roma Associations (Romania)
WTO	World Trade Organization

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