

PROVISIONAL
EDITION

STOCKHOLM DECLARATION
ADOPTED BY THE OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

STOCKHOLM, 9 JULY 1996

**TOWARDS A COMMON AND COMPREHENSIVE SECURITY MODEL
FOR EUROPE FOR THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY**

**STOCKHOLM DECLARATION OF THE
OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY**

9 July 1996

PREAMBLE

1. We, parliamentarians of the OSCE participating States, have met in Stockholm on 5-9 July 1996 as the parliamentary OSCE institution to assess developments relating to security and cooperation in Europe and to offer our views to OSCE Ministers. We do so mindful that 1996 marks a critical turning point in the contribution of the OSCE to peace-building in Europe by its vital contribution to a settlement in Bosnia-Herzegovina.
2. We stress the importance we attach to the full participation of all participating legislatures in the work and sustainment of the Assembly.
3. We express satisfaction with the acknowledgement at the December 1995 Budapest Ministerial Council that the discussions of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly contributed to the work of the Permanent Council. The Chairman-in-Office should report to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly on the political action taken as a result of Assembly deliberations, decisions and resolutions. The deliberations and resolutions of the Assembly should be more actively considered by the Permanent Council.
4. We express our gratitude for the contribution of the first OSCE Secretary General, Ambassador Wilhelm Höynck, and welcome and look forward to working with his successor, Ambassador Giancarlo Aragona.
5. We wish all success to the next OSCE Summit to be held in Lisbon on 2 and 3 December 1996, and bring to its attention the following declarations and recommendations.

CHAPTER I**(POLITICAL AFFAIRS AND SECURITY)**

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly,

6. Supporting the efforts aimed at strengthening the OSCE, enhancing its potential, as a factor of security on the European continent and noting a number of important initiatives in this respect, including:
 - the identification of risks and challenges to security in the OSCE region;
 - proposals on the elaboration of the Charter of European Security and of the Platform for Cooperative Security;
7. Fully supporting the active and indispensable OSCE role in implementing the Dayton agreements with respect to a peace settlement in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and solemnly aware that the OSCE role in Bosnia-Herzegovina marks a critical turning point in the contribution of the OSCE to security and cooperation in Europe;
8. Deeply appreciative to all nations contributing to the stabilization and reconstruction effort in Bosnia-Herzegovina;
9. Acknowledging the vital contribution being made through the Implementation Force (IFOR) by the Atlantic Alliance, adapting to meet new security challenges, together with Partners in the OSCE region;
10. Recognizing that a longer-term international peace support presence may be required to ensure lasting viability of the Dayton agreements;
11. Underlining the critical importance of the OSCE-facilitated full-scale settlement (or its support in settlement) of other conflicts - such as Nagorno-Karabakh, Abkhazia, the conflict in the Transnistria region of Moldova, the conflict in Chechnya, Russia, and elsewhere for the reputation of the OSCE and its further effective activities;
12. Positively assessing the maintenance of a cease-fire for over two years in the conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh, as well as continuing negotiations under OSCE Minsk Group auspices;
13. Welcoming the endorsement of a joint communique by the presidents of Azerbaijan and Armenia in Luxembourg on 21 April 1996, and the declaration "for Consensus, Peace, Economic and Cultural Co-operation Between Nations in the Caucasus" signed on 3 June 1996 in which responsibilities to intensify the negotiations process for the speediest comprehensive and peaceful settlement of the conflict are expressed;
14. Reaffirming compliance with the UN Security Council resolutions 822, 853, 874, 884 dated 1993 on immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of occupying forces from all occupied regions;

15. Taking into account the active work of the OSCE Minsk Group aimed at concluding a political agreement on ending the armed conflict;
16. Emphasizing, however, the prolonged nature of the negotiations which, in fact, contradicts the decisions of the OSCE Budapest Summit "Intensifying OSCE activities with regard to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict";
17. Recalling the challenge of the 1995 OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Ottawa Declaration to "implement immediately the OSCE decision, which obliges the participating States to send out a peacekeeping mission to Nagorno-Karabakh by the end of 1995 comprising at least 2000 participants";
18. Recalling its support, in the 1995 Ottawa Declaration, for the adoption of a broad concept of "Common and Comprehensive Security" encompassing not only military aspects but also economic, social, environmental and others building on close and interactive cooperation between governments and legislators at all stages of political developments in the OSCE region;
19. Further recalling its support at Ottawa for establishing meaningful cooperation with the United Nations and with the Council of Europe, NATO, WEU, and other democratic organizations deemed relevant to security in the OSCE area and by ensuring their permanent representation;
20. Reaffirming the fundamental OSCE principles that each participating State maintains the inherent right to choose or change its security arrangements, including treaties of alliance, as they evolve, and that no participating State will strengthen its security at the expense of the security of other States or regard any part of the OSCE region as its sphere of influence;
21. Taking into account that the elaboration of a Security Model is a long process and that it is, therefore, desirable to invite the participation of the widest possible parliamentary circles of the OSCE participating States;
22. Taking into consideration that the elaboration of a Security Model requires the organization of political and academic forums dedicated to this goal;
23. Acknowledging the immense humanitarian suffering caused by the use of anti-personnel mines and the enormous hindrances it poses to rebuilding war torn communities;
24. Recognizing that the proliferation of mines has created a triple crisis: individuals are the victims of inhumane weapons; developing nations are unable to go forward with economic and social programmes; and families, localities, and nations are compelled to bear an increasingly heavy medical and social burden;
25. Taking into account the growing threat of terrorism noted in the documents which were approved at the meetings in Sharm al Sheikh (Cairo) and Lyon;

26. Invites the OSCE and the participating States to continue the process of elaborating a common and comprehensive Security Model for Europe for the twenty-first century in order to present the progress achieved and the results available at the OSCE Summit in Lisbon in 1996. These should include:
- a. An unqualified statement of the paramount importance attached to the implementation of existing OSCE commitments with the understanding that new provisions should, in no way, diminish these commitments;
 - b. Developing the special role of the OSCE in respect of preventive diplomacy, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation by furnishing it with the necessary resources;
 - c. Improvement of OSCE decision-making by adopting the principle of "approximate consensus" as recommended by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly;
 - d. Strengthened executive action through the Troika, the Secretary General, and the participation of interested OSCE participating States, drawing upon the model of the Peace Implementation Council Steering Board with respect to Bosnia-Herzegovina;
 - e. Subjecting failure to adhere to OSCE commitments to a range of possible sanctions beyond political declarations alone;
 - f. Strengthening the OSCE in preventive diplomacy, conflict prevention and post-conflict reconstruction, including strengthening its instruments and placing the necessary resources at the disposal of its institutions;
 - g. Strengthening the executive functions of the OSCE through the establishment of a "consultative group" as a preparatory body in which the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, the Secretary General, the EU presidency, the members of the Contact Group, and a limited number of further participating States, in a rotating membership, are represented;
 - h. Creation of a common European security area, free from dividing lines, based on such basic principles as indivisibility of security, its comprehensive and multidimensional character, necessity of close co-operation between states and international institutions in the field of security;
 - i. Agreement on a binding procedure which guarantees a continuous reciprocal exchange of information, close consultation and coordination of activities between the OSCE, the United Nations, the European Union, the Council of Europe, NATO and WEU at Secretary General or Presidency level and on an equal basis without hierarchies or superior responsibilities and with all interested parties with the purpose of maintaining peace and stability, meeting the concerns of all OSCE participating States in the sphere of security;

- j. Elaboration of a new, politically binding security platform based on co-operation, i.e. a document which will include norms and obligations, already worked out and adopted by the OSCE and which will envisage further strengthening and increasing the level of security for all the OSCE participating States;
- k. Complementing the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security with a Code consolidating and developing commitments in the OSCE human dimension, including democratic and minority rights, and cooperation against terrorism;
- l. Encouraging regional and subregional measures for security, stability and cooperation, which fit into the framework of the comprehensive security model for Europe;
- m. Devising new approaches for cooperation and good neighbourliness within the framework of the Pact on Stability and its extension to south-east Europe;
- n. Entrusting the implementation and further development of commitments in the economic dimension of the OSCE process to organizations and institutions best suited for this field, and adjusting the OSCE role, including the need for an Economic Forum and for its further development with particular regard to environmental questions;
- o. Calling upon the States concerned to refer their disputes to the Court of Conciliation and Arbitration so that it may play its full role as quickly as possible;
- p. Refocusing arms control and confidence- and security-building measures on the basis of national obligations, and encouraging more intense focus on regional regimes, particularly arms reductions and limitations on arms production, export, and transfer and the establishment of European Nuclear Free Zones;
- q. Concluding the mandate of the 1994 Budapest Summit decision to elaborate a framework for arms control by the time of the Lisbon Summit and agreeing in the framework of the Summit meeting on an agenda which sets guidelines for the introduction of new arms control measures;
- r. Promoting the creation of zones free of nuclear weapons in the OSCE region, as a necessary and important component of a new all-European security system;
- s. Considering methods for greater information exchange from the other OSCE institutions to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly;
- t. Full recognition that the enlargement of security organizations cannot be considered in isolation but only as part of a wider process in which OSCE, a wide-ranging partnership among NATO, Russia and Ukraine, an enlarged NATO, and an active Partnership for Peace and the WEU form complementary parts of a broad, inclusive European security architecture based on mutual confidence and supporting the objective of an undivided Europe;
- u. Entrusting the Forum for Security Cooperation with questions of preventive and qualitative arms control, with particular regard to the impact of new developments in weapons technology;

- v. Entrusting the Conflict Prevention Center with the collection and evaluation of information on the implementation and verification of disarmament and arms control measures in the OSCE region and with the task of coordinating possible OSCE peacekeeping operations and of coordinating those operations with the United Nations;
- 27. Recognizing the contribution of the OSCE to security and cooperation in Europe through its constructive role in negotiations aimed at securing a peaceful resolution of the war in Chechnya in a manner consistent with Helsinki principles and international law and urging the parties to fully implement, on a timely basis, provisions of the Nazran accord;
- 28. Notes with satisfaction that thanks to active mediation by the OSCE Assistance Group, negotiations have taken place and an agreement has been concluded; and hopes that the agreement will bring about a lasting solution to the conflict in Chechnya;
- 29. Calls upon the parties to the conflict to adhere strictly to the agreements and to refrain from taking any steps that would jeopardize a political solution to the conflict;
- 30. Calls on the OSCE to continue its search for a solution to the conflict by offering its good offices during the forthcoming negotiations and supporting implementation of the agreement.
- 31. Calls on all parties in Albania to consider holding new parliamentary elections, after a reasonable but limited period of time, under improved conditions and in the presence of international observers, as recommended by the Assembly's delegation;
- 32. Calls upon the OSCE and its participating States to agree on and support a unilateral, world-wide ban on anti-personnel mines, including the production, sale, export, transfer abroad and use of anti-personnel mines, and the elimination of existing stocks;
- 33. Calls upon the OSCE and its participating States to sign Protocol II of the UN Conventional Weapons Convention (CWC);
- 34. Calls upon the OSCE and its participating States to demand an extension of the scope of Protocol II to cover non-international armed conflict.

CHAPTER II

(ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT)

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly,

35. Recognizing that security in the OSCE region as a whole and, more particularly, security in Central and Eastern Europe and the CIS region can be substantially affected negatively through economic, social and environmental developments that undermine public support for democratic government and exacerbate ethnic rivalries and tensions;
36. Convinced that effective economic transformation in these countries is essential in order to improve the economic well-being of their citizens;
37. Aware that the situations prevailing in each country differ and that the pace of restructuring must take account of the economic and social conditions existing in each country;
38. Recognizing that social conditions can strengthen or weaken support for democratic government and intensify or diminish ethnic tension;
39. Aware that social conditions in turn are directly affected by the pace and effectiveness of the process of economic transformation;
40. Noting that the social costs of market reforms can, if they are excessive, jeopardize political stability;
41. Concerned that states should design economic reform measures so as not to weaken the existing social protection system and should adapt that system as economic conditions evolve;
42. Recognizing the linkages between the state of the environment and social well-being resulting from the effect of environmental degradation on human health;
43. Calling upon the governments of countries under reform processes, while planning constructions of new industrial objects, to take into consideration the possible environmental damage they may cause to neighbouring countries, and prevent such situations since they negatively affect interrelations between neighbouring countries;
44. Aware that transboundary pollution and the unequal distribution of natural resources can be a source of tension, or even conflict, between neighbouring countries;
45. Recognizing the exceptional value of combining the efforts of all OSCE participating States to overcome the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster - the largest technological catastrophe of the twentieth century, the tenth anniversary of which passed this year;
46. Convinced for this reason of the need, in conjunction with economic reforms, to preserve and improve the environments of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and of the CIS countries;

47. Proceeding from understanding that economic security of all OSCE participating States is an important component of indivisible security in the OSCE region;
48. Stressing that economic and ecological stability in each of the OSCE participating States should be the concern of all countries in the OSCE region and can be strengthened only by their common efforts;
49. Recognizing that economic difficulties of the transition period in some OSCE participating States can render them vulnerable to political pressure which is incompatible with the norms and principles of the OSCE;

Priorities for Reforming Countries

50. Calls upon the governments of reforming states to achieve public agreement on the goals, methods and pace of economic and political initiatives through the use of democratic institutions, including social dialogue between political leaders and economic and social agents of transition;
51. Urges the governments of the reforming countries to put in place and maintain economic stabilization policies that promote the development of effective market economies;
52. Calls upon the governments of these countries to establish and strengthen legal and administrative structures that provide the necessary foundation for a working market economy;
53. Urges the governments of reforming countries to bear in mind the importance of an effective social security system to support those who suffer as a result of economic transformation bearing in mind that women and children are particularly vulnerable in this respect;
54. Urges governments to approve policies aimed at integrating economic, social and environmental goals so as to achieve environmentally sustainable development and to guard against, reduce and eventually eliminate the marginalization of population groups on ethnic or regional grounds;
55. Urges the reforming countries to strengthen the mechanisms, particularly at local level, for regional economic cooperation, especially inter-regional trade, so as to assist sustainable economic development;

Coordination and Cooperation

56. Calls upon Western countries to support the economic transition process by reducing barriers to trade with reforming states;
57. Appeals to Western countries and pertinent financial institutions to provide targeted and coordinated financial, educational and technical support in order to increase the capacity of reforming states, particularly in the spheres of transport, telecommunications, the energy infrastructure, and the protection of the environment, to improve the performance of their economies;
58. Draws attention to the special situation of the states which have suffered damage implementing the UN sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro);
59. Urges the OSCE to support the efforts of countries in economic transition, as well as the relevant regional statistical bodies, to document the social difficulties they are facing, particularly affecting women, children and the elderly so that reliable information on which to base policy is available to the governments of reforming states;
60. Recommends that the OSCE, in cooperation with the appropriate international organizations, analyze and publicize successful efforts by reforming countries to improve their economic performance, while maintaining adequate social support arrangements, as a way of assisting other reforming countries;
61. Urges the OSCE to take maximum advantage of the Economic Forum, its follow-on seminars and related activities, in order to assist the reforming countries to enhance the trade and investment environment, strengthen regional economic cooperation, and promote dialogue with the business community;
62. Calls upon regional economic organizations to identify and draw attention to economic and social situations which are potential sources of tension in the reforming countries;
63. Recommends that the OSCE takes full advantage of the experience and resources of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe by strengthening cooperation with it and drawing upon its expertise;
64. Urges the international financial institutions to bear in mind the social consequences of their economic reform prescriptions so as to support and strengthen democratic governments;
65. Appeals to Western corporations to adhere to Western environmental standards when building or upgrading industrial facilities in Central and Eastern Europe and in CIS states;
66. Calls for the harmonization, at the highest possible level, of environmental laws and standards between Western and Eastern Europe, drawing on the results of work undertaken within the framework of "Environment for Europe";

67. Calls upon the Western countries to assist in every way the acceleration of the process of economic integration of the reforming states into existing structures of European co-operation;
68. Calls upon the OSCE participating States and pertinent financial institutions to unite their efforts to overcome the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster and prevent technological catastrophes in the OSCE region.

CHAPTER III**(DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS)**

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly,

69. Concerned about several present crises and conflicts in the OSCE region which have caused a large number of persons to migrate from the countries of their origin regardless of their own will and recognizing that this constitutes a serious problem which is of common concern for all OSCE states;
70. Acknowledging that there are practically no OSCE states with ethnically and culturally homogeneous populations;
71. Aware that unmanaged and aggravated relations between different ethnic, religious and cultural sections of a society may destabilise the entire society, cause people to migrate and in extreme cases even break into civil war;
72. Recognizing that there are different reasons for migration, caused by human rights violations, war, civil strife or the quest for better living conditions;
73. Acknowledging the different nature of categories such as refugees, exiles and immigrants;
74. Conscious of the danger that internal crises in one OSCE state may negatively affect that country's international relations, spillover to other countries and cause regional tensions;
75. Aware that migrants and refugees can become isolated in partially self-sufficient communities, making their integration to the new country of residence problematic and fuelling attitudes of intolerance, racism and xenophobia;
76. Recalling their common commitment to address the root causes of involuntary migration as reflected in the 1995 OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Ottawa Declaration;
77. Taking into account that refugees, exiles and immigrants often strive to settle in a small group of wealthier states which, for their part, have better economic and other possibilities to receive them, but who, as a result of decreasing resources and the continuous increase of refugees, exiles and migrants, feel that they need to limit the influx to their territories;
78. Taking note of the serious problems which hinder refugees, exiles and immigrants from adapting themselves to the new countries of residence, including
 - a lack or insufficient knowledge of the language of the new country of residence,
 - unemployment and inability to find work,
 - a tendency to settle in homogeneous enclaves, thus creating "ghettos",
 - a lack of proper legislation in the recipient country to take the immigrants' needs into account,
 - economic difficulties in the recipient country, and
 - sometimes hostile attitudes in the recipient country towards immigrants, which problems are often interrelated and, therefore, need to be tackled comprehensively;

79. Stressing the inadmissibility of using national minorities and any problems related to them for exerting political pressure in relations between states;
80. Taking into account that the problems of returning and settlement on their historic land of persons who suffered mass deportation carried out by totalitarian regimes require special serious attention;
81. Admitting the fact that a precondition for the solution of problems of refugees, displaced persons and immigrants is the speediest and a full-scale settlement of interstate and internal conflicts based upon the principles of international law, after which they may return to places of their former residence;
82. Welcoming the recent joint initiative of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees UNHCR, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and the OSCE to organise a Regional Conference to address the problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons, Other Forms of Involuntary Displacement and Returnees in the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and Relevant Neighbouring Countries, and the adoption of a Programme of Action on 31 May 1996;
83. Commending the IOM and the European Union for convening a meeting focusing on the deplorable practice of trafficking in women and girls, which is estimated to involve more than 500,000 victims in Europe;
84. Aware that this practice extends to hundreds of thousands of additional victims beyond the borders of the OSCE community and that the trafficking in women and girls in the OSCE region is inherently related to the global phenomenon of organized crime relating to slavery, forced labour and forced prostitution;
85. Calls on all OSCE participating States to give more attention to their nationality policies which would meet the requirements of the modern multi-national society development;
86. Agrees that states not yet having acceded to or ratified the 1951 Convention on the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol should do so and the legislatures should pass such legislation as is necessary for their implementation;
87. Calls on the OSCE participating States to agree to ensure that, through the operation of national laws, all persons who were citizens of a predecessor State and are permanently residing on the territory of a successor State, enjoy or are unconditionally granted citizenship;
88. Stresses the importance of education and training of refugees, exiles and migrants in the language, values, constitution, history, social and professional circumstances of their new state of residence, including special courses for persons with vocational training in order to teach them the vocabulary and local practices in carrying out their profession;
89. Recommends that the governments of the recipient states offer advisory services on employment and labour markets in the country;

90. Calls on the governments to organize and promote campaigns for tolerance and against xenophobia, racism, chauvinism and aggressive nationalism and to encourage the local authorities, NGOs and the media to organize and support such campaigns and education;
91. Calls upon the governments to pay more attention to the promotion of tolerant attitudes towards refugees, exiles and immigrants in the recipient countries;
92. Suggests further development of international cooperation and exchange of experience, in particular, in obtaining information and advice from countries with extensive experience in dealing with these matters;
93. Appeals to all OSCE governments to pay more attention to matters concerning the adaptation and integration of immigrants, refugees and exiles into the communities of their countries of residence;
94. Recommends the establishment of special authorities in those recipient countries with the most serious problems in these matters and which do not have already special authorities to deal with the adaptation and integration of refugees and displaced persons;
95. Urges the OSCE and the existing relevant international organisations, in particular the UNHCR and the IOM to strengthen their cooperation in questions related to the adaptation and integration of refugees and displaced persons, and to promote the exchange of information and experience amongst the recipient countries, including the countries of final destination and transit countries;
96. Calls for consideration of means to influence the direction of migration by support, including financial and logistic support, to those states which would be willing to receive more refugees and exiles but which, for political, social or other reasons may be less attractive to migrants;
97. Urges mainly the wealthier and traditional recipient countries to assist other states in the construction of necessary infrastructure and other necessities for receiving a larger number of aliens by increasing their voluntary contributions to existing relevant international organisations, in particular the United Nations, the IOM and the European Union;
98. Appeals to the Ministerial Council of the OSCE to devote more attention to these matters and to make efforts to monitor the situation and conditions of refugees, exiles and immigrants in the OSCE states, both in their countries of permanent and temporary residence;
99. Recommends to the Ministerial Council the organization of a seminar or a series of seminars on the problems concerning the adaptation and integration of refugees, exiles and immigrants in the recipient states to be attended by representatives of Governments, Parliaments, international organizations and NGOs;
100. Requests the Ministerial Council to provide information on its actions on these matters to the Sixth Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in Warsaw in July 1997;

101. Calls upon reforming countries as well as Western states to consider negative social aspects of economic transition, such as the trafficking in women from reforming countries and the need for a more coordinated policy to combat this form of organized crime.
