

Its alternative is to continue in its lonely and discredited human rights policies under the smokescreen of allegiance to principle.

Mr. Chairman, this is a time in the history of Europe when many things are possible. Fundamental assumptions are being challenged. The policies of decades are being rethought. The global perspectives of leaders and citizens alike are being changed.

The CSCE continues to be particularly suited to play a key role. Its all-embracing mandate, its ability to respond to a changing environment, its lack of institutional structure, have enabled it to evolve and grow and to continue to serve the needs of the participating states.

In the human dimension, our first task is to realize the promise of Vienna. Progress will not come of itself. There are hard choices for some of us to make. Some of us have serious continuing problems to be addressed, and laws, and practices, and procedures that must be changed. Our dialogue will intensify, not diminish, as this process continues. Issues must be faced squarely; problems must be discussed candidly.

We must all work together to encourage change and maximize the benefits of cooperation, but we must never compromise the standards we have set for ourselves.

What we need to achieve here, and what the many who are watching our deliberations will expect from us, is a renewed commitment to progress in the human dimension, a redoubled effort to implement our Vienna commitments, a clear determination that progress in the human dimension will keep pace with changes in other areas of the CSCE and reinforce the search for confidence and stability.

We have said many times that we do not seek to impose our ideology or our political system on anyone. What we seek is a secure and stable Europe in which people will be free to speak, to travel, to worship; where minority cultures and traditions are nurtured, protected, and freely practised; where the arbitrary exercise of state authority is curbed by the rule of law; and where trust and confidence grow with dialogue and the freer movement of people, information and ideas. This was the dream of those who wrote the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen; it is the attainable objective of all Europe today.