

The European Community (EC), the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the G-24 countries (G-24) and the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) have done much good work in pursuing the programs of co-operation outlined in Bonn. There is, however, still much to do. We can give political impulse to this process through the meeting of our Economic Forum early next year.

We do not need new institutions in the CSCE or elsewhere to help countries deal with the challenge of making the transition to market-based economies. Rather, we need to identify the outstanding problems and key areas requiring attention and use the specialized expertise of existing organizations more effectively.

Caring for the environment is also part of our security. The scramble for the use of scarce natural resources or the threat of environmental devastation are real sources of potential conflict. We must deal with the pressing environmental problems that are all too evident throughout central and eastern Europe.

My government believes that a new type of CSCE experts' meeting -- highly focused, technical, designed to promote co-operation, not draft a document -- could be useful in this area. We would like this meeting to agree to hold an experts' seminar on the question of sustainable forest development that Canada would offer to host in Vancouver next year.

Arms Control and Non-Proliferation

One of the main tasks of this meeting is to set the direction for the new security negotiations.

Our negotiators in Vienna have presented us with a comprehensive set of Confidence- and Security-Building Measures (CSBMs). We will also have an Open Skies Treaty, which will contribute to confidence by ensuring unimpeded access to the territory of the 24 signatory states by each other. Open Skies will enhance verification of the Conventional Armed Forces in Europe Treaty (CFE), which we are all aiming to have ratified and put into effect by the time our Heads of Government meet in July.

That will mark the end of an historic phase of our discussions in the CFE process. When we next meet to negotiate arms control and to discuss the broader security agenda, all CSCE countries will be at the table. This opens up possibilities for progress and new challenges.

Most important of all, the Gulf crisis showed us that concerns about nuclear proliferation were not unfounded. In my view, curtailing nuclear proliferation and the spread of nuclear weapons -- including capabilities and delivery systems -- is the number one security problem for the 1990s.