

## **Halifax Summit: Chairman's Statement**

1. In this 50th anniversary of the end of the Second World War and the birth of the United Nations, we discussed in a spirit of cooperation political issues of global importance. Noting with satisfaction what has been achieved through reconciliation and cooperation, we confirmed our desire to work together ever more closely in finding solutions.

### **Commitment to Multilateral Engagement**

2. We reaffirm our commitment to the UN, whose Charter lays down the fundamental principles for an international order based on peace and security, sustainable development, and respect for human rights. We support measures to strengthen the UN, which is called upon to play an ever more important role in the post Cold War period, and will work with other Member States to build, through concrete reforms of the institutions, a more effective and efficient organization to meet the challenges of the next half-century. We call upon Member States to meet their financial obligations and urge early agreement on reform of the system of assessment.

3. The United Nations must be able to act more quickly and effectively to address threats to international peace and security. We, for our part, are determined to coordinate more closely our individual efforts to assist in the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts. A high priority should be placed on the early warning of crises, political mediation and, in accordance with realistic mandates, the rapid deployment of UN civilian and military personnel, including peacekeepers, to areas of conflict. We encourage further efforts to improve operational planning and procedures for peacekeeping missions as well as to modernize command and control equipment, logistical arrangements and facilities. We also stress the need for measures to ensure the security of UN personnel, including the early entry into force of the recently-adopted UN Convention for the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel. We welcome the growing role of regional organizations and arrangements in building stability and security, in the prevention and management of conflicts, and we attach special importance to reinforcing cooperation between such organizations and the United Nations.

### **Arms Control and Disarmament**

4. We welcome the indefinite extension of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and the commitment of States party to the universalisation of the Treaty as well as their decisions to strengthen the review process and adopt a set of principles and objectives for non-proliferation and disarmament. The entry into force of START I is a major landmark in the process of nuclear arms control, which was greatly helped by the decision of Ukraine to accede to the NPT. We now look forward to the early ratification of START II. We support the safe and secure dismantlement of the nuclear weapons eliminated under START I and we welcome the work of the United States and Russia on