PREFACE

The views expressed in this paper are those of the authors, and do not necessarily reflect the views or positions of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade or of the Government of Canada.

The International Security Research and Outreach Programme commissioned a study to carry out the following tasks:

- (i). Provide a brief introduction to the FSC, outlining its existing mandate, role within the present OSCE structure and interaction with other OSCE bodies, and the issues it was designed to address.
- (ii). Examine the security issues which presently challenge the institutional/organizational abilities of the FSC in its capacity as a forum for security dialogue, making reference to the larger trends in the evolution of the OSCE as they impinge upon the FSC and offering substantive assessments of where these trends can be expected to lead the FSC and its member states.
- (iii). Provide an assessment of whether and how the FSC should evolve to maintain its relevance and ability to meet the challenge of these new security trends.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade wishes to acknowledge the work performed under contract through the International Security Research and Outreach Programme in the preparation of this report by the authors: Dr. S. Neil MacFarlane and Ms. Jennifer Welsh.

(For other ISROP publications, please visit our website at http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/arms/, and proceed to the page entitled "Publications List")

Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade 125 Sussex Drive Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

February 2001