

Each person within society has the same rights -- it does not matter whether they are the minority or majority, male or female. The treatment of minorities is the ultimate proof of how just and decent a society is.

CSCE governments have made a solemn commitment to ensure that all rights are respected. If this requires changes to domestic law, it must be done. If it requires better enforcement of those laws, it must also be done. If it requires action by other CSCE states to ensure compliance, we must use the mechanisms we've established precisely for that purpose.

The guarantee of human rights and fundamental freedoms is the direct and legitimate concern of all participating states. Promoting tolerance is the first, fundamental step.

It is not an easy task. People find too many reasons to be intolerant: ancient hatreds, misconceptions, ignorance, resentment or fear simply because some people are "different." Economic insecurity also breeds resentment and intolerance.

Governments alone cannot build tolerance -- it must be the work of the whole of society. They can, however, declare that intolerance is unacceptable and take specific measures to ensure the rights of minorities.

The persecution or differentiation in treatment of individuals based on race, religion, ethnic or linguistic background can be made illegal. Once made illegal, governments can use the full force of domestic law to prosecute offenders. My delegation will propose some specific ideas in this regard.

We also have to focus on areas that have been neglected -- like the rights of indigenous peoples. We were prevented from making progress on this issue at Moscow. My delegation will work with Denmark and others during this meeting to secure language in our final offer document on this important question.

### **Migration**

We must also ensure that we focus on issues that are potential sources of conflict. One such area is the question of migration. In Prague, we agreed that we would have an expert's meeting on migration. Helsinki must set a date for this meeting, sooner rather than later. We cannot afford to put off any longer a serious discussion among CSCE countries on this question.

### **Economic Prosperity and Environmental Protection**

Economic prosperity is crucial to security. There is no security where there is poverty and deprivation. The Bonn Document, with its landmark commitments to developing market-based economies, recognized this.