

just a new era of goodwill in order to prosper.

Nevertheless, the Middle East is an area in which the utility of aerial observations for confidence building has been proved on several occasions. If the states in the region are determined to achieve a new outlook on their relations with each other, a package of confidence building measures designed to increase transparency in the region would be a useful step. Indeed, the creation of a series of CBMs might well be a necessary forerunner to any success in the security field.

This paper has demonstrated that the recent Open Skies negotiations have identified the crucial issues which must be resolved if an Open Skies agreement is to be achieved in another region. The negotiations have also alluded to the ways in which these issues might play out in any attempt to create an Open Skies regime in another regional context. In the final section, the general lessons outlined in the first were applied to the question of whether the creation of an Open Skies regime is possible in the Middle East. It was argued that some of the concepts which have been developed in the current negotiations would have to be modified if negotiations were to be launched in the Middle East. It might not be possible or desirable for all of the states in the area to have overflight rights of each other, for example. Moreover, as Annex A demonstrates, the experience gained in peacekeeping operations to date would seem to indicate that the creation of a mechanism to undertake the overflights will be a crucial aspect of gaining permission to perform such flights in this region.