

The Disarmament Bulletin

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This is the first in a series of supplements to the *Disarmament Bulletin* that have been prepared by the Department of External Affairs in order to provide a more detailed presentation of Canada's efforts to promote arms control and disarmament.

Cette publication existe également en français.

Canada at the Stockholm Conference



General view of an opening session of the Stockholm Conference.

Reportagebild

The Stockholm Conference, or, as it is formally titled, the Conference on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe, is a creation of the ongoing 35-state Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE). Participants include Canada, the United States and all the European States with the exception of Albania. The first undertaking of the CSCE was the negotiation of the Helsinki Final Act (signed in 1975) which set out a series of principles that were to govern the relations between the participating States. Subsequent CSCE meetings have reviewed the implementation of the Final Act and explored means for improving the level of security and cooperation in Europe. Proceeding on the basis of a mandate carefully worked out at the last CSCE Follow-Up Meeting which concluded in Madrid in September 1983, the Stockholm Conference is "to undertake,

in stages, new, effective and concrete actions designed to make progress in strengthening confidence and security and in achieving disarmament, so as to give effect and expression to the duty of States to refrain from the threat or use of force in their mutual relations."

The first stage of the Conference, which like all CSCE meetings operates on a consensus basis, is specifically devoted "to the negotiation and adoption of a set of mutually complementary confidence- and security-building measures designed to reduce the risk of military confrontation in Europe." These confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs for short) are an elaboration of the modest confidence-building measures (CBMs) contained in the Helsinki Final Act. As such, they are seen as "second generation" measures and part of a novel and still largely undefined approach to East-