

Forecast

Arms control and disarmament activities involving Canada, January through April.

Ongoing: CSCE Forum for Security Cooperation, Vienna

Ongoing: CFE Joint Consultative Group, Vienna

Ongoing: Open Skies Consultative Commission, Vienna

January: CTBT negotiations due to begin in the CD, Geneva

January 17-21: NPT Review Conference Preparatory Committee meeting, New York

January 25 - March 31: CD in session, Geneva

March 14-18: OAS meeting of experts on CBMs in the region, Buenos Aires

March 22-23: Australia Group regional seminar, Buenos Aires

March 28-31: Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting to review activities conducted under the provisions of the Vienna Document 1992, Vienna

April 18 - May 9: UN Disarmament Commission, New York

Since 1989 and the dramatic changes in Europe, Canada has worked hard and with great success to promote the evolution of the CSCE from an East-West forum into a cooperative security forum and a strong regional organization. Canada is encouraging the development of flexible and pragmatic CSCE relations with other regional organizations such as the European Union, NATO and the Council of Europe, as well as with the UN.

In 1990, recognizing that the new Europe was likely to be unstable, Canada put forward a series of proposals for establishing conflict prevention and management mechanisms, including the Conflict Prevention Centre. Canada promoted the concept of cooperative security, which recognizes that human rights, democratic development and economic stability are all integral and interdependent components of security.

At specialized meetings on the third basket, or "human dimension," Canada secured commitments in new areas, such as independence of the judiciary and women's rights, as well as additional commitments in the area of national minorities. Canada was instrumental in the development of a human dimension inter-state reporting mechanism, designed to encourage states to implement the commitments they had made.

At the CSCE Helsinki Summit in 1992, Canada played a key role in shaping the final document and was directly responsible for commitments in areas such as racism and intolerance, international humanitarian law, peacekeeping, humanitarian ceasefires and indigenous populations. As well, Canada secured commitments to continue cooperation on issues related to the transition to market economies by establishing this focus for one meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials each year, to be known as the Economic Forum.

In 1992, some of Canada's proposals on preventive diplomacy and conflict management became reality: CSCE states agreed to establish early warning mechanisms and fact-finding and long-duration missions. Since then, the CSCE has been active in conflict prevention efforts, deploying more than a dozen fact-finding missions, representatives and longer-term missions with differing mandates designed to assist in solving security problems. CSCE missions are or have been deployed in Estonia, Moldova, Latvia, Georgia-Ossetia, Nagorno-Karabakh, Tajikistan and two states of the former Yugoslavia. In addition, the CSCE has sent a team to analyze the situation of ethnic minorities in Hungary and Slovakia, teams to assist states near Serbia-Montenegro in the application of UN sanctions, teams to inspect places of detention in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and missions to new participating states to report on their human rights situations. Canadians have taken part in nearly all of these missions and have led two of them.

In September 1993, Canada hosted the CSCE's first-ever experts meeting on the sustainable development of forests. The event, which was held in Montreal, resulted in substantial progress, as experts developed a set of criteria for sustainable forest development.

For Canada, the CSCE represents a relatively low-cost investment in European security. Our assessed contributions, which cover institutions, meetings and missions, totalled approximately \$1.76 million in 1990-91, \$1.64 million in 1991-92 and \$1.84 million in 1992-93. At the CSCE Council meeting in Rome on November 30 and December 1, Canada reaffirmed its commitment to the CSCE as a vital, pan-Eurasian, transatlantic institution.

Acronyms

BTWC — Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention
 CD — Conference on Disarmament
 CFE — Conventional Armed Forces in Europe
 C(S)BM — confidence- (and security-) building measure
 CSCE — Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe
 CTBT — comprehensive test ban treaty
 CW(C) — Chemical Weapons (Convention)
 DFAIT — Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
 DND — Department of National Defence
 EC — European Community (now Union)
 ESDI — European Security and Defence Identity
 FSC — Forum for Security Cooperation
 IAEA — International Atomic Energy Agency
 ISTS — Institute for Space and Terrestrial Science
 JCG — (CFE) Joint Consultative Group
 NACC — North Atlantic Cooperation Council
 NPT — Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty
 OAS — Organization of American States
 OPCW — Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons
 OSCC — Open Skies Consultative Commission
 START — Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty
 TLE — Treaty-limited equipment
 UNDC — United Nations Disarmament Commission
 UNGA — UN General Assembly
 UNIDIR — UN Institute for Disarmament Research
 UNSCOM — UN Special Commission
 VCC — (CFE) Verification Coordinating Committee
 WEU — Western European Union

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