

Summit political discussions often focus on East-West relations. For example, leaders at Versailles in 1982 and London in 1984 agreed on a general approach to East-West economic relations. The Williamsburg Summit in 1983 associated Japan with a Declaration on the indivisibility of the security of Summit countries. The 1985 Bonn Summit's "Political Declaration on the 40th Anniversary of the end of the Second World War" was a statement of democratic values shared by Summit countries, as was the 1986 Tokyo Declaration "Looking Towards a Better Future." Summits have also frequently addressed specific aspects of East-West relations such as arms control and Afghanistan. In its "Statement on East-West Relations," the Venice Summit of 1987 produced what was, in effect, a statement of common approach to the Soviet Union under General Secretary Gorbachev — with respect to arms control, Afghanistan and other issues such as human rights.

Over the years Summits have also dealt with terrorism. The Bonn Declaration of 1978 was a major achievement in combating aircraft hijackings. At Venice last year, leaders reaffirmed their commitment to statements on terrorism made at previous summits, and took decisions to strengthen and extend the Bonn Declaration.

Leaders often discuss crises that occur around the time of the Summit. For example, the Chernobyl nuclear accident and freedom of navigation in the Persian Gulf have been the subjects of statements at the last two Summits.

Summit Foreign Ministers exchange views on a broad range of political issues. In addition to East-West and North-South relations, Foreign Ministers generally discuss regional conflicts such as the Middle East, South Africa, Central America, Afghanistan, Kampuchea, and the Iran-Iraq War. They report to leaders on their discussions and help them shape the final text of any political declarations.

At Toronto leaders will probably, as at past summits, discuss East-West relations. It will be a subject of particular interest in the aftermath of the Moscow Summit between President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev that took place May 29 to June 2.