

The final documents resulting from these negotiations will be approved and signed at Stage III of the Conference which will be held, in Helsinki, as soon as consensus can be reached on the content of the documents. Depending on the content and importance of these documents Stage III will be attended by Ministers of Foreign Affairs or Heads of Governments.

From the point of view of international law, the discussions of greatest interest and relevance are those being conducted in Basket I, i.e. the political and military aspects of security. Discussions of the military aspects of security, in view of the Mutual and Balanced Force Reduction Talks (MBFR) concurrently being held in Vienna and the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) and the continuing work of the Combined Committee on Disarmament (CCD) etc. have been mainly limited to what are known as Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) such as prior notification of major troop manoeuvres and the attendance of observers at such manoeuvres.

With regard to the political aspects of security, agreement was reached at Stage I on a list of ten guiding principles to be elaborated by the Conference to serve as a guide to the conduct of participating states in the conduct of their relations inter se. These are:

- sovereign equality, respect for the rights inherent in sovereignty;
- refraining from the threat or use of force;
- inviolability of frontiers;
- territorial integrity of states;
- peaceful settlement of disputes;
- non intervention in internal affairs;
- respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief;
- equal rights and self-determination of peoples;
- cooperation among States;
- fulfilment in good faith of obligations under international law.