

Key Issues

The OSCE is active in conflict prevention and crisis management efforts. Since 1992, it has made extensive use of short- and long-term monitoring missions with the objective of promoting dialogue between the parties, collecting information on human rights issues and promoting solutions. Long-term missions are currently deployed in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chechnya, Croatia, Estonia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Georgia, Latvia, Moldova, Tajikistan, and Ukraine.

The Dayton Peace Agreement for Bosnia and Herzegovina identified the OSCE as the lead agency to set up and conduct the presidential and parliamentary elections, to monitor human rights, and to organize and conduct negotiations on military stabilization in the region.

The OSCE has also been active in the search for a solution to the Chechnya crisis. An OSCE assistance group was deployed in April 1995 to help settle the dispute, monitor human rights, collect information on human rights abuses, and co-ordinate humanitarian assistance.

A framework for promoting compliance with human rights commitments includes human dimension implementation meetings held every two years, as well as the work of the OSCE's Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and the High Commissioner on National Minorities.

The Parliamentary Assembly consists of parliamentarians from each participating state. It meets annually to review events and provide political support to the OSCE's activities. Members of the Assembly also participate in OSCE election-monitoring activities. The fifth Parliamentary Assembly was held in Stockholm in July 1996.

The Future

The 1994 Budapest Summit initiated discussion on a security model for Europe for the 21st century, including the long-term role of the OSCE. Discussions at the Lisbon Summit in 1996 will also include the security of Europe and OSCE's role in countries where internal tensions and conflict threaten stability.