

4.2. Statement at the 48th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

New York, 16 November 1993

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates,

It is a great pleasure and indeed an honour for the Secretary General of the CSCE to address the General Assembly on the issue of co-operation between the United Nations and the CSCE. Your discussion today, the granting of observer status to the CSCE, the formal establishment of a framework for co-operation between the UN and the CSCE – all this serves one purpose: to establish firmly and to improve mutually reinforcing co-operation.

As a regional arrangement, under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations the CSCE wants to make a contribution to the implementation of the UN policy concepts, as outlined in the Agenda for Peace prepared by the Secretary General of the United Nations, Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali. His report stresses that “regional arrangements are agencies that in many cases possess a potential that should be utilised in serving the functions (of) preventive diplomacy, peacekeeping, peacemaking and post-conflict peace building”. Such regional action can considerably lighten the heavy burden of the United Nations and in particular of the Security Council. This was certainly the intention of the founding fathers and mothers of the United Nations. Therefore, they laid down in Article 52 of the Charter that the members of the United Nations participating in such regional arrangements “shall make every effort to achieve specific settlement of local disputes through such regional arrangements... **before** referring them to the Security Council.”

Mr. Chairman,

The CSCE has been launched more than 20 years ago with the Helsinki Final Act of 1975 being its founding political constitution. But the fundamental changes in the geopolitical environment within the CSCE area at the turn of the last decade led to dramatic transformation of the CSCE’s mission and profile. It became a vehicle for managing this historical change with new tasks and new activities.

The new CSCE is based on a comprehensive concept of security. It relates closely the maintenance of peace to the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It links economic and environmental solidarity and co-operation with peaceful inter-State relations. CSCE participating States are convinced that this is the time for exploring all opportunities for new co-operative approaches to strengthening security, including the revitalisation and consolidation of the principle of indivisible security.

The human dimension, i.e. human rights, democracy and the rule of law, are the heart of the CSCE. Norms and commitments in this field have been elevated to unparalleled high levels. They are politically binding but the adherence is monitored in a co-operative system. When human dimension implementation gives rise to concern a

variety of CSCE mechanisms is available, including fact finding and rapporteur missions.

At the Moscow Human Dimension Meeting of the CSCE in September 1991, the participating States declared categorically and irrevocably that the commitments undertaken in the field of the human dimension "are matters of direct and legitimate concern to all participating States and do not belong exclusively to the internal affairs of the State concerned". This breakthrough levelled down the traditionally almost insurmountable walls of national sovereignty. In the interest of peace and stability it opened the way for CSCE involvement at an early stage not only in external but also in internal conflicts related to human dimension issues.

Full integration of the human dimension into the broader range of conflict prevention instruments is one of the priority tasks of the CSCE. On this basis the CSCE tries to face the formidable challenges of ongoing wars, ethnic tensions and overall lack of progress towards new stability in the CSCE area. Under the dynamic guidance of the Chairman-in-Office of the CSCE, the Swedish Foreign Minister, Mme M. af Ugglas, new impulse has been given to CSCE tasks in the fields of operation, consultation and negotiation.

CSCE operations have extended considerably. Concrete and practical contributions to conflict prevention and, in some cases, crisis management were made by the rapidly growing number of CSCE missions in the field, by the expanding activities of the CSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and by the CSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities.

The overall number of CSCE missions operative this year has been eight. Their mandates vary from early warning to crisis management. Some of them have diplomatic/civilian as well as military staff members. The missions are deployed in the Balkans, the Baltic and the Caucuses area. All the missions contributed, in varying degrees, to stabilising the respective situations. The CSCE is also faced with the problem that the mission of its mandates have to be extended because further time is necessary for satisfying results. While realising that for conflict prevention and crisis management with peaceful means patience is of essence, regular and careful review of the situation is undertaken in order to insure that all parties to the conflict continue to be co-operative. It has to be underlined again and again that the conflicting parties can not expect the missions to solve their problems but that they have to engage themselves in a quest for settlement. As all efforts for crisis settlement are becoming increasingly difficult and often lead to unbearable suffering of people, the CSCE tries to improve its possibilities for conflict prevention. The first CSCE High Commissioner for National Minorities, Mr. Max van der Stoep of the Netherlands, took office in January 1993. He has the task of providing early warning and, as appropriate, early action at the earliest possible stage in regard to tensions involving national minority issues. In this framework he was very active in a great number of States, particularly in the Baltic and in the Balkans. The very positive response to this intensive activity of the CSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities in his first year of office showed that flexible, discreet and authoritative advice based on broad international support is a promising answer to our new challenges.

It is the common understanding of all CSCE participating States laid down in the decisions of the Helsinki Summit 1992 that CSCE peacekeeping operations will not entail enforcement action. This is one of the compelling reasons for close co-operation and co-ordination between the CSCE and the UN. Because continuity of crisis management must be ensured if the application of peaceful means proves to be ineffective.

During the last year, CSCE consultations have achieved a new dimension. Since January, representatives of CSCE participating States meet in Vienna regularly, at least once a week, to conduct consultations on all issues pertinent to the CSCE. Urgent matters can be decided on the spot. These consultations have centred around the conflicts with which the CSCE is seized. In addition, and as an important element of the development of a co-operative security structure, participating States can raise and are raising in this forum particular political and security concerns.

CSCE negotiations focused on measures of disarmament and confidence and security building. In the CSCE area the old threats of all out military confrontation are gone. But large military potentials remain while the area is facing new challenges. There is a risk of fragmentation of European security. The immediate concern is localised, typically small scale resort to force in the CSCE area. The CSCE is developing new arrangements to respond better to these challenges and to counter the abuse of force. Decisions on transparency of defence planning, stabilising measures for localised crisis situations, principles of arms transfers and military contacts are now under preparation. A new code of conduct governing relations between States on security related matters would be a landmark contribution to co-operative security approaches.

Mr. Chairman,

I have mentioned these CSCE activities to underline complementarity of CSCE and UN action. The CSCE has a deep and sincere interest in mutually reinforcing co-operation with the UN but also with other regional organisations. Each should preserve its own area of action and responsibility. We have to look for a constructive division of labour on the basis of comparative advantages. As our means will hardly suffice to meet all challenges we can not allow for duplication of efforts.

The many positive comments on further co-operation are really encouraging. I am fully confident that the co-operation between the UN and the CSCE will progress. This will increase the potential available for solving the challenges that are facing us. Let us do what our peoples and our governments rightfully expect.

I thank you for your attention.