

ARMS CONTROL AND REGIONAL SECURITY WORKING GROUP
CO-CHAIRMEN'S CONCLUDING REMARKS
DOHA, MAY 5, 1994

THE FIFTH PLENARY OF THE ARMS CONTROL AND REGIONAL SECURITY (ACRS) WORKING GROUP WAS HELD IN DOHA, QATAR, MAY 3-5, 1994, WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF 43 REGIONAL AND EXTRA-REGIONAL DELEGATIONS. THIS WAS THE FIRST ACRS PLENARY HELD IN THE MIDDLE EAST REGION AND ALL DELEGATIONS EXPRESSED THEIR DEEP APPRECIATION TO THE STATE OF QATAR FOR HOSTING THE MEETING.

THE PARTICIPANTS APPLAUDED THE RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE BILATERAL PEACE PROCESS, INCLUDING THE MAY 4 CAIRO AGREEMENT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ISRAEL-PALESTINIAN DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES. THE HOPE WAS EXPRESSED THAT PROGRESS WOULD CONTINUE TO BE ACHIEVED ON ALL BILATERAL TRACKS, AND THE INTENTION WAS REAFFIRMED FOR THE ACRS WORKING GROUP TO CONTINUE TO COMPLEMENT AND PROCEED APACE WITH THIS PROCESS.

THE MEETING REVIEWED THE RESULTS OF THE CAIRO CONCEPTUAL AND THE ANTALYA OPERATIONAL BASKET MEETINGS AND THE NEXT STEPS SUGGESTED BY THOSE MEETINGS FOR MOVING FORWARD. THE CO-SPONSORS, IN THEIR ROLE AS MENTORS, SUMMARIZED THE RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CAIRO CONCEPTUAL BASKET MEETING. THE PARTICIPANTS REVIEWED AND DISCUSSED THE DRAFT DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES AND STATEMENTS OF INTENT ON ARMS CONTROL AND REGIONAL SECURITY THAT WAS DEVELOPED AT THE CAIRO MEETING. THE WORKING GROUP AGREED THAT THE ACRS WORKING GROUP SHOULD ISSUE ITS OWN DECLARATION FOCUSED ON ARMS CONTROL AND REGIONAL SECURITY. THEY AGREED THAT THE REVISED DRAFT DOHA DECLARATION, AS DISTRIBUTED BY THE CO-SPONSORS, WHICH INCORPORATES REVISIONS IN THE PREAMBLE AND SECTION I FROM THE CAIRO DRAFT, WOULD SERVE AS THE BASIS FOR FURTHER WORK, AND AGREED TO HOLD A CAREFULLY PREPARED INTERSESSIONAL MEETING THAT WOULD BE DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO FINALIZING THE DECLARATION.

THE QATARI DELEGATION SUBMITTED A WORKING PAPER ON ITS VIEWS OF LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES, PROPOSED STEPS TO ACHIEVE THESE OBJECTIVES, AND RELATED SUBJECTS AS A CONTRIBUTION TO FURTHER WORK IN THE NEXT CONCEPTUAL BASKET. THE CO-SPONSORS AGAIN URGED ALL REGIONAL PARTIES WHICH HAVE NOT DONE SO TO PREPARE PAPERS ON LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES.

THE WORKING GROUP CONTINUED ITS DISCUSSIONS ON LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES. PARTICIPANTS AGREED THAT THE CO-SPONSORS SHOULD TAKE THE LEAD IN SOLICITING NATIONAL STATEMENTS OF LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES IN THE AREA OF ARMS CONTROL AND REGIONAL SECURITY AND VIEWS ON POSSIBLE PATHS TOWARDS THE ATTAINMENT OF THOSE OBJECTIVES FROM REGIONAL PARTIES THAT HAVE NOT YET PROVIDED SUCH STATEMENTS AND VIEWS. ON THE BASIS OF SUCH STATEMENTS, AS WELL AS THOSE ALREADY RECEIVED, THE CO-SPONSORS WOULD PREPARE AN ANALYSIS OF AREAS OF COMMONALITY AND DIFFERENCE AS A BASIS FOR DISCUSSION BY REGIONAL PARTIES. AS A CONTRIBUTION TO THE GROUP'S CONSIDERATION OF LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES, THE FRENCH DELEGATION, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE RUSSIAN AND U.S. MENTORS, OFFERED TO HOST A WORKSHOP, AS PART OF THE CONCEPTUAL BASKET, WITH ONE SESSION DISCUSSING THE CO-SPONSORS' ANALYSIS AND ANOTHER SESSION ADDRESSING THE MIDDLE EAST SECURITY ENVIRONMENT AND REGIONAL THREAT PERCEPTIONS. FACILITATING DISCUSSION OF THESE ISSUES WOULD BE A QUESTIONNAIRE DISTRIBUTED

IN ADVANCE BY FRANCE TO REGIONAL PARTIES. THE FRENCH PROPOSAL TO HOST THE WORKSHOP WAS WELLCOMED WITH APPRECIATION AND ADOPTED.

FOLLOWING THE SUGGESTION BY THE CAIRO CONCEPTUAL BASKET MEETING THAT REGIONAL SECURITY BE ELABORATED AND DISCUSSED, THE ISRAELI DELEGATION SUBMITTED A PAPER ON REGIONAL SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS AS A CONTRIBUTION TO FURTHER WORK IN THE NEXT CONCEPTUAL BASKET. PARTICIPANTS AGREED TO FURTHER EXPLORATION OF THE CONCEPT OF A CONFLICT PREVENTION/REGIONAL SECURITY CENTER, AND THERE WAS SUPPORT FOR THE POTENTIAL UTILITY OF AN INTERIM CPC/RSC LOCATED OUTSIDE THE REGION. AN OFFER WAS MADE BY THE QATARI DELEGATION TO HOST THE PERMANENT CPC/RSC ONCE PEACE IS ACHIEVED ON THE BILATERAL TRACKS. THE QATARI OFFER WAS NOTED AND WELCOMED WITH APPRECIATION. THE QATARI DELEGATION EXPRESSED ITS SATISFACTION WITH THE WORKING GROUP'S RESPONSE AND ADDED THAT IT WOULD VISIT THE CSCE CONFLICT PREVENTION CENTER IN VIENNA. OFFERS WERE MADE BY AUSTRALIA AND AUSTRIA TO HELP DEVELOP APPROPRIATE INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND TO COORDINATE WITH INTERESTED REGIONAL PARTIES IN DEVELOPING THEIR IDEAS FOR A MIDDLE EAST CPC/RSC. IT ALSO WAS SUGGESTED THAT EXPERTISE FROM THE CSCE CONFLICT PREVENTION CENTER BE MADE AVAILABLE.

THE RUSSIAN CO-SPONSOR REVIEWED ITS PROPOSAL TO DEVELOP SOFTWARE FOR A MIDDLE EAST DATA BANK, FOLLOWING-UP ON ITS PRESENTATION AT THE CAIRO CONCEPTUAL BASKET MEETING. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RECOMMENDATION ADOPTED IN CAIRO, THE RUSSIAN CO-SPONSOR FURTHER REFINED SOFTWARE FOR THE DATA BANK AND PROVIDED PARTIES WITH A DEMONSTRATION OF THE FEATURES OF THE DATA BANK. THE PARTICIPANTS EXPRESSED THEIR APPRECIATION FOR THE DEMONSTRATION, AND ENDORSED THE RUSSIAN CO-SPONSOR TO CONTINUE DEVELOPMENT OF THE DATA BANK BY RUSSIA, IN CONSULTATION WITH REGIONAL PARTIES, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE OPERATIONAL CBMS UNDER DISCUSSION. THE DUTCH AND RUSSIAN DELEGATIONS AGREED TO PREPARE A PAPER, IN CONSULTATION WITH INTERESTED REGIONAL PARTIES, ON THE COMPATIBILITY OF THE DATA BANK WITH THE REGIONAL COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK'S SOFTWARE AND HARDWARE WITH THE VIEW TO PRESENT IT AT THE NEXT OPERATIONAL BASKET MEETING.

THE ISRAELI DELEGATION OFFERED TO HOST THE ACRS DATA BANK, WHICH WAS NOTED AND WELCOMED WITH APPRECIATION.

THE WORKING GROUP CONTINUED TO CONSIDER VERIFICATION ISSUES. PARTIES WELCOMED A JOINT OFFER BY THE SWISS AND FINNISH DELEGATIONS TO VISIT A CW VERIFICATION-RELATED FACILITY IN SPIEZ, SWITZERLAND AND A SIMILIAR TYPE OF FACILITY AND TRAINING PROGRAM IN HELSINKI, FINLAND. THE PARTIES ACCEPTED THE SWISS OFFER, WHICH WAS FIRST WELCOMED AT THE 1993 MOSCOW PLENARY, AND AGREED TO CONSIDER THE FINNISH OFFER FOR A FUTURE INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITY. THEY ALSO ACCEPTED A PROPOSAL TO VISIT A NUCLEAR POWER PLANT IN EUROPE, WHERE A DEMONSTRATION OF VERIFICATION TECHNIQUES COULD BE OFFERED AND WHERE EXPERTS FROM THE IAEA AND EURATOM COULD EXPLAIN HOW REGIONAL VERIFICATION STRUCTURES AND ACTIVITIES COMPLEMENT INTERNATIONAL VERIFICATION EFFORTS IN EUROPE. THE GROUP ALSO WELCOMED THE OFFER IN THE FIELD OF VERIFICATION BY GERMANY. IN ADDITION, THE EGYPTIAN DELEGATION REAFFIRMED ITS INTEREST IN FURTHER WORK IN THE NUCLEAR VERIFICATION FIELD AND ITS PROPOSAL THAT THE IAEA PREPARE A MODEL SAFEGUARDS REGIME FOR A NUCLEAR WEAPONS FREE ZONE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

THE ISRAELI DELEGATION PROPOSED THAT THE WORKING GROUP CONSIDER ADDING CIVIL DEFENSE AS AN AGENDA ITEM WITHIN THE CONCEPTUAL BASKET.

THE WORKING GROUP CONTINUED TO CONSIDER THE SUBJECTS OF DELINEATION OF THE MIDDLE EAST REGION FOR PURPOSES OF ARMS CONTROL AND REGIONAL SECURITY AND OF PAST ARMS CONTROL PROPOSALS FOR THE MIDDLE EAST. THE ISRAELI DELEGATION SUBMITTED A PAPER ON CONSIDERATIONS AND CRITERIA FOR DELINEATION OF THE MIDDLE EAST FOR PURPOSES OF ARMS CONTROL AND REGIONAL SECURITY, WHICH WILL BE DISCUSSED FURTHER AT THE NEXT CONCEPTUAL BASKET. EGYPT AGREED TO PREPARE A PAPER ON ELEMENTS FOR BEGINNING NEGOTIATIONS ON ARMS CONTROL MEASURES ON CONVENTIONAL ARMS, NUCLEAR, CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS AND BALLISTIC MISSILES WHICH ALSO WILL BE CONSIDERED AT THE NEXT CONCEPTUAL BASKET.

THE WORKING GROUP REVIEWED THE RESULTS OF THE ANTALYA OPERATIONAL BASKET MEETING, ENDORSED THE WORK DONE AND EXPRESSED DEEP APPRECIATION TO CANADA, THE NETHERLANDS AND TURKEY FOR THEIR CONTINUED VALUABLE WORK AS MENTORS.

IN THE AREA OF MARITIME CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURES, THE PARTICIPANTS AGREED TO THE SAR AND INCSEA DEMONSTRATION AS PROPOSED BY CANADA TO BE HELD PREFERABLY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN, IF POSSIBLE OFF THE COAST OF TURKEY, POSSIBLY IN LATE JUNE OR EARLY JULY. CANADA ALSO REPORTED ON THE OTHER PROGRESS ACHIEVED ON MARITIME MEASURES AT ANTALYA AND PRESENTED SUGGESTED FOLLOW-ON WORK FOR SEARCH AND RESCUE. THE PARTICIPANTS REAFFIRMED THE SHARED OBJECTIVE OF ENHANCING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF SEARCH AND RESCUE IN THE REGION IN ORDER TO PROMOTE HUMANITARIAN GOALS, RECOGNIZING THAT REDUCING SAR RESPONSE TIME THROUGH INCREASED COOPERATION CAN HELP SAVE LIVES. THE PARTIES REAFFIRMED THE IMPORTANCE OF TAKING INTO ACCOUNT REGIONAL AS WELL AS SUB-REGIONAL SAR NEEDS, INCLUDING APPROPRIATE TRAINING, EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION, AND OTHER INTERESTS. THE PARTICIPANTS WELCOMED FURTHER WORK ON SAR DESIGNED TO ENHANCE COOPERATION IN THE REGION.

ON PREVENTION OF INCIDENTS AT SEA (INCSEA), THE PARTICIPANTS AGREED THAT AN INCSEA INSTRUMENT WOULD BE A PRACTICAL AND DESIRABLE WAY OF ENHANCING CONFIDENCE IN THE REGION AND REDUCING THE RISK OF NAVAL ACCIDENTS. THE WORKING GROUP SUPPORTED THE WORK DONE AT ANTALYA, AND ENDORSED CONTINUED WORK ON THE CANADIAN DRAFT INCSEA FRAMEWORK AND PERCEPTIONS PAPER, AND CALLED FOR CONTINUED WORK ON THIS INCSEA FRAMEWORK DURING THE UPCOMING INTERSESSIONAL PERIOD. THE PARTICIPANTS NOTED THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING GREATER NAVAL PARTICIPATION FROM THE REGION IN INCSEA MEETINGS. TO FACILITATE THIS OBJECTIVE, THE CANADIAN MENTOR PROPOSED TO HOST A MEETING OF SENIOR NAVAL OFFICERS IN CANADA IN THE SUMMER, WHICH WAS AGREED TO BY THE PARTICIPANTS.

THE WORK IN THE AREA OF INFORMATION EXCHANGE, INCLUDING PRENOTIFICATION OF CERTAIN MILITARY ACTIVITIES, WAS REVIEWED BY THE TURKISH MENTOR. IN INFORMATION EXCHANGE, THE PARTICIPANTS ENDORSED FURTHER ACTIVE DELIBERATIONS BY EXPERTS ON EXCHANGE OF MILITARY INFORMATION ON THE BASIS OF THE TURKISH MENTOR'S SUMMARY, AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION SHOULD BEGIN AT AN EARLY DATE. THE PARTICIPANTS REVIEWED THE WORK DONE ON THE TEXT OF THE ILLUSTRATIVE PRENOTIFICATION MEASURE AS AN EFFECTIVE TOOL FOR FURTHER DELIBERATION AND ALSO ENDORSED FURTHER ACTIVE

EXPLORATION OF THE FULL RANGE OF ISSUES WHICH REGIONAL PARTIES HAVE IDENTIFIED IN THIS AREA.

TWO INVITATIONS ISSUED IN ANTALYA WERE SUBMITTED TO THE PLENARY. THE TURKISH DELEGATION OFFERED TO HOST A VISIT TO AN AIR BASE. THE ISRAELI DELEGATION OFFERED TO HOST A VISIT TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING FACILITIES: THE SCHOOL OF MILITARY MEDICINE, THE HAIFA NAVAL SIMULATOR/NAVAL TRAINING BASE, OR THE NATIONAL SECURITY ACADEMY. THE INVITATIONS WERE NOTED WITH APPRECIATION.

IN COMMUNICATIONS, IT WAS AGREED TO ESTABLISH AN ACRS COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK, LOCATED ON AN INTERIM BASIS IN THE HAGUE USING THE COMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE OF THE CSCE AS A HUB. PARTICIPANTS EXPRESSED THEIR GRATITUDE TO THE CSCE AND TO THE DUTCH MENTOR FOR THIS OFFER. THE CO-SPONSORS URGE ALL REGIONAL PARTIES TO JOIN THE ACRS COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK. THE DUTCH MENTOR AND THE CO-SPONSORS WILL WORK WITH REGIONAL PARTIES TOWARD HAVING THE SYSTEM OPERATIONAL BEFORE THE NEXT PLENARY. TOWARDS THIS END, THE DUTCH OFFERED TO HOST A TRAINING COURSE FOR OPERATORS AND EXPERTS. THE WORKING GROUP WELCOMED A DRAFT PREPARED BY THE DUTCH MENTOR OF POSSIBLE PROCEDURES FOR THE OPERATION OF THE ACRS COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK AND AGREED TO REVIEW THE ILLUSTRATED PROCEDURES AND HAVE THE DUTCH MENTOR ISSUE SUCH INTERIM STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR THE NETWORK, ON THE BASIS OF DISCUSSION WITH THE REGIONAL PARTIES.

THE PARTICIPANTS ALSO AGREED TO THE ESTABLISHMENT, AS SOON AS PRACTICAL, OF A PERMANENT NETWORK IN THE REGION, USING AS A STARTING POINT THE TECHNICAL ARRANGEMENT PROPOSED BY THE EGYPTIAN DELEGATION. THE PARTIES ONCE AGAIN WELCOMED EGYPT'S OFFER TO HOST THE PERMANENT REGIONAL NETWORK AND EXPRESSED STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF EGYPT'S PROPOSAL IN ALL ITS ASPECTS. THE INTENTION WAS REAFFIRMED TO USE AS MANY ELEMENTS AS POSSIBLE FROM THE TEMPORARY NETWORK IN A PERMANENT NETWORK. EGYPT, THE DUTCH MENTOR, CO-SPONSORS, AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES WILL WORK TOGETHER ON THAT EFFORT.

THE CO-SPONSORS, IN CONSULTATION WITH REGIONAL PARTIES AND MENTORS, MAY ARRANGE FOR ADDITIONAL MEETINGS OF ALREADY AGREED UPON ACTIVITIES AS NECESSARY TO SUPPORT THE ACRS PROCESS.

WHILE THE WORKING GROUP SEEKS TO ARRIVE AT ITS GOALS ON A REGION-WIDE BASIS, THE DECISION TO PARTICIPATE IN ACRS ACTIVITIES AND ARRANGEMENTS SET BY THE WORKING GROUP RESTS WITH EACH OF ITS PARTICIPANTS AND IS VOLUNTARY.

THE WORKING GROUP ONCE AGAIN RECOGNIZED AND EXPRESSED ITS APPRECIATION FOR THE ACTIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE EXTRA-REGIONAL PARTIES CONTINUE TO PLAY. THE WORKING GROUP ENCOURAGES THOSE PARTIES TO CONTINUE TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THE CO-SPONSORS AND MENTORS TO MAKE APPROPRIATE CONTRIBUTIONS, INCLUDING HOSTING OR PARTICIPATING AS EXPERTS IN INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITIES, IN SUPPORT OF THE OBJECTIVES OF THE ACRS WORKING GROUP.

THE WORKING GROUP EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF ACTIVE AND REGULAR EXPERT PARTICIPATION BY ALL REGIONAL PARTIES, INCLUDING INCREASED PARTICIPATION BY

MILITARY OFFICERS IN ORDER TO INCREASE FAMILIARITY AND FURTHER CONFIDENCE BUILDING THROUGH MILITARY-TO-MILITARY CONTACTS.

A REQUEST WAS MADE BY REGIONAL PARTIES THAT ARABIC TRANSLATION BE PROVIDED. THE WORKING GROUP AGREED THAT HOST COUNTRIES FOR ACRS ACTIVITIES HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITIES TO PROVIDE APPROPRIATE LANGUAGE TRANSLATION SERVICES.

PARTIES AGREED ON THE VALUE AND PRACTICALITY OF ORGANIZING THE BULK OF THE INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITIES INTO BASKETS. THE WORKING GROUP RECOMMENDED THAT THIS APPROACH BE CONTINUED, EXCEPT WHEN PARTICULAR ACTIVITIES ARE BEST SERVED BY HOLDING THEM INDIVIDUALLY.

THE CO-SPONSORS, IN CONSULTATION WITH INTERESTED REGIONAL PARTIES AND MENTORS, WILL DETERMINE THE APPROPRIATE VENUE AND TIMING FOR THE CONCEPTUAL AND OPERATIONAL BASKETS, OTHER INTERSESSIONAL EVENTS AND THE NEXT PLENARY, WITH CONTINUED PRIORITY ON HOLDING THESE SESSIONS IN THE REGION.