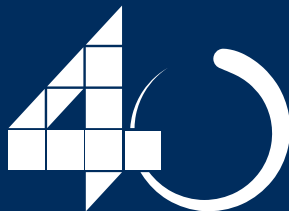




Helsinki Final Act

1975 • HELSINKI FINAL ACT • 2015





**|** *This publication has been prepared on the occasion of the 40-year anniversary of the signing of the Helsinki Final Act, a founding document of the OSCE.*

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***Edward Nalbandian***

***Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia***

This year marks important anniversaries: the Centenary of the Armenian Genocide, seventy years of the end of the Second World War and forty years of signing of the Helsinki Final Act. These events shaped not only our past but have also guided us in our efforts to ensure comprehensive, co-operative and indivisible security community throughout our shared OSCE area, free of dividing lines, wars and genocides. These goals should be based on our full adherence to fundamental norms and principles of international law enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and common OSCE commitments across all three dimensions set forth by the Helsinki Final Act as essential prerequisites in safeguarding peace and security. Such principles as cooperation between states, equal rights and self-determination of peoples lie at the heart of peaceful coexistence in Europe. They have been tested by time and endured both periods of peaceful transformation and crisis. Armenia highly appreciates the cooperation within the OSCE in pursuing its agenda of reforms in security sector, implementation of the economic and environmental projects and strengthening the respect to human rights. The OSCE Office in Yerevan, which is the only full-fledged OSCE office in the South Caucasus, has been an important partner in this regard.





*Lamberto Zannier*

*Secretary General of the OSCE*

We need to understand that we live in a rapidly changing world full of increasingly complex security challenges, so we must ensure that our divisions do not keep us from working together on the larger, more global and transnational challenges that affect the lives of our citizens and all participating States without exception. Looking back, we should be inspired by the leaders who, despite the stark divisions at the time, developed a vision and mustered the courage to put in place the foundations of the security system which have served us well for forty years – but which are now in jeopardy. As I have tried to do for myself, I believe that we should all make an effort to look back in order to seek inspiration to move forward with renewed determination.





*Ambassador Andrey Sorokin*

*Head of the OSCE Office in Yerevan*

The Helsinki Final Act is the cornerstone of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe. Its “Decalogue”, or ten principles, governs the behaviour of the participating States towards their citizens, as well as towards each other. The Final Act went beyond traditional military guarantees of stability by incorporating economic development, concerns for the environment, cultural affairs and human rights into a comprehensive concept of security. What we gained four decades ago in Helsinki was a triumph of co-operation. With the OSCE a continuous political dialogue and progressive co-operation between States came to reality. The OSCE is the right place where States make a joint effort to share the same values – stability, prosperity and democracy.

Armenia is a valued partner in the community of OSCE States, being closely involved in all activities of the Organization. The establishment of the OSCE Office in Yerevan 15 years ago at the invitation of the Armenian authorities has given a new impetus to the co-operation of Armenia within the OSCE framework. In the course of its existence the Office has been assisting Armenian Government and civil society in promoting legislative reforms, building capacity and improving democratic institutions and practices in the country.





*Ambassador Arman Kirakossian*

*Permanent Representative of the Republic of Armenia to the OSCE*

Forty years back in Helsinki leaders of states covering a wide area from Vancouver to Vladivostok launched the historic process of establishing a comprehensive system of security and cooperation in Europe. The states of East and West committed themselves to dialogue with the aim to build confidence, trust and pave the way for transformation from confrontation to cooperation and peace.

In 1992 the Republic of Armenia became a CSCE/OSCE participating State. Since then Armenia and OSCE have developed a high level of cooperation. Armenia has contributed to development of OSCE, strengthening its capacities in military-political, economic-environmental, human dimensions, and its potential to react to conflicts and crises.

The Government of Armenia remains committed to cooperation with the OSCE and its Office in Yerevan in order to contribute to security and ensure further progress in democratization and sustainable development of Armenia.



# About Helsinki Final Act

Forty years ago  
in Helsinki, world  
leaders got together to  
sign a unique document  
that would revolutionize the  
concept of comprehensive  
security.



The Helsinki Final Act was a historic triumph of cooperation over conflict, bridging the gap between East and West and setting the stage for the end of the Cold War. Today it remains the defining document that guides the work of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

*L-r: Helmut Schmidt, Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, Erich Honecker, First Secretary of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, Gerald Ford, President of the United States, Bruno Kreisky, Chancellor of Austria, Helsinki, 1 August 1975. (Bundesarchiv/Horst Sturm)*



*East meets West: US President Gerald Ford and USSR General Secretary Leonid Brezhnev (with translator Viktor Sukhodrev at his ear) at Helsinki 1975. Flanking them are Secretary of State Henry Kissinger (l) and Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko (r). (Gerald R. Ford Library)*





# About OSCE



The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe is one of the largest regional political organizations dealing with the security issues. As of today it encompasses 57 participating states from Europe, Central Asia and North America. All 57 participating States enjoy equal status, and decisions are

taken by consensus on a politically, but not legally binding basis. The OSCE works for stability, prosperity and democracy in 57 States through political dialogue about shared values, and through practical work that makes a lasting difference.



**2,537 staff**



**€142,304,100 budget**



**57 participating States**



**1 goal: security and co-operation**

**1994 – Budapest**  
**CSCE ➡ OSCE**

- regional security arrangement
- co-operation
- broad membership
- consensus
- political decisions
- extensive field presence

- early warning
- conflict prevention
- crisis management
- post-conflict rehabilitation



# About Dimensions of OSCE



## Politico-military

The politico-military dimension of OSCE seeks to enhance military security by promoting greater openness, transparency and co-operation. It developed the world's most advanced regime of arms control and confidence –building measures. In broader terms, it focuses on defence reform, policing and the safe storage and destruction of small arms and light weapons and conventional ammunition.



## Human

Lasting security is not possible without respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. The OSCE helps its participating States build democratic institutions; hold free, fair and transparent elections; promote gender equality; ensure respect for human rights, media freedom, minority rights and the rule of law; and promote tolerance and non-discrimination.



## Economic-environmental

Economic prosperity and environmental issues are the key factors of security. OSCE promotes economic co-operation, environmental awareness and good governance to foster co-operation over shared natural resources.

# The many security-related activities of the OSCE

Media freedom and development

Arms control

National minority issues

Economic activities

Elections

Conflict prevention and resolution

Education

Combating human trafficking





## OSCE Office in Yerevan: Key areas



Politico-  
Military



Economic-  
Environmental



Human Rights



- Police reform
- Democratic control over the armed forces



- Regulatory simplification reform
- SME sector development
- Regional development
- Aarhus Convention implementation
- Environment and Security Initiative



- Support to the Ombudsman's Office
- Judicial reforms
- Penitentiary reforms
- National minorities
- Public awareness and education



## OSCE Office in Yerevan: Key areas



- Electoral reform
- Freedom of assembly
- Capacity building for state administration
- Fight against corruption

- Freedom of the media and information
- Gender equality
- Youth/Education
- Migration management and anti-trafficking

# About the OSCE Office in Yerevan

Head of Office: Ambassador Andrey Sorokin

7 international 40 local staff

€2,862,000 budget

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Tel: (374 10) 229610/11/12/13

[yerevan-am@osce.org](mailto:yerevan-am@osce.org)

[www.osce.org/yerevan](http://www.osce.org/yerevan)

The OSCE Office in Yerevan was established by the OSCE Permanent Council decision of 22 July 1999 and became operational on 16 February 2000 following the ratification by the Armenian National Assembly of the Memorandum of Understanding between the OSCE and the Armenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Office supports a Programme Implementation Presence (PiP) in Syunik

## Mission

The Office helps Armenia develop its democratic institutions and strengthen civil society. This includes activities covering such diverse areas as legislative reform; combating corruption and trafficking; environmental activities; raising awareness for human rights; media freedom; gender equality; police assistance; and the reform of the armed forces.



## Mandate

The Office is entrusted with supporting Armenia in implementing OSCE principles and commitments in all three dimensions within the OSCE framework approach to security and stability. The Office maintains contacts with local authorities, universities, research institutes, and representatives of non-governmental organizations. It provides assistance to Armenia's government by building the capacity of national stakeholders and by facilitating the information exchange between OSCE institutions and relevant state agencies.

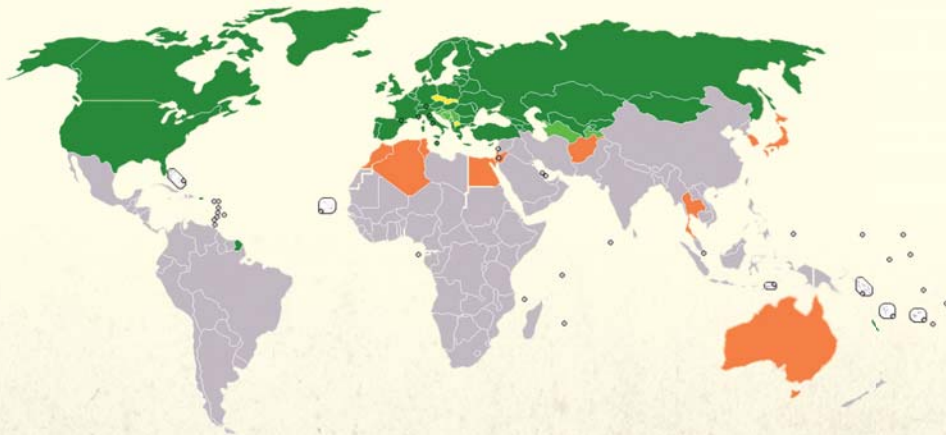


# OSCE Participating States

- Albania
- Austria
- Belgium
- Canada
- Czech Republic
- Finland
- Germany
- Hungary
- Italy
- Latvia
- Luxembourg
- Monaco
- Norway
- Romania
- Serbia
- Spain
- Tajikistan
- Turkmenistan
- United States

- Andorra
- Azerbaijan
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Croatia
- Denmark
- France
- Greece
- Iceland
- Kazakhstan
- Liechtenstein
- Malta
- Montenegro
- Poland
- Russian Federation
- Slovakia
- Sweden
- the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
- Ukraine
- Uzbekistan

- Armenia
- Belarus
- Bulgaria
- Cyprus
- Estonia
- Georgia
- Holy See
- Ireland
- Kyrgyzstan
- Lithuania
- Moldova
- Mongolia
- Netherlands
- Portugal
- San Marino
- Slovenia
- Switzerland
- Turkey
- United Kingdom



# Facts & Figures



*The diplomats and experts who came to Geneva for negotiations were told that the conference would last just a few weeks. In the end, the Geneva negotiations took almost two years.*



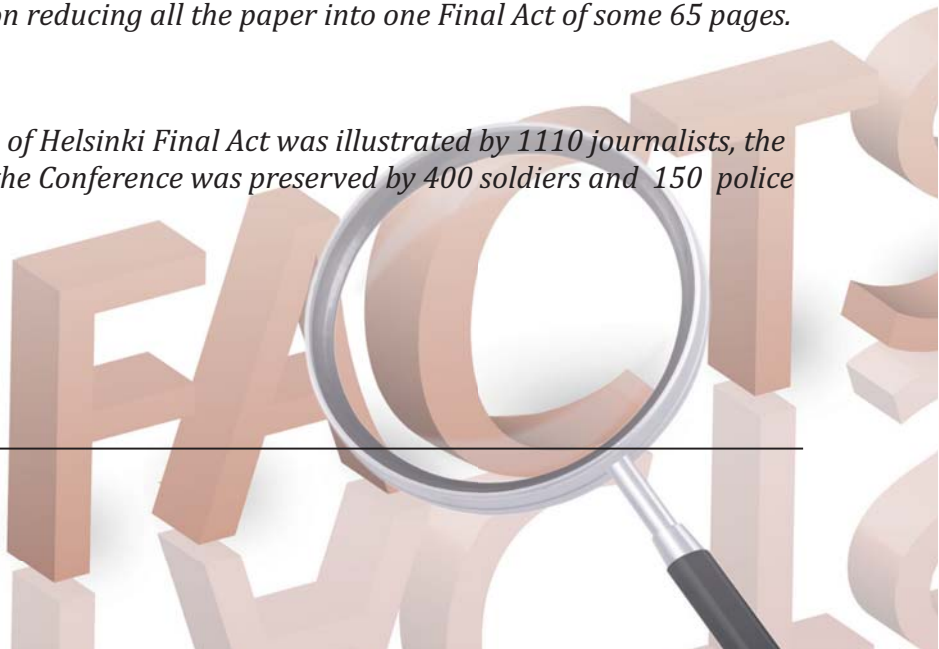
*Several participants married during the CSCE negotiations. There were even marriages between delegates from East and West.*



*There were 2,400 meetings during the Geneva negotiations. 650 delegates and secretariat staff produced 4,660 documents. Translated into six conference languages, these documents ran to nine million pages or 41 tonnes of paper. Governments found it increasingly difficult to keep track of what their delegates were actually negotiating. But then something remarkable happened. In summer 1975, consensus was found on reducing all the paper into one Final Act of some 65 pages.*



*The Signing of Helsinki Final Act was illustrated by 1110 journalists, the security of the Conference was preserved by 400 soldiers and 150 police officers.*







The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe works for stability, prosperity and democracy in 57 States through political dialogue about shared values and through practical work that makes a lasting difference.



Organization for Security and  
Co-operation in Europe  
**Office in Yerevan**