

The Ten Fundamental Principles

As part of the Helsinki dialogue, all CSCE participating States committed themselves to ten fundamental principles in the Declaration on Principles Guiding Relations between Participating States, under basket one of the Helsinki Final Act.

I. Sovereign equality, respect for the rights inherent in sovereignty

II. Refraining from the threat or use of force

III. Inviolability of frontiers

IV. Territorial integrity of states

V. Peaceful settlement of disputes

VI. Non-intervention in internal affairs

VII. Respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief

VIII. Equal rights and self-determination of peoples

IX. Co-operation among States

X. Fulfillment in good faith of obligations under international law

The Declaration notes that all ten principles “are of primary significance and that, accordingly, they will be equally and unreservedly applied, each of them being interpreted taking into account the others.”