

III. RISK REDUCTION MECHANISM FOR CONSULTATION AND CO-OPERATION AS REGARDS UNUSUAL MILITARY ACTIVITIES (16)

Participating States will, in accordance with the following provisions, consult and co-operate with each other about any unusual and unscheduled activities of their military forces outside their normal peacetime locations which are militarily significant, within the zone of application for CSBMs and about which a participating State expresses its security concern. (16.1) The participating State which has concerns about such an activity may transmit a request for an explanation to another participating State where the activity is taking place. (16.1.1) The request will state the cause, or causes, of the concern and, to the extent possible, the type and location, or area, of the activity. (16.1.2) The reply will be transmitted within not more than 48 hours. (16.1.3) The reply will give answers to questions raised, as well as any other relevant information in order to explain the activity in question and dispel the concern. (16.1.4) The request and the reply will be transmitted to all other participating States without delay. (16.2) The requesting State, after considering the reply provided, may then request a meeting with the responding State to discuss the matter. (16.2.1) Such a meeting will be convened within not more than 48 hours. (16.2.1.1) The request for such a meeting will be transmitted to all participating States without delay. (16.2.1.2) The requesting and the responding States are entitled to ask other interested participating States, in particular those which have also expressed concern or might be involved in the activity, to participate in the meeting. (16.2.1.3) Such a meeting will be held at a venue to be mutually agreed upon by the requesting and the responding States. If there is no agreement, the meeting will be held at the CPC. (16.2.1.4) The meeting will be held under the chairmanship of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office (CiO) or of his representative. (16.2.1.5) The CiO or his representative, after appropriate consultations, will prepare and transmit a report of the meeting to all participating States without delay. - 13 -

(16.3) Either the requesting or the responding State or both may ask for a meeting of all participating States. (16.3.1) The CiO or his representative will, within 48 hours, convene such a meeting, during which the requesting and responding States will present their points of view. They will endeavour in good faith to contribute to a mutually acceptable solution. (16.3.1.1) The Permanent Council (PC) and the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) jointly will serve as the forum for such a meeting. (16.3.1.2) The PC and FSC will jointly assess the situation. Accordingly, appropriate measures for stabilizing the situation and halting activities that give rise to concern may then be recommended to the States involved.

CO-OPERATION AS REGARDS HAZARDOUS INCIDENTS OF A MILITARY NATURE (17)

Participating States will co-operate by reporting and clarifying hazardous incidents of a military nature within the zone of application for CSBMs in order to prevent possible misunderstandings and mitigate the effects on another participating State. (17.1) Each participating State will designate a point to contact in case of such hazardous incidents and will so inform all other participating States. A list of such points will be kept available at the CPC. (17.2) In the event of such a hazardous incident the participating State whose military forces are involved in the incident should provide the information available to other participating States in an expeditious manner. Any participating State affected by such an incident may also request clarification as appropriate. Such requests will receive a prompt response. (17.3) Matters relating to information about such hazardous incidents may be discussed by participating States in the FSC, or at the Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting. (17.4) These provisions will not affect the rights and obligations of participating States under any international agreement concerning hazardous incidents, nor will they preclude additional methods of reporting and clarifying hazardous incidents.

VOLUNTARY HOSTING OF VISITS TO DISPEL CONCERNS ABOUT MILITARY ACTIVITIES (18)

In order to help to dispel concerns about military activities in the zone of application for CSBMs, participating States are encouraged to invite other participating States to take part in visits to areas on the territory of the host