

F002/Rev 2

The Nature of the Problem and the Principles underlying its Resolution

1. The Forum debates to date have identified the analysing of the nature of the problem underlying the overall conflict, and, flowing from that process of analysis, the charting of the principles which should inform its resolution, as important first steps in establishing a just and balanced settlement which could secure the agreement of all. The debates have, moreover, underlined the need for such an exercise to be conducted on a basis founded on realism.
2. It is proposed therefore that in addition to consideration of the sectoral issues of the kind outlined in the Secretariat paper of 3 November 1994, the Forum undertake an examination of the basic problem and seek to identify the principles which should underlie its resolution.
3. While, in presenting their analyses, Delegations may well wish to draw on previous work in this area - for example, by the New Ireland Forum or the Opsahl Commission - it is envisaged that the examination of the issue will primarily be done by the Plenary Forum, with the assistance of the Co-ordinating Committee and the Secretariat. Unlike the proposed approach in respect of some of the sectoral issues, it is not envisaged at this point to involve the use of outside experts.

Terms of Reference for Examination

4. At its meeting on 11 November 1994, the Co-ordinating Committee discussed how the examination of the issue by the Forum might be structured. Particular importance was attached to the need for the fullest possible exchange and interaction between the membership on the issue - rather than a simple reiteration by Delegations of essentially known positions. Arising from that discussion, the following terms of reference are proposed for the Forum's examination of the issue:
 - Delegations would in the first instance set out in a short paper their views on the nature of the basic problem and the principles underlying its resolution. These papers would be debated by the Forum.
 - To allow for the fullest possible debate, two to three papers would be considered per meeting. The order in which Delegations would present papers remains to be finalised, but will probably follow the sequence of speakers at the Inaugural Meeting of the Forum.
 - As to the format of debate, papers would be considered by the Forum one at a time. At the outset, a Delegation representative would make a brief opening statement on their paper, with the remainder of the time allotted being devoted

to a free debate on its contents.

- Once all Delegations had presented papers, stock would be taken of the extent of common ground between the various analyses and sets of principles. It would not however be a requirement of the exercise that consensus be achieved in this regard, and where, after the process of exchange and interaction, differences of approach remained, these would be recorded.
- When its work on this issue was completed, the Forum would publish a document setting out its findings.

Forum Secretariat
14 November 1994