

DECLARATION
15-th STCU GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
December 12, 2002

The Governing Board discussed the *force majeure* situation declared by the STCU Executive Director in October, as a result of the loss of the STCU headquarter facilities that the Secretariat had used since the Center was established in 1995. The Governing Board re-affirmed that the provision of a headquarters facility is the responsibility of the Government of Ukraine, under Article IX of the international STCU Agreement. The Board appreciates the efforts of the STCU staff, the Government of Ukraine, and the Embassies of Canada, EU and the USA to resolve this problem. The Board took note of the written commitments from the Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), which stated that the MFA will promptly pay lease expenses through the end of 2002 to cover the STCU offices in Kiev. In a separate commitment, the Government of Ukraine will fund future year lease expenses through the budget of the Ministry of Science and Education. Together, the implementation of these commitments should lead to a resumption of normal STCU operations, once transfer of personnel, equipment and telecommunications links are completed at the new Secretariat headquarters facility. The Governing Board, upon a positive recommendation from the Executive Director will revoke the *force majeure* condition.

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