

# The Helsinki Process: will it achieve change?

9 June 2004

# Will it achieve change?

- The USP of the Helsinki Process
- Collective Action Theory
- The European Union
- What should the Helsinki Process do?

# USP of the Helsinki Process

- Policy/ Action Oriented
- Aims to develop coalitions of multi-stakeholder groups
- Develop North/ South Collaboration

# The problem is ...

- The world has
  - No lack of Vision
  - No lack of Principles
  - No lack of Ideas
- But lacks real strategies for reform

# Collective Action Theory

- Individual and collective interests aligned
- High degree of trust
- Long time scale
- The powerful need co-operation
- Costs of defection are high
- Etc

# The European Union

- Successful establishment of democratic institutions
- European Coal and Steel Community
  - “to make a breach in the ramparts of national sovereignty which will be narrow enough to secure consent, but deep enough to open the way towards the unity that is essential to peace”*

Jean Monet

- Treaty of Rome

# The Lessons from the EU

- Start relatively small
- Identify an issue all members feel are important
- Be expandable
- Build in the virus of good governance right from the start

## Helsinki Process Reforms

- Regional not Global
  - African Union
  - Governance of water
  - Regional peacekeeping
  - The G20
- The environment
  - Carbon Trading
- The UN Budget
- Identify simple, far reaching reforms

# The Helsinki Process: will it achieve change?