

Delegation of Switzerland

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF SWITZERLAND AT THE OPENING SESSION
OF THE 2011 ANNUAL SECURITY REVIEW CONFERENCE**

30 June 2011

Mr. Chairperson,

On behalf of the delegation of Switzerland I thank the Lithuanian Chairmanship and the Conflict Prevention Centre for the professional organization of this year's Annual Security Review Conference (ASRC). Switzerland also takes this opportunity to sincerely welcome Mr. Anders Fogh Rasmussen, Security General of NATO, and all other representatives of security organizations. The OSCE and NATO with the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council are two important pillars of European security. Close co-operation between the two organizations helps to strengthen security and stability on our continent.

I should like first of all to make a general comment.

We note that the security situation in Europe has made little progress in the last 12 months. The summit meetings in Lisbon and Astana created a favourable climate for co-operative security, but there have been no concrete results. Subregional crises with considerable escalation potential continue to exist.

Switzerland therefore has four priorities for this year's ASRC.

1. We should like to make substantial progress in the discussions on modernization of the Vienna Document. The Heads of State or Government gave us a clear mandate in Astana in this regard. The successful conclusion of this modernization process will be crucial to the future reputation of the OSCE as a relevant and effective regional security organization. The first stage in the revision at least should be completed by Vilnius.
2. The OSCE has demonstrated its competence in conflict management and the reconstruction of State structures on several occasions in the past. The composition of our participating States (inclusion of Central Asia and the South Caucasus) predestines it to play an important role in this area in the future as well. For it to do so, however, closer and strategically co-ordinated co-operation between the OSCE and other relevant international security organizations is required with account taken of the comparative advantages of each organization, be it the OSCE, the European Union, NATO or the Collective Security Treaty Organization.

3. The OSCE must also be in a position to overcome future conflicts, particularly in connection with fragile States. To do this we need to strengthen our capacities. After the many fruitful discussions during the Corfu Process, the time has come to make and implement concrete decisions to strengthen the OSCE within the conflict cycle. Even if the current budget situation in most States calls for strict setting of priorities, it should be possible to adopt proposals that are ready for implementation. One such case is the development of dialogue and mediation support in the OSCE. The aim must be for the OSCE to be fully equipped after Vilnius in its core business of conflict prevention and rehabilitation.

4. The security of participating States is inseparably linked with that of neighbouring regions. The events in North Africa and Afghanistan have a direct influence on our own security. To combat transnational threats in particular, the OSCE must be able to work together with third States if desired by the States concerned. Switzerland believes that the OSCE should respond to requests for co-operation by the North African partner States. The OSCE's activities in this region should be adapted to the requirements of the partner States and concentrate on those areas in which the OSCE has a recognized added value (for example, preparation for elections, development of human rights institutions, or freedom of the media).

This year's ASRC is the first gauge of the seriousness of the participating States' desire to strengthen the OSCE. Astana should be more than just a pleasant memory of the hospitality of our Kazakh friends. We should like to see a dynamic OSCE again with participating States that are willing to seriously implement the Astana mandates.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.