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**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SWITZERLAND AT THE
914th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

31 May 2012

**In response to the address by Ms. Maria Grazia Giammarinaro,
OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for
Combating Trafficking in Human Beings**

Mr. Chairperson,

We welcome Ms. Maria Grazia Giammarinaro to the Permanent Council and thank her for her informative report. It reminds us that combating trafficking in human beings in all its manifestations requires a great deal of staying power if we wish to ensure that all the strategic pillars – prevention, protection and prosecution – are interlinked and that the issue of trafficking in human beings remains high on the political agenda. We believe that the OSCE's approach to this issue is correct and important, taking into account its multi-dimensionality which also requires us to be innovative and flexible. During the last two years, Ms. Giammarinaro and her team have frequently managed to stimulate new discussions. We know that all the activities mentioned in the report are the result of the hard work of a relatively small team, as you, Ms. Giammarinaro, mentioned.

The Human Dimension Seminar held in Warsaw, which dealt with the connections between the rule of law and trafficking in human beings, was a significant event. On the one hand, well-known principles were reiterated; on the other, innovative approaches were discussed relating to the compensation of victims, specific investigative methods and the role of the victim in the criminal process.

In Switzerland's opinion, the form of trafficking in human beings that involves the exploitation of domestic workers, specifically in diplomatic households, requires even more attention on a regional and international level. We know that we are not alone in this view, and that other States such as the United States and Austria are willing to keep this topic on their agendas. On 21 and 22 June, the first of a series of workshops will be held in Geneva with the aim of developing medium-term strategies and common standards to combat the exploitation of domestic labour in diplomatic households. We look forward to this co-operation with the OSCE and appreciate the interest shown by the invited States in participating in this workshop.

We have noted on our agenda the annual conference of the Alliance against Trafficking in Persons in Vienna to be held on 11 and 12 October. This year's theme is

non-discrimination and empowerment. We welcome this event, particularly because of its role in bringing together the community of States as well as international organizations and non-government organizations to discuss selected topics and promoting co-ordination between them.

At this point, we should like to propose that the OSCE should continue to seek to co-operate closely with the United Nations on this issue. This relates in particular to the mandates of the special rapporteurs on trafficking in persons and on torture, as there are frequently interesting overlaps in the key issues and thus opportunities for important synergies.

Thank you for your attention.