

Delegation of Switzerland

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SWITZERLAND AT THE 2010 ANNUAL SECURITY REVIEW CONFERENCE

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Opening Session

Mr. Chairperson,

On behalf of the Swiss delegation, I should like to thank the Kazakh Chairmanship and the Conflict Prevention Centre for the outstanding organization of this year's Annual Security Review Conference.

This year's Conference offers us a particular opportunity. Once again it provides us with a platform for dialogue to enable us to review in detail the implementation of OSCE commitments in the first dimension – and their points of contact with the other two dimensions – and in this way to help consolidate the existing *acquis*. In addition, in the context of the Corfu Process and in preparation for the conference of foreign ministers in Almaty, it should enable us to exchange views on how this *acquis* can be improved in the light of present-day challenges. In this regard, we welcome the extension of the Review Conference to three days to meet the need for intensified political dialogue.

This *acquis* is indeed an exceptional achievement and a comparative advantage. No other organization has a multidimensional security concept like the OSCE that links the security of States with the security of individuals and aspects of hard security with the central principles of democracy, the rule of law and protection of human rights. Moreover, the OSCE has linked confidence-building measures in a unique fashion with security considerations. This approach is based on the view that human security should provide the foundation for all security considerations. This achievement must be maintained in the interests of people between Vancouver and Vladivostok. The implementation of commitments must not lead to geographical or thematic double standards. Security is indivisible.

The fact that this *acquis* is in need of improvement results primarily from two factors. First of all, the OSCE instruments need to be studied to establish their continued suitability for dealing with the constantly changing reality and the risks that it involves and also to find credible answers. This applies particularly to established OSCE mechanisms for arms control, disarmament and confidence- and security-building measures (CBSMs). Any adaptation of these mechanisms must be designed to strengthen rather than dilute them. The Forum for Security Co-operation remains an irreplaceable forum for the corresponding co-operative negotiation process by security and military experts. With account taken of the indivisibility of security, it is of great importance that all participating States are involved in this

discussion. Arms control is a fact and is in the interests of all participating States. It should not therefore be weakened by being made artificially contingent on differences in other areas.

The change in the nature of threats is evident particularly when considering transnational dangers. Switzerland welcomes the discussions on increased commitment by the OSCE in this area. The 2003 Maastricht strategy continues to form a valuable basis, which should however be enlarged and intensified. The efforts by participating States to combat terrorism and trafficking in drugs and human beings should be stepped up and effectively linked with one another with the involvement of the field missions and in co-operation with other relevant organizations, particular in and around Afghanistan. The corresponding co-operation with OSCE partner States in Asia and the Mediterranean should be intensified. Switzerland believes that reinforced and improved police co-operation would also be useful and could possibly be supplemented by an OSCE strategy to combat organized crime.

The second reason why successful negotiations within the Corfu Process on the further development of the *acquis* in all three dimensions is urgently required can be sought in the continuing crisis of confidence. As an organization whose decisions are made by consensus and are generally only politically binding, the OSCE is more reliant on trust than other organizations. The best mechanisms for creating transparency and confidence are of little use if the political will to implement them is absent, but the participating States can break the mutually reinforcing vicious circle of inadequate implementation and resultant mistrust – and vice versa – only through renewed and intensified co-operation and exchange. There is a need for action in this regard primarily in connection with improving the instruments for conflict prevention and management and post-conflict rehabilitation. Only in this way will it be possible for the OSCE to overcome existing tendencies to form blocs and to restore a functioning political security community uniting the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian areas.

We are hoping for a free, constructive and innovative exchange of ideas and the necessary willingness to compromise to enable this Conference to progress as outlined above.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.