



## **OSCE - 2008 ANNUAL SECURITY REVIEW CONFERENCE**

### **WORKING SESSION II: SWISS STATEMENT ON CHALLENGES IN THE POLITICO-MILITARY ASPECTS OF SECURITY DIMENSION**

Mr Chairman,

First of all, let me reiterate Switzerland's strong belief that the OSCE is and should remain an appropriate and useful platform to address security issues within the Eurasian and Transatlantic area and beyond. The FSC is a well proven body for dealing with military aspects of security in terms of dialogue, consultation and negotiation. The acquis reached in areas like arms control, disarmament, as well as confidence and security building is a cornerstone of our security architecture and a prerequisite for collective security throughout the OSCE area and beyond. With the actual acquis, the OSCE pS have created over the years a reliable arms control and disarmament tool box, which needs to be maintained and completed further.

Regarding arms control and disarmament, the present situation is characterised by the fact that most of the traditional strategic elements have been regulated or the field of consensus for regulation has already been exploited. Remaining loopholes reflect strategic or national interests and inherent ambiguities that are difficult to overcome without fundamental reorientation. However, shortcomings in the present situation reflect the political realities of our time. Hence the loss of consensus in how to deal with traditional and new challenges are topics to be addressed swiftly and without delay.

The call to give implementation adequate recognition reflects an issue of strategic importance. The reduced prominence of arms control should not lead to weaken the acquis. Arms control has the potential of moderation in a world of increased complexity. Although bearing in mind some recently taken unilateral decisions affecting the international security environment, we should nevertheless pursue our common goal to further improve the implementation of our treaties and agreements with unflawed determination. Also, a lively dialogue is always better than a frozen silence: if there is a political will, the activation of Chapter III of VD 99 "Risk Reduction Mechanism" could well enable the involved actors to clarify their positions and to avoid misunderstandings and misinterpretations, revitalising thus the security dialogue.

Also, a better implementation does by no means preclude further developments of the CSBMs or other agreements such as in the fields of arms control or international security. If there are common interests among the participating States, Switzerland would assuredly be supportive for further developments of the relevant documents or the elaboration of a new generation of CSBMs based on a solid acquis. New challenges, new security developments as well as changes of doctrines are only partially being dealt with by actual documents such as the VD 99. Furthermore, the regional CSBMs play an important role, while arms control linked with the use of “soft security tools” such as SALW destruction or management of stockpiled ammunition do significantly enhance the overall impact on conflict prevention as well as conflict resolution.

Switzerland is actually advocating a combined approach to CSBMs: On the one hand, permanent efforts to further improve the implementation of agreed measures, and on the other hand the discussion of justified requests made by some participating States facing a new or particular security environment with the aim to adapt existing or develop new OSCE instruments better suited to present and future situations.

Therefore Switzerland suggests as a follow-up measure, some small, maybe unambitious, but pragmatic steps towards a consensus reaching improvement of some already existing tools:

- Keeping the discussions on track by organizing a second Special FSC Meeting on a "Prospect for Arms Control and CSBMs in the OSCE area";
- Further improving the **OSCE Code of Conduct on politico-military aspects of security**. Switzerland attaches a high priority on its implementation and the universalisation of its norms and principles. To contribute to a successful development, Switzerland reaffirms its continued commitment and support and is looking forward to the Central Asian Seminar on the OSCE CoC in Almaty, Kazakhstan to be held on 22-24 September 2008;
- Improving the use of the AIAM as an interactive forum of thorough assessment as well as of fair and constructive suggestions;
- Giving a mandate to the FSC in order to assess the existing OSCE procedures and mechanisms and to make recommendations for more efficient mechanisms in relation with the politico-military dimension

Let me conclude by reiterating that Switzerland would like to emphasise its strong belief that the future security benefits of arms control lie not only in dealing with new challenges and closing the loopholes, but also in the full implementation of existing regulations and in the preservation of the acquis.

Thank you Mr. Chairman