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**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SWITZERLAND AT THE
843rd MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

9 December 2010

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

Mr. Chairperson,

Switzerland would like to congratulate you, Ms. Giammarinaro, on this first annual report in your position as Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings. We should also like to take this opportunity of thanking you and your team for your excellent work and commitment during the course of the year.

This year is special, marking the tenth anniversary of two important fundamental documents in the fight against trafficking in human beings: the Ministerial Council decision on enhancing the OSCE's efforts to combat trafficking in human beings and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, known as the Palermo Protocol. As you say yourself in the Foreword to the report, the term "trafficking in human beings" was largely unknown before the new millennium. Ten years later, we have already achieved some interim goals. We have at our disposal a bedrock of experience in combating trafficking in human beings; we have developed international and national standards and strategies in spite of the constant major challenges we are making progress in the implementation of policies.

The developments of the last few years are of particular significance in our opinion: we are finally realizing what trafficking in human beings really is, namely a complex and multifaceted phenomenon. This is very well reflected in the report.

Trafficking in human beings is a serious offence, a threat to human security, a violation of human rights, a form of organized crime and also, on occasion, a form of gender-specific violence.

Because it has so many faces and occurs in so many forms, we are called upon at all times to remain flexible and creative and to find appropriate new responses. For Switzerland this currently involves, amongst other things, the systematic extension of strategies to combat

all forms of exploitation, including labour exploitation. This also means in particular that new actors must be involved to create new, multidisciplinary co-operation models or partnerships.

Mr. Chairperson,

The greatest challenge in the next few years will be to sustain an intensive and targeted commitment. This calls for a good deal of political will and leadership at all levels and in all relevant sectors, including the private sector to an increasing extent. Switzerland takes its commitment to combating trafficking in human beings seriously and we look forward to working together with you, Ms. Giammarinaro, and your Office in the coming year.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.