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

14 to 16 June 2010

Working Session V: Review of police-related activities

Mr. Chairperson,

On behalf of Switzerland, I should like to thank the Secretariat for the report on the police-related activities of the OSCE and the opportunity for discussion. Our thanks go also to the speaker who introduced the report for his very informative presentation.

The police constitute an institution that is permanently, and visibly, in close contact with the population. They are responsible for ensuring public order, combat everyday crime and are often the first institution that people turn to when anything goes wrong. They thus assume an important function in civil society. At the same time, the police are responsible for combating serious crime of an international and organized character. To this extent, they are also responsible for the security of the State and its population. Altogether, the spectrum of police responsibility and action is thus extremely broad.

With the report on police-related activities, the OSCE Secretariat has already demonstrated the wide diversity of expertise available to it in the police-related areas. As a regional organization, the OSCE also has the necessary knowledge of the participating States and can adapt its support, flexibly and promptly, to the needs of the different countries.

The report also makes it clear, however, that assistance for participating States in the police area is a multifaceted and time-consuming undertaking. This is valid not only as regards assistance for the reform of police structures and community policing. It is also true in the sphere of efforts to fight the various forms of organized crime, which have also been discussed at this conference. In their function as a tool for the fight against transnational organized crime, as much as in any other function, the police are dependent on appropriate training, a clear legal basis for their action, high-quality equipment and close international contacts. The application of the international drug conventions and the instruments for the combating of organized crime, corruption and terrorism, in particular, calls for precise and co-ordinated strategic, legal and technical implementation at the national level, and this not only in the police area.

The corresponding adaptations require not only a strong political commitment. When assistance from other States or international organizations is desired, constant, co-ordinated action by all the stakeholders is needed. Aid activities must be need-oriented and mutually

complementary for a lasting result to be achieved. This is true, not least, for the activities of the OSCE Secretariat. Switzerland therefore supports the call for strengthening of co-ordination between headquarters and the field presences as well as between the various thematic units of the Secretariat in the area of police-related activities. We also welcome co-ordination and co-operation between the OSCE Secretariat and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the area of transborder threats. This avoids overlapping and enables available resources to be optimally utilized. Switzerland hopes that this co-operation and co-ordination will be further expanded, particularly in the field of regional co-operation.

A good guide for co-ordination among States and organizations in the sphere of aid is constituted, in our view, by the standards contained in the 2005 Paris Declaration and in the 2008 Accra Agenda for Action. In these documents, the members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, on the one hand, and partner States on the other entered into commitments, *inter alia*, with regard to the adaptation of aid to particular needs, questions of co-ordination, the responsibility of partner States for implementation and the simplification of processes. These standards can be used as a guide for supporting police-related activities in the OSCE area and to simplify co-operation among all the actors involved.

Accordingly, a future OSCE strategy for police-related activities should take into account the standards in the Paris Declaration and the Accra Agenda for Action and, in particular, contain a mechanism that will allow both the OSCE Secretariat and the participating States to take on challenges that arise in a co-ordinated and coherent way.

Thank you.