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Delegation of Switzerland

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SWITZERLAND  
AT THE 930th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

15 November 2012

**In response to the report by the Personal Representatives of the  
Chairperson-in-Office for tolerance**

Mr. Chairperson,

We welcome the three Personal Representatives of the Chairperson-in-Office for tolerance and thank them for their interesting report.

The report by the Personal Representatives for tolerance makes it clear that all participating States from Vancouver to Vladivostok should work on promoting tolerance and non-discrimination in their societies. It is the function of the three Personal Representatives to draw attention to these problems and enter into a dialogue with the participating States, whether this be at the official level or at the level of the civil society. These visits and particularly the associated preparation and follow-up involve a great deal of time and effort. We should like to take this opportunity to thank all three Personal Representatives for tolerance for their tremendous work.

We believe that the scope of the problems necessitates a better institutional framework for the work of the Personal Representatives for tolerance. We should also think about designing the mandates so as to make the work of the three Personal Representatives for tolerance effective and hard-hitting.

It is unlikely that this can be done without additional funding. The intensification of our efforts is clearly justified in view of the scope of the problems, which also have an impact on the internal security of our societies.

Switzerland hopes it will be possible to adopt an effective decision on intensified efforts to combat racism and xenophobia at the Ministerial Council meeting in Dublin.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.