

Delegation of Switzerland

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SWITZERLAND
AT THE 2013 ANNUAL SECURITY REVIEW CONFERENCE**

Vienna, 19 and 20 June 2013

Opening session

Mr./Madam Chairperson,

The Swiss delegation welcomed the opportunity presented by the Security Days for a wide-ranging discussion of the OSCE and the different perceptions of threats. In particular, we found the inclusion of civil society useful. In our view, this discussion also provided valuable input for the Helsinki+40 process. We therefore ask the Secretary General to continue the Security Days.

Before I turn to the four points on the agenda of the Annual Security Review Conference, I should like to make the following preliminary comments regarding the Helsinki+40 process. Switzerland is willing to take an active part in the shaping of the Helsinki+40 process initiated at the Ministerial Council meeting in Dublin. This process provides an opportunity to give the Organization a new strategic perspective and to bring it closer to the creation of a Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community, as provided for in the Astana Summit declaration. It offers the participating States a unique opportunity to further develop the OSCE, its structures and instruments.

We are of the opinion that Helsinki+40 should not be concerned exclusively with the elaboration of a landmark document. Of course, this is important. But for it to have the desired substantive content, we have to succeed on the way in implementing measures in all three security dimensions. Such measures will restore the OSCE's relevance and build confidence among the participating States. In doing so, we do not wish to repeat the Corfu Process but to build on it. The Corfu Process gave us a welcome opportunity to discuss European security and to intensify consideration of a number of relevant security issues. The Astana documents, particularly the draft framework declaration, are important results that we must build on.

What is needed now is a road map showing how we wish to operate in the next two and a half years in the framework of Helsinki+40. We would also welcome the appointment of Helsinki+40 co-ordinators in the near future, who should be given substantive mandates.

I should now like to say something about the four points in this year's Security Review Conference.

1. On the setting up of a mediation unit, we shall do our utmost as chair to develop this unit within the Secretariat. To make the project inclusive and provide it with a broad foundation, we shall be reliant on the active support of other participating States. The Helsinki+40 process could be used to obtain political capital and expertise to make the OSCE a key player in the various phases of the conflict cycle, particularly with regard to mediation and confidence-building measures.

2. With regard to transnational threats, recent events in this area have shown that terrorism and cyberchallenges represent a clear threat to our common security.

For that reason, we should like here to re-emphasize our support for the Transnational Threats Department. Switzerland is in favour in general of close co-operation with this Department and would like to see a strengthening of its relations with the various other units within the Secretariat.

In the area of cybersecurity, we see the adoption of the first package of confidence-building measures as a priority for the near future. For the Chairmanship in 2014 we are also examining the possibility of holding a terrorism conference and of stepping up police-related co-operation.

3. On conventional arms control, the exchange of information on conventional arms control is designed to give the OSCE more relevance in the politico-military dimension. Switzerland believes that informal platforms play a useful role in this area and would therefore like to foster the OSCE's role as a platform for informal exchange of information on conventional arms control in Europe.

4. In conclusion, I should like to mention our Partner for Co-operation Afghanistan. Switzerland is involved in Afghanistan bilaterally in the areas of socio-economic development and governance. We are therefore closely following the discussions on the withdrawal of the International Security Assistance Force from Afghanistan at the end of 2014 and are looking forward to the session on Afghanistan. This session could be useful for identifying regional challenges for the individual OSCE participating States and the OSCE region as a whole. We hope that the working session on Afghanistan will provide us with ideas as to how the OSCE can best respond to these challenges and how it can work together with other international organizations.

Mr./Madam Chairperson, I thank you for allowing me to speak.