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

28 October 2010

**Regarding the report by Mr. Janez Lenarčič,  
Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights**

Mr. Chairperson,

We should like to welcome Director Lenarčič to the Permanent Council once again and to thank him for his detailed report on the various activities of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) since March 2010. To start with an aside: While there is no explicit reference to Switzerland in the report, we expect the outcomes of the Warsaw segment of the Review Conference to be incorporated into the Summit preparations. Following the Corfu Interim Report and the Review Conference, there are a number of concrete enough ideas on the table that need to go into the Astana Action Plan so that our human dimension commitments can be more fully implemented.

Now I should like to address three areas mentioned in Ambassador Lenarčič's report:

The ODIHR has developed a whole range of election support instruments and systematically evolving election observation instruments (see the sixth edition of the Blue Book), which many participating States could benefit from. We wish everyone involved in this year's remaining missions to Azerbaijan, Moldova, Belarus and Turkmenistan, above all the ODIHR experts, success and resilience. The ODIHR's many years of experience have shown that election observation and election support are intertwined and represent an ongoing process. The support currently being provided by the ODIHR to Kyrgyzstan in reforming its national registration system is evidence of this.

We welcome the practical support provided by the ODIHR in the dialogue with the Muslim communities in Switzerland in the context of its tolerance and non-discrimination work. Last week in Bern, 30 representatives of these communities met to discuss establishing a national umbrella group for Swiss Muslims, at the invitation of the Federal Commission on Combating Racism and the ODIHR. At the conference, representatives from the United Kingdom, Belgium and Germany shared their experiences of making it easier for Muslim communities to interact with the national authorities and participate in public debates.

My final point concerns the ODIHR's co-operation with the Swiss-funded Geneva Centre for Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF). We recall with satisfaction the Handbook on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Armed Forces Personnel prepared by the ODIHR and DCAF. Following its official launch in spring 2008, DCAF and the ODIHR have helped to distribute the Handbook in the West Balkans and beyond, concentrating in particular on parliaments and ministries of defence.

The Toolkit on Gender and Security Sector Reform has been translated into several languages since it was published in 2008 by the ODIHR, DCAF and the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women. DCAF also supported the ODIHR in setting up the Southeast Europe Women Police Officers' Network. At the launch of the network on 25 November 2010 in Sarajevo, DCAF will present the latest research on female security staff associations. Switzerland and DCAF look forward to fruitful co-operation with the ODIHR and stand ready to expand this.

In conclusion, on behalf of Switzerland, I should like to thank Ambassador Lenarčič and his team for their work and wish him every success in the future.

Mr. Chairperson, thank you for your attention.