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Delegation of Switzerland

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

19 January 2012

**Regarding the ratification by Mongolia of the Second Optional Protocol to
the United Nations Covenant on Civil and Political Rights on the
abolition of the death penalty**

Mr. Chairperson,

Switzerland too congratulates the Mongolian Parliament on the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights dealing with the abolition of the death penalty. This marks an important stage in the promotion of human rights and a further step for the cause of the opponents of capital punishment. We now encourage the Mongolian Parliament to remove the death penalty from the Criminal Code.

We see this also as a further important sign that Mongolia would be a worthy OSCE participating State. We therefore encourage the Irish Chairmanship to pursue this question without delay.

The abolition of capital punishment is a priority concern of Swiss foreign policy. The death penalty is a cruel and inhumane punishment, regardless of the nature of the crime for which it is imposed. Switzerland is a member of the "Group of Friends" of the Optional Protocol under the campaign for the worldwide abolition of capital punishment. More than two-thirds of all States have abolished this form of punishment, either *de jure* or *de facto*. We encourage all participating States to follow the example of Mongolia and to also ratify the second additional protocol.