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Delegation of Switzerland

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

8 April 2010

In response to the statement by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-moon

Mr. Chairperson,

The Swiss delegation welcomes the Secretary-General of the United Nations, His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon, to the Permanent Council and thanks him for his thought-provoking comments. His presence here in Vienna underscores the fact that the United Nations attaches particular importance to co-operation with its regional organizations in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations.

It is all the more necessary to strengthen this co-operation in view of the fact that problems and challenges continue to be on the increase throughout the world. Only co-ordinated action by all the organizations involved in strengthening peace and security holds out the promise of success in the urgently needed efforts to deal with conflicts and their causes, namely poverty and disregard for human rights and basic freedoms.

As far back as 35 years ago the principle was established in the Helsinki Final Act that security can be achieved only in conjunction with confidence-building in the military sphere, economic co-operation and the strengthening of democracy and the rule of law. Building on this basic principle, the OSCE has acquired valuable expertise in the civilian and military areas with regard to conflict prevention and crisis management. In the words of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, there is a clear need for greater co-operation between the United Nations and the OSCE with respect to peacekeeping. Joint projects and the exchange of experience as regards best practices and lessons learned will help to ensure that the existing challenges can be dealt with more effectively both regionally and globally.

The efforts of the United Nations and the OSCE complement one another in numerous other areas as well. Especially important for Switzerland is the commitment to prevent the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, an area in which the OSCE has for years played a very active role and has supplemented on a sustained basis the efforts being made under the United Nations 2001 Programme of Action. Also of particular importance to us are the efforts being taken to combat trafficking in human beings, efforts that require both international and regional instruments and mechanisms.

On a final note, a key concern for Switzerland continues to be the strengthening of human rights and basic freedoms. Both here in the OSCE, in the implementation of political commitments in the human dimension, and also in the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva – to whose establishment Switzerland was one of the original contributors – Switzerland is endeavouring to achieve further lasting improvements.

Mr. Chairperson,

In conclusion we should like to reiterate our gratitude to the United Nations Secretary-General, His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon, for his efforts to deepen the United Nations co-operation with regional organizations, and to wish him every success in his tireless efforts in the name of peace.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.