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Delegation of Switzerland

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

24 April 2008

Regarding Georgia

Mr. Chairman,

The Swiss Government wishes to reaffirm the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Georgia, like that of all States in the region. Switzerland cannot fail to underscore the importance of effective protection of all minority rights, particularly in the context of regional autonomy.

As to the unresolved conflicts in the Caucasus region, Switzerland would like to invite all the parties involved to contribute in a constructive manner to a peaceful settlement of these conflicts, while refraining from actions that might exacerbate the differences between the parties.

Moreover, Switzerland remains convinced that these conflicts must be settled through negotiations under the auspices of the United Nations, that is, the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG), and of the OSCE.

Thank you for your attention.