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## Human Dimension Implementation Meeting 2017

### **Opening Session:**

Warsaw, 11 September 2017

### Statement of the Delegation of Switzerland

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Madam Chair,

With the appointment process of the four leaders of the Organization's Executive Structures behind us, we should now focus our common efforts on strengthening the OSCE in general and on the implementation of our human dimension commitments in particular.

Indeed, we see many human rights and fundamental freedoms severely violated and restricted throughout the OSCE region. Let us take the opportunity that the HDIM offers, as a unique platform to exchange good practices and engage with civil society, to strengthen the implementation of our joint commitments, based on mutual respect, constructiveness and inclusivity.

We should not shy away from continuing to look at how to improve this valuable platform. It is in this context that Switzerland has been a strong advocate for moving the HDIM from September to May, in order to avoid a collision with other important events at the UN level, notably the General Assembly in New York and the September Human Rights Council session in Geneva.

Moving the HDIM to spring would allow for our discussions at the HDIM to feed better into our preparations for the Ministerial Council. This is a purely procedural issue, as

we are not proposing to shorten the HDIM nor to move it away from Warsaw, but simply to hold the meeting earlier in the year for the benefit of our agenda, of better participation of international NGOs and of better preparation of Human Dimension texts for the Ministerial Council. We invite the incoming Italian Chair to launch consultations for such a procedural change, so that it can materialize either in 2018 or in 2019.

Madam Chair,

Our world is facing multifaceted challenges that require concerted action. As the largest regional security organization, the OSCE has an important role to play in the realization of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. This is a human security issue that concerns us all: peace and security cannot be achieved without sustainable development, which in turn cannot be achieved without full respect of fundamental human rights for all individuals. This is why we need to strengthen synergies between the OSCE and other international and regional organizations and bring our activities in line with the Agenda 2030.

In closing, let me reiterate Switzerland's full support to the mandate and the work of ODIHR, the RFOM and HCNM. The three autonomous institutions have been established by the OSCE participating States in order to support us in the implementation of OSCE commitments, but also to point out violations of these commitments whenever and wherever they occur in the OSCE area. We look forward to continuing our excellent cooperation with the three institutions under their new leadership.

Thank you, Madam Chair.