

PC.DEL/715/08

28 August 2008

ENGLISH

Original: FRENCH/GERMAN

Delegation of Switzerland

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

28 August 2008

**Regarding the situation in Georgia**

Mr. Chairman,

Switzerland takes note with concern of the most recent developments in Georgia. It regrets that it has so far not been possible to find a solution that is in keeping with the Charter of the United Nations, the Helsinki Final Act and the Charter of Paris of the OSCE.

Switzerland attaches great importance to the full implementation of the provisions of the ceasefire of 12 August for South Ossetia. It demands that, in keeping with international humanitarian law, the population caught up in the most recent hostilities be provided with support and be able to return to their homes as quickly as possible.

Switzerland hopes that a political solution can be found for South Ossetia and Abkhazia that is in keeping with the aforementioned principles of the United Nations and the OSCE and with the sovereignty of Georgia and that takes into account the democratically expressed will of the population concerned.

It is important for Switzerland that Russia and the other members of the international community make a contribution to the stability of the Caucasus region and avoid engaging in a process that could give rise to tension in other regions.

Switzerland supports the OSCE's role as a mediator in the conflict in South Ossetia. Swiss military observers have been assigned to the group of additional observers sent by the Organization to gather information on the situation in the border zone of South Ossetia, where Russia has taken certain security measures. Switzerland takes the view that the terms of engagement of the OSCE Mission to Georgia must allow the military observers to carry out their mission by returning to South Ossetia.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.