

Delegation of Switzerland

**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF SWITZERLAND AT THE OPENING  
PLENARY SESSION OF THE 2010 OSCE REVIEW CONFERENCE**

Vienna, 18 October 2010

Mr. Chairperson,

Our discussions in Warsaw a few weeks ago focused on improving the implementation of existing commitments in the third dimension. This is also important for the first and second dimensions being considered in this segment of the Review Conference. Here, however, we should also concentrate more on ways of renewing the *acquis*, in other words of adapting the OSCE's commitments better to the security situation and the new challenges that exist today. This will involve in particular improving the OSCE's active and reactive capabilities to enable the Organization to really exploit its great potential as a regional actor in the security sector. It would therefore be very useful if institutional aspects were also considered in detail here.

A priority aim at all the review conferences is to make specific preparations for the Summit in Astana. We are somewhat concerned at the shortage of time available for this purpose. We expect the main proposals of the Corfu Process listed in the interim report to be included in the draft Summit document – preferably in the plan of action. In this regard the participating States are faced with the challenge of setting priorities. The topics must be chosen carefully in those areas where the OSCE has a comparative advantage and can create added value.

Switzerland proposes the following priorities for this segment of the Review Conference:

1. Strengthening conventional arms control and confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs);
2. Strengthening the OSCE's role in the conflict cycle;
3. Strengthening the institutional framework.

The need for a comprehensive approach can be clearly seen above all in the conflict cycle, the core aspect of a more effective commitment by the OSCE. Measures are required in all three dimensions so as to be able to deal constructively with the diverse causes of conflicts. These can range from non-observance of human rights, democracy and the rule of law to poverty and environmental problems and transnational threats such as terrorism or

drug smuggling. The role of police co-operation particularly with regard to these last two threats should not be underestimated. At the same time the institutional aspect also needs to be taken into account in the conflict cycle, and for this reason the Secretariat's analysis, mediation and facilitation capacities should be strengthened. The rapid reaction by the field missions in the various phases of the conflict cycle needs to be fostered. We would urge a closer study of the existing activities of the field missions in the conflict cycle as well as those that might be desirable with a view to identifying best practices. New ways of extending the scope for action of the Secretary General and Chairmanship also deserve particular attention, especially with regard to the transition from early warning to early action.

Should participating States like to consider the Organization's legal framework in this context, in the form, for example, of a constitutional document, these considerations should also be included. The Organization would be strengthened most directly, however, through the adoption of a convention on its legal personality. This would significantly improve the working conditions of OSCE staff – particularly in the field missions – on whom we depend so much.

Mr. Chairperson,

The OSCE Summit will be seen internationally as a success only if it provides at least some stimulus towards the resolution of protracted conflicts. We are aware that the political differences are still very large, but they should not prevent progress in other security questions and should not above all endanger the OSCE's medium- and long-term ability to act.

Conventional arms control and CSBMs are two areas that should in our view be given priority attention at the Summit. We hope that the participating States will show the political will to further improve the Vienna Document 1999. We are gratified to note that our delegation has been entrusted with helping the Chairperson of the Forum for Security Co-operation to co-ordinate this task. The first steps with regard to the Vienna Document could be taken before the Summit and a firm mandate for revising the document given in Astana. As for the arms control and disarmament regime, we trust that it will be implemented in full and its principles reaffirmed by consensus. Switzerland is in favour of an action programme for its further development. Should negotiations to this effect take place, we attach great importance to the involvement of all OSCE participating States.

I thank you, Mr. Chairperson, for your attention.