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Delegation of Switzerland

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

Vienna, 21 October 2010

**OSCE structures and their activities (OSA)
Session 2: Enhancing the role and further strengthening capabilities of
OSCE executive structures: Lessons learned from field activities**

Mr. Chairperson,

Field operations represent one of the comparative advantages of the OSCE as an organization concerned with security policy, serving as they can as an important instrument during the various phases of a conflict cycle. Accordingly, when discussing the need to strengthen the Organization as a whole, the question arises as to how we can make even better use of this instrument.

Field operation activities are especially effective when they are carried out in a spirit of genuine co-operation with the host country, are tailored to that country's needs and in addition have something to offer it. This being the case, we think it useful if, when identifying long-term priority topics, field operations were to be focused on local aspects, while at the same time taking into account the OSCE's overriding multidimensional security concept. In planning field operations it would also be helpful if multi-year budgeting could be introduced at least for long-term projects.

Mr. Chairperson,

Switzerland is in favour of improving the evaluation of field missions. To that end, one might recommend for example medium-term monitoring, including benchmarks, as proposed by the Panel of Eminent Persons in 2005. In the context of performance-based programme budgeting, even greater use might be made of the relevant objectives or outcomes for measuring progress. One might further consider internal workshops to provide a critical review of programmes as well as, from time to time, an OSCE-external evaluation.

Field missions are of great importance in combating what are referred to as transnational threats. Since these threats are extremely complex and, as in the case for example of organized crime, constantly changing, what is indispensable here is competent supervision of field operations by the Office of the Secretary General. Our recommendation in this connection would be that the units within the Secretariat responsible for the areas

involved (the Strategic Police Matters Unit, the Borders Group, the Office of the Special Representative for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and the Action against Terrorism Unit) should be strengthened. In addition, enhanced co-operation between the individual OSCE field operations could be helpful in ensuring a regional approach to these problems, for example with respect to border management.

As far as the distribution of the field operations is concerned, it should be determined whether the amount of human and financial resources allocated to a field operation is truly commensurate with the importance to the OSCE in political terms of the country or region involved. Modifications should be made in this regard where necessary. Switzerland is also in favour of re-establishing the OSCE presence in Georgia, with access to the entire territory of the country.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.