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Swiss delegation to the OSCE

**STATEMENT BY SWITZERLAND  
FIRST ANNUAL SECURITY REVIEW CONFERENCE -  
OPENING SESSION**

Mr. Chairman,

We are now at an important stage in the OSCE process. With the opening of the first Annual Security Review Conference, the OSCE seems to be demonstrating once again its creativity and its flair for the timely adaptation of the instruments at its disposal.

The goals of the Conference are well known. It is expected to enable us, first and foremost, to carry out a stocktaking exercise that will be important for the future of the Organization. Are the existing instruments still adequate and is their implementation satisfactory? Or do new measures appear necessary to allow foreseeable challenges to be met? We shall do what we can to ensure that the Conference, on the basis of a business-like dialogue, is in a position to give a clear answer to these and other questions.

The problem of terrorism and its causes must occupy an important place in these discussions. However, other phenomena, partly linked with terrorism, also require our attention. For example, we have noted that non-State actors are increasingly endangering security and stability or contributing to conflicts. This development has negative repercussions not only for all dimensions of the OSCE but above all for people as individuals. It therefore represents a special challenge for an organization whose work is not only based on co-operation among States but must also promote the security of the individual - i.e., comprehensive security.

Switzerland is convinced that the Annual Security Review Conference will strengthen the OSCE as a forum for political dialogue. Activities and obligations in the human dimension have been intensively reviewed since 1993. The annual Economic Forum also devotes part of its proceedings to reviewing the follow-up of decisions and initiatives in the area of the economy and the environment - a process that is to be reinforced this year. The Annual Security Review Conference now offers an opportunity to strengthen the review process in the politico-military dimension as well. It will supplement the valuable contributions of the Forum for Security Co-operation in this connection, but it must take care not to duplicate the work of the latter. It will thus contribute to a better balance between the three dimensions of the OSCE. We hold the view that the Conference can give an important impetus to our common aim of bringing about closer interaction between the three dimensions. The Conference will also open up additional prospects for the Platform for Co-operative Security created by the Istanbul Summit, if it aims partly at serving as a means of promoting contacts with other international organizations.

The OSCE has proved its worth in that it has committed 55 participating States to common values, on a basis of equal rights, in order to promote security and stability. It must be possible for this co-operative and comprehensive security approach to contribute, in the present situation as in the past, to harmonizing the different interests of the OSCE participants on an equitable basis. Nevertheless, we are at a parting of the ways. The work on the strategy for the twenty-first century should have a decisive influence on the future of the OSCE. It is not yet clear which threats the Organization should concern itself with and which tasks can be assigned to the individual dimensions. Indispensable, however, is a coherent strategy that safeguards the established *acquis* of the OSCE and avoids a contradiction between reality and demands - *inter alia*, in the area of resources.

In Switzerland's view, it is also important that the Conference should adopt recommendations which will undergo further detailed elaboration in the various OSCE bodies. The thematic approach chosen will help to ensure that the Conference achieves concrete results. The topics on the agenda must be defined as precisely as possible. In this connection, the experience of this Conference will enable useful conclusions to be drawn for coming conferences. Only in that way will we be able to realize the potential of this new tool in the longer term.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.