




**Delegation of Switzerland to the Organization
for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)**

Note 39/10

The Delegation of Switzerland to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe presents its compliments to all Delegations to the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation in Vienna and to the Secretariat of the Conflict Prevention Centre. With reference to the Decision No. 2/09 "Technical Update of the Questionnaire on the Code of Conduct FSC.DEC/2/09", dated 1 April 2009, Attachment 1, the Delegation has the honour to convey relevant and updated information to

Switzerland's OSCE questionnaire on the *Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security*, Annex, valid as of 15 September 2010.

Currently the Swiss government will re-examine a possible regulation on the federal level concerning private military and security companies. Therefore, further information concerning this topic according to the Decision No. 2/09 Technical Update of the Questionnaire on the Code of Conduct FSC.DEC/2/09, dated 1 April 2009, Attachment 2, will be provided in the year 2011 along with the regular annual info-exchange

The Delegation of Switzerland avails itself of this opportunity to renew to all other Delegations of the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation in Vienna and to the Secretariat of the Conflict Prevention Centre the assurance of its highest consideration. 

Vienna, 15 September 2010



To all Delegations to the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation
To the Secretariat of the Conflict Prevention Centre

V i e n n a



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sport
DDPS

Swiss Armed Forces
Armed Forces Staff AFS

FSC.EMI/358/10
17 September 2010

ENGLISH only

OSCE

Information Exchange on the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security

FSC.DEC 2/09
1 April 2009

Annex

Switzerland

15 September 2010

QUESTIONNAIRE ON THE CODE OF CONDUCT ON POLITICO-MILITARY ASPECTS OF SECURITY

Section I: Inter-State elements

Section II: Intra-State elements

4.6 What has been done to integrate women into conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation through its activities.

UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (UNSC 1325) on Women, Peace and Security was unanimously adopted on 31 October 2000. It is the first UN Security Council Resolution to expressly mention the particular effect which armed conflicts have on women and girls, and it underlines the importance of women's participation in peace processes. Switzerland's commitments at the bi- and multilateral levels in the context of UNSC 1325 already includes gender-sensitive project work and the support of both multilateral and bilateral partners for various projects and activities specifically for implementation of the requirements of UNSC 1325. Switzerland is also committed to the deployment of experts as well as to internal measures in the areas of recruitment, training and internal policy with regard to gender equality.

In order to strengthen and coordinate Switzerland's efforts a National Action Plan for the implementation of UNSC 1325 (NAP 1325) has been established. Moreover Resolution 1325 is regarded itself as a fundamental reference document for Switzerland's peace building efforts. The aim of the NAP 1325 is to ensure that gender aspects are taken into consideration in all areas of peace policy and in all concrete peace building measures. Switzerland's NAP 1325 is adapted on a regular basis and its contents are subject to constant review.

UNSC 1325 lists three concrete objectives/priorities:

- 1. Greater involvement/participation of women in peace building;**
- 2. Prevention of gender-based violence and protection of the rights and needs of women and girls during and after armed conflicts;**
- 3. A gender-sensitive approach to all peace building projects and programs.**

Switzerland has already committed itself to implementing these priorities. The NAP 1325 ensures that current efforts for the implementation of UNSC 1325 will be further developed and strengthened.

Switzerland is committed to the creation of framework conditions in the United Nations, as well as in other regional and international organizations such as OSCE, that will enable women to participate on an equal footing with men in peace building efforts. This commitment to the equal rights of both sexes is based on quantitative criteria (proportion of women to men) as well as with regard to opportunities and the influence on decision-making, place in the hierarchy, financial and other resources, security measures, capacity building, etc.

According to the Federal Constitution, military service is not compulsory for female Swiss citizens; however, as member of the armed forces, their civilian skills can be made use of and enhanced. It is a fact of life that men and women now enjoy equal status and equal rights in the Swiss armed forces. All functions are open to women in the Swiss armed forces. Roughly half of the women serving in the armed forces opt for a cadre career, which means that it is no longer a rarity for female cadre personnel to command sections, platoons or sub-units.

Switzerland supports and promotes, directly and indirectly, programs and projects designed specifically to ensure the participation of women in peace processes on an equal footing with men.

Furthermore, efforts are to be made to systematically include gender aspects in all peace building programs and projects, through the proper training of those in charge of programs, the deployment of experts, as well as through gender responsive budgeting, etc.

Switzerland promotes the participation of women in peace processes by means of its policy with regard to recruitment and secondment as well as in its support for qualified candidates. This is to ensure that the experts seconded to civilian peace building operations as well the participants in military peacekeeping operations will receive a high level of training in the specific area of gender in preparation for their deployment on missions.
