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Delegation of Switzerland

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

14 August 2008

**Regarding the situation in Georgia**

Switzerland wishes to thank the special envoy for his much-awaited report. It welcomes the efforts undertaken by the OSCE Chairmanship to help put an end to the fighting in Georgia and to establish a lasting ceasefire as a preliminary step towards a political solution to the conflict. The OSCE, which is already present in Georgia and which since 1992 has a mandate conferring on it responsibility for eliminating sources of tension regarding South Ossetia, cannot fail to note that the fighting that has taken place in Georgia between the armed forces of two countries represents a severe setback for its mission. These events also have the potential of jeopardizing the security of the entire region. For Switzerland, the OSCE is the guardian of the principles of co-operation that should make it possible to overcome this grave situation. Our Organization is the forum where the settlement of situations in which recourse to armed force is never a solution should be pursued through discussion and negotiation. To that end, Switzerland endorses the strengthening of the OSCE's presence on the ground.

Lastly, allow me to repeat here the appeal made by the authorities of my country to Georgia and Russia to make available to international aid organizations rapid and unimpeded access to the regions affected so that they may assist the victims.