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Delegation of Switzerland

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

15 November 2007

On the subject of Kosovo

Mr. Chairman,

The Swiss delegation welcomes Mr. Joachim Rucker, Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for Kosovo, and thanks him for his report.

Switzerland wishes to express its gratitude to the head and staff of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) for the dedication they have shown in serving the people of Kosovo. Switzerland has contributed to this commitment by sending experts and by co-operating with the mission. It intends to renew its support when the time comes by making it available to the future civilian presence in Kosovo planned by the European Union.

Right now, the need is to see to it that the transition from one organization to another takes place in an effective, unhurried, orderly and transparent manner so as both to guarantee stability and security in Kosovo and to permit the carrying out of the very important reforms that are still indispensable in the territory. Switzerland takes this opportunity to restate its support for the efforts of the Troika of the Contact Group in the expectation that the parties will pursue their negotiations with all the necessary vigour and in the hope that they will arrive at a mutually acceptable solution by 10 December of this year.

Whatever the resultant scenario, all of us — the OSCE and its participating States, other involved organizations, and political leaders in the region — share the responsibility of ensuring that stability and security in Kosovo and in the region are maintained. It is important, therefore, that we act in a concerted manner in order to deal in as rational and reasonable a way possible with future developments. The elections of 17 November represent an important stage. The OSCE Mission in Kosovo has contributed actively to the preparations for these elections, and everything is now in place to make sure that the elections themselves are held in conformity with the highest standards. It is desirable that there should be the largest possible turnout of voters, from all the communities of the territory.

Once these elections have been held, it is certain that the OSCE will continue to have a vital mission to perform in Kosovo, alongside the presence of the European Union. In this sense, the OSCE will be called upon to provide its particular inputs.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.