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Swiss Statement

presented by
Mr. Thomas Gürber
Deputy Permanent Representative

Permanent Mission of Switzerland
to the United Nations

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Mr. President,

Switzerland welcomes this opportunity for the General Assembly to “jointly debate” different issues that are commonly not seen or treated together. In fact, all of the issues before us should contribute to answering two very important questions: How can the United Nations’ activities on the ground be made more effective and efficient? How can the role of the United Nations in global problem-solving be strengthened?

The review of **international civilian capacities** is a promising process in the efforts to strengthen the United Nations. In this context, Switzerland applauds the report drawn up by the Secretary-General on “Civilian Capacity in the Aftermath of Conflict” (A/66/311). I would like to focus my remarks today on five specific points:

- We support the “stage-by-stage” approach suggested by the Secretary-General, and welcome the determination of the United Nations system to rapidly implement the changes falling under its own authority. We are also confident that consultations will be conducted with the partners concerned and the Member States as regularly as necessary.
- Switzerland will continue to actively support the efforts undertaken within the scope of the implementation of the independent experts’ report in accordance with the recommendations of the report of the Secretary-General. My country encourages the UN system, including the World Bank, to continue cooperation with the steering committee in order to provide coordinated, coherent, and pragmatic follow-up to the Secretary-General’s report.
- The Secretary-General’s report rightly stresses the necessity of developing national capacities. International support should indeed respond to the needs and the demands of the country confronting a post-conflict situation, rather than allowing support to be determined by the offer available. Moreover, special attention should be paid to gender aspects and the implementation of Resolution 1325.
- Henceforth, scaled-up civilian resources with ever more specialized skills are necessary, given the large number of UN interventions in countries affected by conflict, and the complexity and scope of their mandate. In order to find the competences and to fill in the current gaps, the UN has to envisage drawing from a larger variety of sources, particularly from among the actors in the countries of the South. Through its partnerships and its expert pool, Switzerland strives to capitalize on the experience of fragile and conflict-affected countries. We encourage stepping up the efforts to develop new partnerships with these countries, for instance within the framework of the international dialogue on peace building and state building. By the same token, Switzerland has entered into cooperation partnerships with institutional centers of excellence in Africa and provides experts and expertise to support the management and the formation of civilian capacities in Africa.
- My country firmly supports measures to build capacity and accountability among the members of the UN senior management. From this point of view, Switzerland financially supports the Course for senior-level management of the UN missions given by the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP).

Moreover, Switzerland stresses the importance of strengthening the role of the Resident Coordinators and developing their capacities in those contexts not benefitting from the presence of missions mandated by the Security Council.

Finally, we deem it essential that both the heads of mission and the teams of the United Nations countries fully participate in this process. Their contribution will help in identifying opportunities to test the ideas and the approaches in the field. In addition to South Sudan, we therefore advocate that other situations also be taken into consideration.

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Let me turn to a second issue before us today. The **Millennium Development Goals** are an excellent example of how the UN system has helped to focus the efforts of its organs and agencies, its Member States as well as civil society by means of a restricted set of universal objectives. While we all have to remain committed to achieving progress up until 2015, my delegation would like to highlight the importance of the following points when looking beyond 2015:

- The significant shifts that have occurred in the economic, political and environmental landscape since the definition of the MDGs have to be taken into account in the post-2015 development framework. In this process, the UN has a critical role to play. By building coalitions and continuing its intellectual leadership, it should ensure system-wide coherence as well as national and regional participation.
- An early and inclusive engagement of stakeholders in this process is important. The UN system should make use of the UN Global Compact to reach out to the private sector and the UN Non-Governmental Liaison service to assure participation of civil society organizations, particularly from developing countries.
- What will be the scope of the post-2015 development framework? Will the Goals remain focused on poverty or will they address important universal goals related to an inclusive and sustainable development? The “sustainable energy for all” initiative of the Secretary General is an example of how a more universal agenda could be phrased. The 2012 UN Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro should give inputs for the future, post-MDG agenda and indicate early on how to bridge in a transparent and open process between the Rio outcome and the formulation of future Development Goals. In addition, the specific challenges which fragile and conflict-affected countries are facing deserve particular attention. In this regard, the International Dialogue on Peace building and State building offers a valuable process to devise sound recommendations towards 2015.

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Switzerland attaches great importance to the UN reform process. In this respect, **UN-Women** is particularly well placed to achieve further progress and establish good practices within the UN system. Welcoming the Secretary-General's report “Strengthening the institutional arrangements for support of gender equality and the empo-

werment of women" (A/66/120), my delegation would like to emphasize the following points:

- The general approval of UN-Women's first Strategic Plan (2011-2013) in June marks an important milestone. We strongly agree with UN-Women that closing the persisting implementation gaps between the global normative and policy commitments and women's daily realities is absolutely crucial. UN-Women has an important coordination role to play and we appreciate the initiative it has taken to bring about an institutionalized system-wide accountability mechanism on gender equality. We also support UN-Women in its search for mechanisms for dialogue with the civil society closer to the ground. We further appreciate UN-Women's efforts to strengthen the women, peace and security agenda.
- While setting up its institutional arrangements and its field structure, UN-Women has the unique opportunity, or rather the obligation, to cooperate with other UN entities in the field in order to optimize impact while minimizing cost. Switzerland encourages UN-Women to find models for an optimal representation in the field, by placing, for example, senior gender advisors in the offices of the Resident Coordinators.
- Switzerland congratulates UN-Women for the progress achieved in establishing the core elements for the effective functioning of the Entity, and we encourage it to remain innovative in the search for ways to attain optimal operational efficiency and effectiveness.

Thank you, Mr. President.