

**Presentation of the Arabic version of the compendium on Building Integrity
NATO HQ (Brosio Conference Room), October 3rd, 2012**

Welcome address by Ambassador Bénédict de Cerjat

Excellencies, dear Panelists, Ladies & Gentlemen

It is a great pleasure for me to welcome all of you here today on the occasion of the official presentation of the **Arabic version** of the Compendium on Building Integrity.

For Switzerland, the **Building Integrity initiative** is a key element in its work and cooperation with NATO and its partners. My country supports this initiative since its beginning in April 2008. And here, I would like to thank the **Geneva Centre for Democratic Control of Armed Forces** – represented here today by its Deputy Director Mr. Fluri - for its commitment, for the competence of its staff and for the good collaboration in our endeavours.

At the **NATO Summit in Chicago** in May 2012, Allied leaders welcomed the progress achieved by NATO's Building Integrity Programme, which has made important contributions to **promoting transparency, accountability, and integrity in the defence sector of interested nations**.

We all know that corruption has corrosive effects on society and undermines democracies, development and rule of law. In this respect, Building Integrity is a key element for tackling this problematic and I have the conviction that it is an important support for the strengthening of Defense institutions and for the promotion of good governance and democratic values. It is contributing to stability and to the respect of principles of rule of law.

Today, I have the pleasure to welcome you here for the official launch of another version of the BI compendium, **this time in Arabic**. It is an important step and contribution for promoting the issue with partners who share the Arabic language and whom I am happy to welcome today at this event. We sincerely hope that this will meet the interest that such an endeavour deserves and that it will be a **useful tool in dealing with Building Integrity issues in the Mediterranean Dialogue and within the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative**.

Our experts will explain more in details what is the content of this compendium and how it can be useful.

With a more specific Swiss accent, please allow me to add that Switzerland has recently extended for one more year the contract of our Swiss VNC, Mr. Olivier Desarzens, who is working as adviser to EAPC for Building Integrity, in particular in South Eastern Europe.

Additionally, and based on the good response given to the previous versions, Switzerland will finance the translation of the Compendium of Best Practices in Pashtun in 2013.

I am now pleased to give the floor to Ambassador Dirk Brengelmann for his comment.