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**STATEMENT BY MR. HENDRIK VAN DE VELDE,
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BELGIUM,
AT THE 601st MEETING OF THE OSCE FORUM FOR
SECURITY CO-OPERATION**

27 January 2010

**Regarding the presentation by the Russian Federation of ideas and
principles concerning the future of security from Vancouver to Vladivostok**

Madam Chairperson,

Belgium thanks the Russian Federation for its presentation and its willingness to share its views and aspirations as regards security. No one doubts that the Forum is a good place for that, and Belgium is open to an exchange of that kind, which cannot but enrich our thinking on that subject.

However, regarding the ideas put forward by the Russian Federation, Belgium believes that they overemphasize an exclusively inter-State concept based solely on hard security.

As Belgium sees it, any modern debate on security from Vancouver to Vladivostok must be concerned primarily with threats. In fact the feeling of security and actual security consists in protection against threats. Today, the threats within the OSCE area are far more transnational than State-based in character. These transnational threats are global in nature and include aspects of economic, environmental and human security, as convincingly stated by the Ambassador of the United Kingdom a little while ago.

For Belgium, the conclusion is that dialogue on security from Vancouver to Vladivostok has its place within the structures of the OSCE, beginning with the informal group of ambassadors, the so-called "Corfu Group".

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.