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**STATEMENT BY MR. ANDREY KELIN,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,  
AT THE 929th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

8 November 2012

**Regarding the report by the Director of the Office for Democratic  
Institutions and Human Rights, Mr. Janez Lenarčič**

Mr. Chairperson,  
Mr. Lenarčič,

We listened carefully to your report on the outcome of the 16th Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM) in Warsaw.

You have correctly pointed out that the Third Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on Freedom of Assembly and Association will be starting in a few hours. Unfortunately, its agenda was not approved by the OSCE participating States as required by the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE. The dates of this meeting can hardly be considered appropriate, particularly after the Warsaw meeting at which the same questions were already discussed in detail. This means that today we shall be repeating what has just been done. All this underscores once again the fact that our requests for serious modifications to the OSCE's work in the human dimension are justified.

The discussions during the Warsaw meeting also attest to the need to optimize the OSCE's activities in this area. As usual, the topics discussed duplicate the work of other international organizations, notably that of the Council of Europe.

Given the massive participation of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), it is striking that government representatives continue to take less interest in the meeting and the level of official delegations is consequently lower.

The Warsaw discussions revealed that there are serious problems with guaranteeing human rights, not only in countries that are "east of Vienna", but also in those that are "west of Vienna". The representatives of many NGOs spoke convincingly about this.

The Warsaw meeting also revealed an imbalance in the attention given to different issues on the humanitarian agenda. Many important topics were not dealt with in Mr. Lenarčič's report either. They include the protection of the rights of national minorities and "non-citizens", ensuring the rule of law, solving the problem of socio-economic rights

and the fight against trafficking in human organs. In addition, not enough attention is paid to the OSCE commitments regarding freedom of movement. We believe that the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) must deal actively with this topic. A draft ministerial decision proposed by Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan targets this very issue.

Manifestations of aggressive nationalism, ethnic and religious intolerance and the increased activeness of neo-Nazi and extremist movements pose a great danger to Europe today. For this very reason, the delegations of Belarus and Russia have proposed that a draft decision be adopted at the Ministerial Council meeting in Dublin on combating aggressive nationalism, violent extremism, neo-Nazism and neo-Fascism.

One of the key themes at the Warsaw meeting was the issue of elections. The Warsaw discussions clearly showed that there are significant problems, even in so-called “mature” democracies. A comparative analysis of the electoral legislation and practice in participating States in order to identify the problems in this area and ways of solving them is necessary and long overdue. This will facilitate a better understanding of the general principles and rules for election monitoring and contribute to increased confidence in the ODIHR’s work in this area. This is why we, together with the delegations of Belarus and Kazakhstan, are calling for a decision on improving election observation to be adopted at the Ministerial Council meeting in Dublin.

Unfortunately, the Warsaw meeting continues to be a forum for a politicized and often finger-wagging monologue instead of a constructive and equal dialogue in the humanitarian area. We consider that the meeting’s methods of work must be changed so as to increase its authority and relevance. This relates both to the duration of the meeting itself and to the regulation of the participation of non-governmental organizations. The work on this begun by the Irish Chairmanship should be continued, taking account of the concerns of all the participating States.

Thank you for your attention.