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United States Mission to the OSCE



Response to the Statement by the Russian Federation on Racism and Xenophobia in the United States

As delivered by Chargé d'Affaires, a. i. Carol Fuller
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
March 24, 2011

We would like to thank the Russian Federation for its statement which we unfortunately did not have the opportunity to review in advance of this meeting. We are pleased that Russia recognizes the importance and appropriateness of our mutual review of implementation of our OSCE commitments and feels free to raise its concerns in this forum.

The United States condemns all forms of racial discrimination and xenophobia and similar forms of intolerance, including discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, and we process violations in accordance with the rule of law.

Even though we now have a President with Afro-American roots, we acknowledge that we still have a long way to go to combat racism in America, and we thank the Russian Federation for pointing out our shortcomings.

We will bring the Russian statement on racism and xenophobia in the United States to the attention of authorities in Washington, and we will prepare a comprehensive reply under "Implementation of Commitments" in the agenda item in the Human Dimension Committee.

I would, however, call on our distinguished colleagues of the Russian Federation to please make more of an effort to comply with the standard courtesies of this organization and provide us with at least minimal information in advance of raising its concerns so that we can preview them and have a dialogue in this forum.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.