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**STATEMENT BY
THE PERMANENT DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS
TO THE OSCE AT THE 1012th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

24 July 2014

On the World Day against Trafficking in Persons

Mr. Chairperson,

In December last year the United Nations General Assembly designated 30 July as the World Day against Trafficking in Persons, which will be celebrated this year for the first time.

It was on this date in 2010, on the initiative of Belarus, that the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons was adopted, the first comprehensive universal document aimed at improving the co-ordination of efforts by the international community to combat this evil.

The Global Plan provides for the implementation of practical measures by the United Nations structures and Member States to strengthen international co-operation to prevent crimes connected with trafficking in human beings and to prosecute the perpetrators.

Unfortunately, modern forms of slavery, including trafficking in women and young girls for sexual purposes, the exploitation of migrant workers, forced prostitution, the use of children in armed conflicts and the international drug trade, continue to threaten the security of mankind.

In this connection, one of the fundamental tasks of the World Day is to draw attention to the situation and to provide assistance to the thousands of victims separated from their families by deception or force and turned into modern slaves.

In its resolution, the United Nations General Assembly invited all Member States, relevant agencies of the United Nations system and other international organizations, as well as civil society, to observe the World Day against Trafficking in Persons.

As a regional security organization, the OSCE has for many years made an important contribution to international efforts to prevent trafficking in human beings and other forms of modern slavery. The participating States have undertaken a large set of commitments,

including the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings and the Addendum to it approved last year at the Ministerial Council meeting in Kyiv. Vigorous and diversified activities are being carried out by the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, the executive structures and field presences.

In this connection, we believe that the OSCE's involvement in one way or another in the World Day against Trafficking in Persons and improved co-ordination of its activities with other international organizations and mechanisms, including the United Nations system, would help to enhance synergies within the international efforts in this important area and ultimately lead to the achievement of the main goal of preventing and eradicating the disgraceful phenomenon of trafficking in human beings.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.