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**STATEMENT BY
THE PERMANENT DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS
TO THE OSCE AT THE 1054th (SPECIAL) MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

27 May 2015

**In response to the statement by Ambassador Heidi Tagliavini,
Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office in Ukraine
and in the Trilateral Contact Group**

Mr. Chairperson,

We are pleased to welcome Ambassador Heidi Tagilavini, Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office in Ukraine and in the Trilateral Contact Group (TCG), to today's Permanent Council meeting and thank her for her informative account of the TCG's activities.

The meetings of all four working groups held in Minsk and of the Trilateral Contact Group do indeed inspire cautious optimism. We hope that the working groups will succeed in reaching concrete agreements as soon as possible so as to accelerate the overall process of implementing the Minsk agreements.

As we have already emphasized on a number of occasions, Belarus consistently advocates the most active search for a peaceful way out of the crisis. To that end, we are prepared to continue offering all the assistance necessary, including the provision of facilities for the holding of the next meetings of the TCG in Minsk.

We support the efforts of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM) to verify the implementation of the Minsk agreements, which remain the basis for a peaceful settlement of the Ukrainian conflict. We are concerned at the SMM's reports of continuing violations of the ceasefire regime and of the withdrawal of heavy weapons. Under these circumstances, ensuring the safety and security of the international monitors, who are carrying out important and responsible work in the interests of the entire OSCE community, is paramount.

Mr. Chairperson,

We in Belarus are profoundly aware of the dramatic and tragic nature of the events taking place in Ukraine – a country that is our brother and our friend. We cannot remain

indifferent to the suffering of millions of Ukrainian citizens, among them many ethnic Belarusians. Our national authorities are also doing everything possible to ensure the necessary conditions for a decent life for the tens of thousands of Ukrainians who have fled to Belarus to escape the horrors of the armed conflict.

It is for this reason that we call for a swift peaceful settlement of this conflict, to which there can be no military solution. It is for this reason that we advocate that all our actions within the OSCE – on the part of the Chairmanship, in the Normandy format, in the SMM and the TCG, and here in the Permanent Council – should bring us closer to that long-awaited moment when lasting and sustainable peace is restored on Ukrainian soil.

In that connection, I cannot but support the distinguished Permanent Representative of Germany, who has repeatedly drawn attention to the fact that our discussions in this room should serve to bring us together and find agreed and mutually acceptable solutions, and should send a clear and – most importantly – consolidated signal of peace to all the parties to the conflict. It stands to reason that using confrontational rhetoric, which is inconsistent with the very nature of the OSCE, is not conducive to resolving the crisis and establishing long-awaited peace on troubled Ukrainian soil.

In conclusion, I should like to wish Ms. Tagliavini every success in carrying out her very useful mission.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.