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Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Belarus to the OSCE

**STATEMENT BY MR. VIKTAR GAISENAK,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS
TO THE OSCE, AT THE MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

9 September 2004

The act of terrorism in the town of Beslan (Russian Federation)

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me on behalf of the Republic of Belarus to express the most sincere condolences to the victims of the terrorist act carried out by a group of criminals at a middle school in the town of Beslan in the Russian Federation, to the families and loved ones of those who perished and to the entire people of Russia. All Belarusians share a heartfelt grief with the residents of that small Ossetian town and with all the inhabitants of Russia.

The Republic of Belarus is resolute in its condemnation of this monstrous and senseless act of terrorism. The fact that the hostages included an enormous number of completely innocent children, many of whom were killed or injured, causes us deep outrage and genuine indignation.

The tragic events of recent days in Beslan have demonstrated that terrorism today poses a challenge not only to Russia but also to the fundamental principles of civilization and to all mankind. Terrorists are depriving human beings of their inalienable and fundamental right — the right to life.

We believe that the countering of terrorism must continue to be a central element in the work both of the OSCE and of other international organizations. We urge all the countries of the world and international organizations to join forces in a resolute and uncompromising struggle against international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. There is and can be no justification for terrorism.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.