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**STATEMENT BY MR. VALERY VORONETSKY,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS,  
AT THE CONCLUDING MEETING OF THE 20th OSCE  
ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM**

Prague, 12 September 2012

**Promoting security and stability through good governance**

**Opening session**

Mr. Chairperson,

Permit me, first of all, on behalf of the delegation of the Republic of Belarus to express our sincere gratitude to the Czech authorities for the cordial welcome to Prague and also to the Irish Chairmanship and the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities for the excellent manner in which they have prepared for this Forum.

We are in full agreement with the distinguished speakers regarding the key importance of good governance for steady economic development and for stability and security in the OSCE region.

It is precisely for that reason that we regard as justified the focus of attention by the 2012 OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum on issues involved in combating corruption, money-laundering and the financing of terrorism, all of which are of current importance for all participating States. The need for careful attention to this subject area and for specific joint actions in this sphere is dictated not only by the new threats and challenges to security but also by the continuing worldwide financial and economic crisis, the sources of which are largely linked to the failure to observe basic principles of good governance, both at the State level and within the private sector.

The Republic of Belarus regards the issues involved in combating corruption and money-laundering and also in countering the financing of terrorism as priority concerns in the context of the struggle against organized crime and the effort to solve the tasks facing us as we seek to ensure national and international security. Belarus is consistently improving its legislative framework and its practical mechanisms in this area, inter alia through the gradual introduction of the relevant international standards. Our country is a party to a whole range of leading international and regional legal instruments and associations.

It is no accident that it was precisely at the initiative of the Republic of Belarus at the OSCE Ministerial Council meeting in Sofia in 2004 that the well-known decision was adopted on combating corruption, a decision aimed at promoting in the OSCE region the observance of the most important universal instrument in that regard, namely the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

Mr. Chairperson,

The two preparatory Economic and Environmental Forum meetings held this year in Vienna and Dublin clearly show that the OSCE is playing a major role in assisting the efforts of participating States in combating corruption and money-laundering and also in countering the financing of terrorism. In that sense, the work of the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities and a large number of field missions deserves the highest praise.

We believe that, in the light of the discussions and recommendations of the preparatory meetings, this Forum must as far as possible seek to formulate political decisions aimed at further strengthening and developing the work of the OSCE as regards good governance.

We welcome in that context the declared intention of the Irish Chairmanship to propose the adoption at the forthcoming OSCE Ministerial Council meeting in Dublin of a ministerial decision along these lines. In this connection, we take the view that the accent must be placed not on the generation of new commitments but on a responsible attitude towards the implementation of those that already exist. A comprehensive and active approach towards the implementation of the provisions of the Maastricht strategy for the OSCE's economic and environmental dimension, one of the foundations of which is good governance, would provide the most effective response to today's challenges. A possible ministerial document must also, in our view, not fail to deal with the issues of corporate management and ethics.

It is important also to set in train the mechanism for the practical implementation of the ideas and proposals put forward during the current Economic and Environmental Forum cycle and for their transformation into concrete and meaningful OSCE projects, including those of a regional and subregional nature.

Mr. Chairperson,

On the whole, we are firmly convinced of the need for a further stepping up of efforts and for the allocation of greater human and financial resources for the economic and environmental dimension, which is an integral component of the OSCE's concept of comprehensive and co-operative security.

We believe that our Organization could provide greater assistance to participating States in strengthening their security, solving existing problems through joint efforts, and sharing best practices in the economic and environmental field.

In this connection, we regard the annual Economic and Environmental Forum as a key event within the OSCE's "second basket", which represents an important and essential format

for the development of dialogue and co-operation between participating States regarding the most topical security-related economic and environmental issues.

We trust that, together with the now established annual Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting, this Forum will in fact help to increase the significance of the OSCE's second dimension and to increase its practical benefits.

In conclusion, allow me to wish all the participants in this Economic and Environmental Forum the experience of an interesting and constructive event.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.