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**STATEMENT BY
THE PERMANENT DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS
TO THE OSCE AT THE 929th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

8 November 2012

**In response to the report by the Director of the Office for Democratic
Institutions and Human Rights, Ambassador Janez Lenarčič**

Mr. Chairperson,

We listened carefully to the report by the Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), Ambassador Janez Lenarčič, on the annual Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM) that has just been held.

In principle, we agree that this event is significant from the point of view of a comprehensive review of the OSCE's human rights commitments, since there are problems with their implementation in every participating State without exception.

The fact that this event has not fulfilled its initial purpose for some time now is a different matter. The majority of States that are so-called "mature democracies" prefer not to report on the implementation their commitments, but merely criticize others. This means that the problems remain "off-screen" in some countries while they are artificially highlighted in others. This is simply how the Warsaw meeting works.

The latest meeting was no exception to the rule. Once again, there was no constructive or mutually respectful dialogue aimed at improving the situation of the implementation of human dimension commitments across the entire OSCE area. There is also room for improvement in the contribution of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to the discussion.

Mr. Chairperson,

Belarus together with other partners consistently advocates the reform of the OSCE human dimension events. Order must be created, not only in the modalities for organizing the meetings and optimizing their number, duration and participation procedure. In addition, it is also important to change the approaches to participation in these events, above all of the participating States themselves, in order to build pragmatic and unbiased dialogue and to

provide an opportunity for the calm assessment of problematic issues, the search for common solutions and the exchange of best practices.

This is precisely how we envisage the outcome of the discussion that has begun in the OSCE about improving the conduct of human dimension events. We trust that we shall manage to agree on a common vision for optimizing the work of the Warsaw meeting and supplementary events and adopt specific resolutions in this regard in the very near future. If this does not occur, the crisis in the system of OSCE human dimension events could become even worse.

Mr. Chairperson,

Since the ODIHR Director is present, I feel I must touch on the topic of election observation.

The recent elections in a number of participating States have once again clearly identified problematic aspects of the Office's monitoring activity, which continues to be carried out without an election observation methodology that has been agreed and adopted by consensus. In this context we should like to recall the joint proposal by a number of countries for a decision to be adopted at the OSCE Ministerial Council in Dublin on conducting a comparative analysis of the election systems of the OSCE participating States and subsequently developing common standards for the observation of elections in the OSCE region.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.