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Delegation of Belarus

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

15 April 2010

On the discussion of the results of the Nuclear Security Summit

Mr. Chairperson,

We welcome the signing in Prague on 8 April of this year by the Russian Federation and the United States of America of the Treaty on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (START). The Belarusian Government regards that document as a serious contribution to the maintenance of international security.

In this connection it should be noted that the Republic of Belarus has made a major contribution to nuclear disarmament. For many years our country has been a responsible party to the 1991 START Treaty. As a nuclear successor to the Soviet Union, the Republic of Belarus voluntarily renounced the possession of nuclear weapons and declared the non-nuclear status of the Belarusian State. The Republic of Belarus also acceded to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and has expressed its support for further measures in the area of international disarmament and non-proliferation. For this reason we invest high hopes in the successful conduct in May of this year of the NPT review conference in New York.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.