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Delegation of Belarus

**STATEMENT BY
THE PERMANENT DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS
TO THE OSCE AT THE 936th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

20 December 2012

**In response to the statement by the delegation of the
United States of America**

Mr. Chairperson,

We carefully listened to and take note of the statement by the United States delegation.

However, we should like to note that the unsubstantiated questions and groundless assertions referred to in that statement have repeatedly been the subject of discussion at Permanent Council meetings, and our delegation has provided well-founded clarifications on numerous occasions.

Since, unlike our United States colleagues, we are not going to repeat ourselves, we should just like to refer to our statement of 15 December 2011, which sets out the principled position of Belarus regarding such statements within the framework of the Permanent Council, which run counter to the principles of constructive dialogue and seek only to exert political pressure.

We should welcome a more self-critical approach on the part of the United States, where the situation with observing human rights, including with regard to ensuring freedom of assembly and holding democratic elections, has worsened considerably in the past year.

Apart from this, we should like once again to draw the Permanent Council's attention to the violation by the United States of its international commitments to Belarus.

We refer in particular to the Memorandum on Security Assurances in connection with Belarus's accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in 1994 (the so-called Budapest Memorandum), which is registered at the United Nations as an international agreement.

Pursuant to Article 3 of that Memorandum, signed by the President of the United States as well as the Presidents of Belarus and Russia and the Prime Minister of the

United Kingdom on the margins of the OSCE Summit in Budapest, in connection with Belarus's voluntary renunciation of its status as a nuclear power, the United States reaffirmed its "commitment to Belarus, in accordance with the principles of the CSCE Final Act, to refrain from economic coercion designed to subordinate to their own interest the exercise by the Republic of Belarus of the rights inherent in its sovereignty and thus to secure advantages of any kind".

Unfortunately, the United States continues to grossly violate this commitment, applying economic sanctions and other restrictive measures against Belarus.

As stressed in the statement by the head of the Belarusian delegation at the OSCE Ministerial Council meeting in Dublin, "a policy of unilateral sanctions, unsubstantiated restrictions and diktat should have no place in our Organization, otherwise it is meaningless to talk of establishing a genuine security community in the OSCE area".

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.