



## United States Mission to the OSCE

### **Concerns related to human dimension commitments in Belarus**

As delivered by Chargé d'Affaires Katherine Brucker  
to the Permanent Council, Vienna  
January 30, 2025

The January 26 presidential election in Belarus was held in a repressive environment characterized by state censorship, a continuing crackdown on free and independent media and on civil society organizations, and the exclusion of democratic opposition figures from the political process.

Unsurprisingly, Alyaksandr Lukashenka claimed victory despite a deeply flawed process in which he faced no real competition. His regime has continued to detain and imprison those who dare to express an opinion contrary to the approved narrative, with an estimated 1,250 political prisoners currently behind bars despite recent releases of a few dozen individuals.

We regret that Belarus failed to issue a timely invitation to the OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights to observe the election, thus further depriving its election of credibility and transparency.

We remind Belarus of the importance of the OSCE principles and commitments that it, like all participating States, has pledged to uphold, including respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all.

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