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Delegation of Belarus

**STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT DELEGATION OF THE
REPUBLIC OF BELARUS TO THE OSCE AT THE 984th MEETING OF
THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

20 February 2014

Regarding the situation in Ukraine

Mr. Chairperson,

The Republic of Belarus is concerned about the worsening of the situation in Ukraine, which has led to human casualties.

On the subject of the deaths resulting from the mass disturbances in Kyiv, the President of the Republic of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, has sent his condolences to the President of Ukraine, Viktor Yanukovich. His message included the following words: “Belarus has always condemned the unlawful actions of those involved in political conflicts and unconstitutional methods of resolving internal political disagreements, which inevitably lead to an escalation of violence.” On behalf of the Belarusian people and in his personal capacity, Alexander Lukashenko has also expressed his condolences to the family and friends of those killed and sent his best wishes to the injured for a swift recovery.

Mr. Chairperson,

We cannot fail to note that in their assessments of the dramatic events that have taken place in Ukraine in recent months, many Western politicians have repeatedly underscored the “peaceful” nature of the protests. Some of them have visited the Maidan themselves, and spoken publicly in order to provide political support to the protesters. In so doing, they have essentially interfered in the internal affairs of another State. Furthermore, in their political statements, they have consciously refrained from referring to the “peaceful” protestors’ illegal occupation of government buildings or their use of Molotov cocktails and firearms when fighting with law enforcers. In fact, those who have turned a blind eye to radicalism and extremism should shoulder their share of the responsibility for the escalation of violence in Ukraine. The double standards of our Western counterparts regarding events in Ukraine are particularly evident against the backdrop of the assessments that have been made regarding certain wide-scale protests in other European countries, where law enforcement agencies must also resort to force in order to ensure public order.

Belarus has consistently spoken in favour of settling the political crisis in Ukraine through peaceful means, with the unconditional observance of legal norms and without external interference.

We once again express our hope that the situation in the country will be stabilized as soon as possible and that well-judged decisions will be taken in the interests of the Ukrainian people.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.