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**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS AT THE
2010 OSCE REVIEW CONFERENCE**

Warsaw, 1 October 2010

Working session 2: Fundamental freedoms I, including: freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief; presentation of activities of the ODIHR and other OSCE institutions and field operations to implement priorities and tasks contained in the OSCE decisions and other documents

Mr. Chairperson,
Distinguished Conference participants,

The Belarusian Government pays considerable attention to the question of the OSCE's activities in the human dimension. As we have already noted, the work of the Organization's executive structures in the humanitarian area accounts for the lion's share of the resources allocated by the participating States and of the attention on the part of the international community.

At the same time, despite the existence of fairly clear mandates calling, in the first place, for the provision of assistance to participating States, at their request, to help them meet their OSCE commitments, recent years have witnessed a growing trend whereby OSCE institutions have become engaged in functions that are alien to them, frequently to the detriment of their basic tasks. In a great many cases, these activities are characterized by a lack of transparency, an unbalanced approach and the imposition of norms and rules that have not been agreed upon by the participating States. This situation is having a negative impact on the effectiveness of the OSCE itself, which was conceived as a platform for dialogue based on mutual respect and aimed at bringing together the parties involved.

The Republic of Belarus, together with its OSCE partners, has put forward a number of proposals aimed at rectifying this situation and at breathing a new and fresh breath of life into the OSCE's human dimension and the work of its institutions.

In the first place, we propose the creation of a single normative basis for the international monitoring of elections within the framework of the OSCE. Without going into the details of these proposals (and what we are referring to has to do with the draft of the "basic principles" of election monitoring), we can say that, even if only a part of these ideas were realized, this would make it possible to increase substantially the effectiveness of OSCE

observation missions and confidence in them, while at the same time achieving significant savings in terms of financial and human resources.

Secondly, it is proposed that the OSCE's work in ensuring freedom of movement should be relaunched and, in effect, started afresh. We regard as unacceptable a situation in which, 20 years after the well-known global changes in the OSCE's area of responsibility, rudimentary barriers preventing the free movement of citizens are still in place.

Thirdly, the extrabudgetary activities of the basic OSCE institutions active in the human dimension must be made transparent, comprehensible and co-ordinated. This also involves at the basic level bringing the work of the executive structures into line with the Organization's mandate,

Finally, a number of proposals have been tabled regarding the way in which numerous OSCE events are conducted and how best to make them more effective.

We hope that these joint initiatives will be practically implemented as part of the work that is to begin after the summit meeting in Astana.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.