

PC.DEL/224/10
9 April 2010

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of Belarus

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

8 April 2010

**In response to the statement by the Secretary-General of the
United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-moon**

Mr. Chairperson,

Our delegation would like to join in welcoming the Secretary-General of the United Nations, His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon, to this meeting of the Permanent Council. We have listened with interest to his statement and should like, in that connection, to make a few comments.

As one of the founding members of the United Nations, the Republic of Belarus fully supports the work of that organization and is in favour of strengthening the key role of the United Nations in maintaining peace and ensuring security.

We note the high level of the OSCE's practical co-operation with the United Nations and its specialized agencies on a wide range of issues, starting with the problem of small arms and light weapons and ending with matters concerning the human dimension. As a regional arrangement under the terms of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations and guided by a comprehensive approach to ensuring security, the OSCE is a natural and reliable partner of the United Nations in the space extending from Vancouver to Vladivostok. We believe there is a need for the further qualitative development of this co-operation so as to ensure security and stability in the Euro-Atlantic region and the world as a whole. It is our firm conviction that completing the transformation of the OSCE into a fully fledged international organization with its own charter would help to strengthen this collaboration.

In this context we regard as useful the contribution being made by the United Nations specialized agencies to the broad-based dialogue on European security issues that has been initiated within the OSCE and that has come to be known as the Corfu Process.

Among the many areas of common interest for the United Nations and the OSCE we should like to single out the problem of how best to combat trafficking in human beings. We place high hopes on a global plan of action against trafficking in persons, the consultations on the formulation of which have begun in the General Assembly of the United Nations. We

hope that the OSCE will become actively involved in this initiative, specifically through the office of its Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings. In this connection we should also like to mention the establishment in New York in February of this year of the informal Group of Friends United against Human Trafficking, whose tasks include helping to step up international activities to combat trafficking.

We believe it is important to continue to develop co-operation between the United Nations and the OSCE with regard to energy security. Areas of co-operation of this kind might specifically include the development of alternative and renewable energy sources, the ensuring of equal access to new energy-related technologies, the protection of critical energy infrastructure, energy savings and enhanced energy efficiency. If the practical problems in these areas are to be solved, it will necessary to establish a multifaceted partnership bringing together all the participating States, international organizations and the private sector.

In view of the Declaration on Non-Proliferation adopted at the OSCE Ministerial Council meeting in Athens, on the positive side we are pleased to note the progress that has already been seen with regard to international disarmament and non-proliferation. Belarus was the first State from among the nuclear successors of the former Soviet Union to accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), to voluntarily renounce nuclear weapons and to complete the withdrawal of nuclear weapons from its territory at the end of 1996. It was at the initiative of the Republic of Belarus that the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted a resolution on a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central and Eastern Europe. In that connection we welcome the signing in Prague today of the Treaty between the Russian Federation and the United States of America on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms. We also invest great hope in the convening in New York in May of this year of the NPT Review Conference.

In conclusion, allow me to wish the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, every success in his further work in his highly responsible office.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.