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

Warsaw, 30 September 2010

Mr. Chairperson,
Distinguished Conference participants,

Allow me on behalf of the delegation of the Republic of Belarus to welcome the participants in the OSCE 2010 Review Conference and to thank the organizers – the Kazakh Chairmanship of the OSCE, the Secretariat and other OSCE bodies, including the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights – for the serious work that has gone into the preparations for this Conference. I should also like to thank the Polish Government for its traditional hospitality.

The Review Conference is a momentous event for our Organization, which will hold its first summit meeting in 11 years in Astana this December. We hope that a comprehensive review of the implementation of OSCE commitments by all participating States as well as an examination of the work of the OSCE institutions and their effectiveness will help to provide a real assessment of the state of affairs as regards ensuring security in the Organization's area of responsibility.

We make no secret of the fact that the level of security in the area from Vancouver to Vladivostok is today far from ideal and falls short of the standards conceived by the founders of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe. The persistence of old seats of tension and the appearance of new ones, transnational threats to security, the rise in xenophobia and intolerance, illegal migration and trafficking – these are just a few of the problems that make it clear that the time has come for serious and painstaking work to develop a new, modern system of security in our region on the basis of common norms and principles, free of dividing lines and bloc-based thinking. We are convinced that this calls for a comprehensive assessment and a balanced and objective analysis, without any political motivations, of the situation in the entire OSCE region.

We generally believe that holding the Review Conference in the run-up to the OSCE summit provides the participating States, partner countries and other relevant international bodies with a unique opportunity for a comprehensive review of the situation as regards Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security. This is especially important for the first and second dimensions of the Organization, which in recent years have for various reasons been overshadowed by the third dimension, the human one. It is our hope that effective use will be made of the exchange of information and useful experience during this Conference.

In view of the fact that the Review Conference is beginning its work with the segment on the human dimension, we should like to point out that today in the OSCE area there are no ideal or perfect countries that do not have problems in the sphere of human rights, fundamental freedoms, democratic elections, tolerance and non-discrimination. Problems exist everywhere and we must not hush them up or, on the other hand, overemphasize them, but should instead discuss and analyse them in a considered, impartial and calm manner, seek joint solutions and use best practices on the basis of our partners' experience. We trust that this is the kind of discussion that will be pursued during the first segment of the Conference.

We should also like to mention that Belarus, in conjunction with a number of other OSCE participating States, put forward specific proposals in 2010 aimed at optimizing and increasing the effectiveness of the OSCE's work in the humanitarian field. These proposals are still on the table. Furthermore, the currently unacceptable situation with regard to ensuring the freedom of movement of the citizens of our countries requires an urgent solution. The Belarusian delegation will go into these subjects in more detail during the relevant working sessions.

In conclusion, allow me to wish all the participants in the Conference successful and fruitful work.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.