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Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Belarus
to the OSCE

**STATEMENT BY
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THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS TO THE OSCE, AT THE MEETING OF
THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

26 January 2006

**Belarusian proposal for the establishment of a global partnership against
slavery and trafficking in human beings in the twenty-first century**

Mr. Chairman,

On 20 January 2006, our delegation distributed information through the OSCE Secretariat on the Belarusian initiative for the establishment of a global partnership against slavery and trafficking in human beings in the twenty-first century. We should like to draw the attention of delegations to this document (SEC.DEL/19/06).

During the United Nations Summit in September 2005, Mr. Alexander Lukashenko, President of Belarus, stressed the need for intensified efforts to combat trafficking in human beings and specifically to consider possible steps to eradicate the demand for victims of trafficking.

In elaborating on this issue during the political debate in the General Assembly, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Belarus made a proposal for the establishment of a global partnership against slavery and trafficking in human beings in the twenty-first century.

The fundamental aim of this initiative is to better co-ordinate efforts by all parties active in this sphere with a view to strengthening the penalization of trafficking in human beings, ensuring effective protection and reintegration of victims, paying constant attention to eliminating the root causes of trafficking in human beings and creating infrastructures at the national level to combat trafficking in human beings and the criminal networks involved in it.

To implement this initiative a group made up of interested States, United Nations bodies and non-governmental organizations is being formed to encourage the United Nations and other international organizations to give this problem higher priority.

The main result in practice has been the creation of an interagency working group, chaired by a special adviser to the United Nations Secretary-General.

Furthermore, we have put forward a proposal for inclusion in the agenda of the United Nations General Assembly of a new item entitled “Trafficking in human beings”, with a view to the elaboration of an omnibus resolution on this issue in the General Assembly.

This work is being co-ordinated by the Permanent Representative of Belarus to the United Nations.

We welcome the efforts undertaken in this area within the OSCE. We should also like to invite all interested States to add their own contributions to this important work and to the ongoing task of combating trafficking on a global scale.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.