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**United States Mission to the OSCE**

**Statement on the Agenda  
of the Human Dimension Implementation  
Meeting**

As delivered by Ambassador Ian Kelly  
to the Permanent Council, Vienna  
July 28, 2011

Like the European Union, the United States is deeply disappointed that the Government of Belarus continues its refusal to join consensus on the agenda for this year's Human Dimension Implementation Meeting. We – like the EU and the Russian Federation – want to thank the Lithuanian Chairmanship for its tireless efforts to bring all of us to consensus on this important Decision. It is our hope that we can quickly put the adoption of this Decision behind us so we can begin on the other important priorities of this organization. As you know, we need to turn our attention to Vilnius.

Let me just say a few words about the proposal to have a separate PC decision on discussing the modalities of the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting. It is the view of my government that such a separate PC decision is wholly unnecessary. There is no need for this body to repeat itself. We already have a PC Decision – PC Decision 476 – which commits us to discuss the modalities of the HDIM.

My delegation, among many others, has already voiced its intention in several fora to engage constructively in such discussions about strengthening the effectiveness and attractiveness of human dimension meetings. I do that again here today at the Permanent Council – we are prepared to have such discussions.

Once again, let me close by urging the Government of Belarus to reconsider its decision and work with us and join consensus before the end of the day tomorrow.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.