*Unofficial translation*

*Original: Russian*

BELARUS

Human Rights Council 35th

Item 4

ID with the Special Rapporteur on Belarus

Statement by Yury Ambrazevich

Ambassador, Permanent Representative

Dear Mr. President,

Distinguished colleagues,

Today we are forced to dialogue with the procedure whose mandate was adopted by the Council in June 2016 by 15 votes, which is less than one third of the composition of the Council. We consider that creation of the special procedure under item 4 of the agenda of the Human Rights Council by such a law number of votes contradicts the sense of the item 4, namely critical situations that require urgent attention of the international community, and undermines credibility of the Human Rights Council’s activity and compromises it at the eyes of the UN system and the international community.

Adoption of the mandate by the de-facto narrow group of countries also raises doubts about ensuing impartiality of the mandate holder.

We are convinced that the creation by the Human Rights Council of country -specific procedures without the agreement of the concerned country is an absolutely ineffective method of work and represents interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign state.

The fruitless HRC mandate on Belarus is driven by the European Union and the USA. However both with Brussels and Washington Belarus is conducting direct bilateral dialogues and consultations on human rights on equal footing as it is appropriate under the international law. This approach gives adequate prove of the openness of the Republic of Belarus to the discussion of any political disagreement on the understanding that our sovereignty and rights as it is stated in the international law are fully respected. For two years we have interacted with the European Union without its unilateral sanctions against Belarus that brought to all participants more benefit that the previous 15 year period of limitations and prohibitions.

Our position of principal on pointlessness and uselessness of the special procedure and the Human Rights Council resolution for the promotion and protection of human rights in the Republic of Belarus remains unchanged. We are convinced that human rights situation in Belarus is not fundamentally different from that in most of the countries in the world and does not threaten either the citizens of Belarus or our neighbors nor the international community as a whole.

Like in previous years the Government of Belarus is carrying out systematic work to improve the mechanisms for the protection and promotion of human rights in our country. To that end the decision was taken in October 2016 by the Council of Ministers with the agreement of the President which adopts the first National plan of action on realization of recommendations in the field of human rights accepted following the UPR and presentation of national reports. In the implementation of this document we have involved all branched of power and line agencies of our country. Interested foreign states as well as the UN agencies including the OHCHR are invited by our Government to provide possible technical assistance in realization of the Plan. Relevant consultations are currently under way in Minsk.

We call on the Human Rights Council to support the actions of the Government and to address to all interested parties our call for direct dialogue and constrictive involvement through the institutional framework existing in our country.

We urge the Human Rights Council to end the practice of adopting country resolutions on Belarus and establishing a special procedure for examination of the situation in my country.