

ADDRESS

TO THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE THEMATIC EVENT AT THE UN HEADQUARTERS TO COMMEMORATE INTERNATIONAL CHERNOBYL DISASTER REMEMBRANCE DAY

April 26, 2017

Today the international community for the first time marks International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day proclaimed by the United Nations.

By the tragic whim of fate Belarus, the smallest of the three countries most affected by Chernobyl, took the heaviest blow of this most dramatic man-made disaster of the last century: radiation hit our land, people and – what is most precious to us – our children.

At that difficult moment many states and international organisations, statesmen and scientists, charitable organisations and simply people of good will who were not indifferent to the tragedy of those who got under the dark shadow of Chernobyl lent their helping hand to Belarus.

The fate of hundreds of thousands of people who were affected by the Chernobyl disaster will always be in a focus of attention of the Belarusian state. We are doing everything possible to create for them adequate conditions of life, protect the health of their children and grandchildren and ensure sustainable development of the affected regions.

On behalf of the Government of Belarus I express to you sincere gratitude for assisting in the implementation in Belarus of important projects in the sphere of health protection and ecology, for your tremendous contribution to recuperation and medical treatment of children from the Chernobyl-affected regions as well as humanitarian assistance to those affected by the disaster. I sincerely thank you for generosity of your soul, your sensitive heart, your empathy and support.

The exhibition that is being opened tonight at the UN Headquarters fuses the pain of commemoration of the Chernobyl disaster with the light of hope for renewal and safe future of the affected territories. I am sure that this event will contribute to the strengthening of solidarity and unwavering commitment of all partners to put an end to the legacy of Chernobyl.

(signed)

Vladimir Makei
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belarus