

# REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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## **Priorities of Belarus at the 71<sup>st</sup> session of the United Nations General Assembly**

At the 71<sup>st</sup> session of the United Nations General Assembly the delegation of Belarus will focus on the following areas and issues:

- we will continue to advance the concept of the diversity of ways towards progress and development as a value of mankind;
- Belarus will work closely with the Non-Aligned Movement and other interested delegations to enhance the role, authority and effectiveness of the General Assembly as the most representative body of the United Nations;
- Belarus will focus on measures to reassert the statutory authority of the General Assembly in appointment of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and in streamlining the principles of good governance, accountability and transparency throughout the UN system;
- we will continue to vigorously advance the implementation of the “Global Partnership for Development”, a key partnership in the United Nations system;
- Belarus attaches overriding importance to the new Agenda 2030 for sustainable development with the Sustainable Development Goals at its core. In this context, we will advocate measures aimed at its effective implementation, including through adequate international assistance to deliver on the SDGs in accordance with national priorities and needs;
- we will continue to attach particular significance to the need to strengthen the UN development system in cooperation with middle-income countries (MICs);
- to this end, Belarus will advance system-wide efforts in response to different and multifaceted challenges confronted by MICs. We will continue to advance the idea of establishing an interagency coordination mechanism through the elaboration of an action plan for sustainable development of MICs;
- we will continue to advocate the idea of forging and strengthening global partnerships that bring together all positive international stakeholders – states, international

intergovernmental organizations, global civil society, the private sector and mass media – in a common effort against specific transnational threats and challenges;

- in this context, Belarus will continue to address in a comprehensive manner the issue of human trafficking in its various forms, including by making preparations for the UN General Assembly High level meeting on the review of the UN Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, which is to be held in October 2017;
- Belarus stands ready to work with all Member States to promote human rights and freedoms in conformity with the principles of cooperation, impartiality and mutually respectful dialogue;
- Belarus will continue to uphold the internationally recognized approaches to the protection and promotion of human rights: civil and political rights and economic, social and cultural rights are indivisible, interrelated, interdependent and complementary. Each category of human rights and freedoms should be approached on an equal footing and given the same emphasis. Belarus will pay particular attention to the activities and reports of appropriate UN human rights organs and mechanisms;
- Belarus will continue to work against politicization of human rights and freedoms. We stand for international cooperation on human rights that gives due consideration to country-specific historical experience, mentality, economic and political circumstances;
- we firmly believe that country-specific resolutions on human rights have nothing to do with human rights, it is rather a reflection of a hidden politically-motivated agenda on the part of some against others;
- Belarus will continue working with all interested stakeholders to promote basic rights of children, women and other social groups;
- Belarus looks forward to constructive engagement with all interested delegations and bodies of the United Nations in promoting the rule of law at the international level, in particular, in the work of relevant UN structures in a transparent and unbiased manner;
- we will continue to advocate the need for the UN system to properly address the issue of the family, as well as its role as a contributor to sustainable development;
- in partnership with UNDP and other stakeholders we will continue efforts at promoting a new strategy for post-2016 international Chernobyl cooperation. To this end, we intend to submit a resolution on *Strengthening of international cooperation and coordination of efforts to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster*;
- as a country that voluntarily renounced nuclear weapons, Belarus will continue to be actively involved in the issues of international security, non-proliferation and disarmament, above all, in the First Committee.