

**Thirty years after Chernobyl. From an Emergency to a Revival and Sustainable  
Socio-Economic Development of Affected Territories  
International Conference  
Minsk, April 25-26, 2016**

*Concept note*

**Background**

On April 26, 2016, the international community will commemorate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the disaster at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant.

This will be a significant landmark not only for the three countries most affected by the disaster – Belarus, Russia and Ukraine – but, indeed, for the whole world. This accident changed the way governments deal with nuclear power, safety and security, and challenged the manner with which the world can comprehensively prevent, react to and mitigate the long-term consequences of a complex man-made disaster. One of the primary lessons of Chernobyl was that the world should stay vigilant and united facing such disasters – something that was proved, for instance, by the Fukushima nuclear accident in 2011.

The global community led by the United Nations has been involved in overcoming the Chernobyl disaster for almost 30 years, starting from emergency relief and humanitarian assistance and gradually shifting to capacity-building and sustainable development of the affected regions and communities. Currently, the United Nations implements Chernobyl Decade of Recovery and Sustainable Development of the Affected Regions. The completion of the Decade in 2016 will coincide with the 30<sup>th</sup> Chernobyl anniversary.

Belarus, Russia and Ukraine, together with the whole UN family gained unique knowledge and experience in recovering from the consequences of Chernobyl nuclear disaster, and created best practices in moving from recovery to development. This should be carefully preserved and shared among international community. In order not to lose this knowledge and experience and at the same time to continue sustainable development assistance to the most affected regions, further international coordination and efforts are needed beyond the current UN Chernobyl Decade.

In the next decade the international Chernobyl cooperation under the auspices of the United Nations might continue within a framework of action under a working title “*Achieving SDGs in the affected regions through partnership, innovation and investment*”.

In response to the UN Secretary-General’s call to develop “a forward-looking strategy designed to further help the recovery of the affected areas and to work together for greater nuclear safety worldwide” this new Decade of International Chernobyl Cooperation would build upon the previous 30 years of multilateral cooperation and partnership established during that time. It would focus on preserving and sharing the experience of overcoming complex consequences of a nuclear disaster in a broader UN context of Sendai Framework of Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and on creating of new partnerships for innovation and investment in the affected regions to achieve newly adopted Sustainable Development Goals.

The Conference will echo the renewed vision of multilateral Chernobyl cooperation by highlighting the utmost priority of peoples’ prosperity as a result of efforts to overcome crises and emergencies.

Belarus will be ready to take the lead in implementing the new stage of cooperation on Chernobyl and will come forward with a number of initiatives at the Conference.

## **Expected Outcomes of the Conference**

The conference will:

- summarize the experience gained during the 30 years of global efforts in overcoming the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster;
- review the progress made during the United Nations Decade of Recovery and Sustainable Development of the Affected Regions;
- consider proposals on a new UN period / framework of action of international Chernobyl cooperation;
- serve as a platform for countries and organisations to create new partnerships and present forward-looking initiatives and proposals;
- contribute to raising global awareness on the issues of mitigation of nuclear accidents in the context of sustainable development and disaster risk reduction.

The Conference will adopt a declaration summing up its deliberations, outcomes and recommendations.

## **Participants**

- Leaders and high-level representatives of the three most affected countries (Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine) and other countries involved in international cooperation on Chernobyl, including those with their own experience of dealing with nuclear and other technological accidents;
- Secretary-General of the United Nations (tbc);
- Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and Coordinator of international Chernobyl cooperation (tbc);
- Heads of UN agencies, funds and programmes (UNICEF, UNFPA IAEA, FAO, OCHA, UNEP, UNSCEAR, WHO.), international financial institutions, the World Bank, EBRD, and international organizations, such as OSCE;
- Heads and representatives of NGOs;
- Representatives of scientific community;
- Representatives of private sector;
- Representatives of donor countries: China, Cuba, Germany, Japan, Ireland, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, Sweden, United Kingdom (TBC);
- UNDP Goodwill Ambassador for Chernobyl Ms Maria Sharapova (TBC).

## **Organizers**

Belarus will act as principal organizer of the Conference in cooperation with interested partners.

## **Date and Venue**

Date: 25-26 April 2016.

Venue: President Hotel, Minsk.

Working languages of the Conference will be Russian and English. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided.