



BELARUS

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UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
72nd Session
Agenda item 123
Strengthening of the United Nations System
New York, April 12, 2018

Statement by

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Two months ago the International Association of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations turned 30.

Today – through the General Assembly resolution – it is finally getting due acknowledgement, a promise of improved accommodation and a much-needed informational support from the UN IT wizards.

It is never too late to do the right thing.

And the thing that the IAPR was created for is **good** and is **right**.

IAPR is not a leisure club. It is not even an ambassadors' trade union in the conventional understanding of the term.

IAPR is a single most undervalued tool of **breaking through the walls of UN formality**. These walls – often unintentionally or against our will – are built with **bricks of impersonality and detachment**. These bricks are cemented with **a glue of double-talk and wordiness**.

Through its continued existence, IAPR conveys a simple yet very potent idea: notwithstanding the power of the institutional, **people continue to matter most**.

If the hope and promise of the UN Charter is ever to be fully realised, it will happen not through the magic **concurrence of policy instructions** sent to this place from the myriad of world capitals.

But it may happen if the UN ambassadors – encouraged and supported by the IAPR activity – use their extraordinary and plenipotentiary powers **to stay in personal touch**, to **rally their courage to connect**, to be **open**, to seek the ways to **bigger trust and more sincere empathy**.

IAPR is **not a machine**. At any given moment, it is defined by the personal features of its **leader and inspirer**.

This is why today I would like to pay tribute to all **IAPR Presidents** whose selfless service kept the Association going.

On a more personal note, I would like to make a **specific mention** of the IAPR Presidents whom I **know and remember** and whose work of heart **provided inspiration** for the support of Belarus to the IAPR cause:

Amb. Mihnea Motoc of Romania,

Amb. Hjálmar W. Hannesson of Iceland,

Amb. Byrganym Aitimova of Kazakhstan,

Amb. Daniele Bodini of San Marino

and our current President of the Association and the mastermind of the IAPR's greater prominence and visibility Amb. Mary Elizabeth Flores of Honduras.

As one of the co-writers of the resolution's initial text, I dedicate this humble GA document to you.