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**Round table "Identifying and Mitigating Long-term Consequences of the Chernobyl Nuclear Disaster: Building the Case for Continued International Cooperation"**  
New York, April 26, 2017

**Statement**  
**by Dmitry Mironchik**  
**Head of Information Department**  
**Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus**

Dear colleagues,

I am pleased to greet you at today's meeting, an important discussion in a row of events dedicated to the International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day.

Thank you for the opportunity to share with you some observations on practices related to the international cooperation on Chernobyl under the UN auspices, its achievements and difficulties.

First of all, I would like to stress the importance of effective Chernobyl cooperation between the most affected countries and of the coordination mechanism embodied in the UN Inter-agency Task Force on Chernobyl led by the UNDP.

Our experience shows that **UNDP is uniquely positioned to coordinate UN agencies' efforts** at the development stage of recovery from the Chernobyl disaster. Its presence on the ground and close partnership with national and local authorities ensures an effective implementation of its projects and first-hand knowledge.

The new UN GA resolution on Chernobyl, adopted last December, recognises the persistent legacy of the Chernobyl disaster and **empowers the United Nations system to undertake meaningful steps** aimed at achieving the sustainable development goals in the Chernobyl-affected regions and communities. **Achieving SDGs in the affected regions through partnerships, innovations and investments** seems a **topical idea to form the core of the post-2016 period**.

Belarus is counting on the **strong leadership and coordination functions of the UNDP and IATF** in implementing that.

Belarus highly values the continued efforts of the **UNDP and the IAEA** aimed at implementing of the specific Chernobyl-related projects. The **IAEA** data-base of best practices devoted to cost-effective countermeasures in agriculture and forestry as well as the **UNDP** "Knowledge Product "Recovery from Chernobyl – Experiences and Lessons Learnt" are in demand in Belarus.

There is considerable potential for cooperation with the **WHO** regarding maintaining and strengthening of the healthcare systems in the affected regions, long-term medical follow up of exposed populations. The Secretariat of the WHO may consider it appropriate to study within its mandate medical consequences of the Chernobyl disaster with a view to improve the understanding of low-dose radiation risks for human health and to increase

the effectiveness of medical assistance to individuals residing in the radioactive-contaminated areas.

There are also things which **Belarus can share with the world**, through its knowledge and experience. Our country is proud of her achievements in the post-Chernobyl rehabilitation. From Japan, Germany, Norway, France, China, Korea we note a significant and sustainable demand for our knowledge and experience related to permissible doses, zoning, people's psychological rehabilitation etc.

Since 1988 Belarus possesses a unique research facility in the Exclusion Zone – the **State Radiation and Ecology Reserve "Palesie"**. The evaluation of the barrier function of this Reserve, the natural recovery processes and justification of possible additional protection measures should be an important task of national and international research. The already obtained research results show a high promise of such endeavors.

Given that, we intend to establish an **International Research Centre for Study of Long-Term Consequences of the Chernobyl Disaster in this Reserve**. This Research Centre could be financed through a special international fund. Experts from different states would be able to work jointly in such a Centre, taking part in research programmes that are of fundamental significance. We invite all UN member-states, the United Nations specialized institutions, state, public and business entities, foreign nationals to participate in the establishment and activities of the Center.

In conclusion, I would like to stress that Belarus is grateful to the agencies, UN funds and specialized institutions, other international organizations, civil society entities, foreign nationals for their solidarity and support in the elimination of Chernobyl consequences. We express our appreciation to the leadership of the UNDP for having served as a coordinator on Chernobyl since 2004 and for its contribution to the strengthening of the international cooperation in this field. We are thankful to other organisations, in particular the humanitarian organisations, which have worked hand in hand with us over all these years.

Belarus is ready to cooperate closely with all those who are ready to do so in the field of mitigation of the Chernobyl consequences and experience exchange.