

# BELARUS

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**United Nations Security Council  
'Conflicts in Europe' open debate  
New York, February 21, 2017**

## **Statement by**

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Conflicts in Europe. One would think this topic should have long ago become an outdated absurdity. Instead, it is still sadly an ominous reality. We seem to have forgotten the horrific lessons of the two world wars that broke out precisely on the European continent.

We sincerely hope that there are no countries in the UN who crave for wars and that we are all interested in strengthening international dialogue and improving understanding among nations.

But then why do we fail to make the Council's discussions on ways to peace into something more than just another opportunity to exert public pressure and to launch embarrassing mutual accusations?

In our opinion, the reason for this is that today, 70 years after the last world war, we have apparently lost the **acute sense of possibility of yet another global military disaster**, this time the final in the history of mankind. We far too recklessly rely on reliability of mechanisms set to prevent man-made apocalypse, on the infallibility of common sense and self-preservation instinct.

Unfortunately, history teaches us that these mechanisms do not work in conditions of mutual alienation and lack of even minimal confidence, unwillingness to compromise and tendency to demonise opponents.

These mechanisms will not be able to stop us from sliding into a global conflict as long as we **believe in the monopoly on truth and righteousness** that, by definition, should always belong to us and not to our opponents.

These mechanisms are helpless unless major world powers and their leaders find civil and moral courage to start a direct conversation with each other about their shared responsibility to prevent a new world confrontation, be it cold or fiery. If not the responsibility to abolish the right of the mighty one in the world politics, then at least the responsibility to adjust this right in line with considerations of humanity, solidarity, empathy and compassion.

Today the world, including as represented in the UN, badly needs **new broad discussion on the principles of the future co-existence of countries and peoples**. Such discussion should certainly touch upon the conflict in Europe, military and security confidence-building measures.

Just like 40 years ago the Helsinki process was required to defuse tension and reduce the degree of hostility, today once again similar decisive measures are required **to overcome global alienation**. Global candid conversation on the **new détente** is necessary.

We believe that there is an urgent need for frank, non-ceremonial dialogue on the causes of the **international responsibility crisis** and the ways of overcoming it.

We do not need talks behind somebody's back or exchange of resolutions or ceremonial summits every five years. We need **regular personal meetings of the most courageous and responsible world leaders** in order to:

- define the new rules of the multi-polar world,
- find ways of ensuring mutual respect of each other's interests,
- recognise diversity and variety of ways of progressive development of the human civilisation.

Belarus has a credible record of unbiased participation in such processes. The country as a welcoming place for international communication and Belarusians as dedicated advocates of international dialogue and its unbiased organisers. We are ready and willing to continue fulfilling this role actively and in good faith.