

## The Republic of Belarus in UN

For more than 50 years of its membership in the UN the Republic of Belarus has been upholding the objectives and principles of the Organization, aiming at UN strengthening in the solution of complicated world problems in the most active way.

Belarus was elected a member of the UN Security Council (1974-1975), of the UN Economic and Social Council (1947-1949, 1981-1983, 1986-1988, 1992-2000) and some of its functional commissions. Many times Belarusian representatives were appointed as Vice-presidents of the General Assembly, worked as chairpersons, vice-chairpersons and speakers for the chief committees of the General Assembly, Vice-presidents of the Economic and Social Council, took up the elective posts in other UN bodies and were members of the groups of international experts on the preparation of the major reports of the UN Secretary General. Belarusian experts also work in the UN Secretariat.

The key moment of the UN and Belarus cooperation is the participation of official missions of the Republic of Belarus in the work of annual and special sessions of the UN General Assembly and other bodies of the Organization, the UN specialized institutions and in the activity of different UN international forums as well.

The Millennium Summit was the major event of year 2000 for the UN system. The delegation of the Republic of Belarus headed by President Alexander Lukashenko took part in that milestone event.

Belarus is a member of more than 50 UN specialized institutions and other intergovernmental organizations cooperating with the UN on the basis of special agreements. Among them are the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), International Labor Organization (ILO), World Health Organization (WHO), UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and many others.

In 1993 a UN/UNDP representative office was opened in Minsk with the aim of rendering consultative and technical assistance in the field of market transformations. A division of the UN International Children's Fund with the appropriate financial backing for the realization of the program of maternity and childhood protection was opened in Minsk. UN also actively supports the country's efforts in dealing with issues of refugees and migration.

The integration of the countries in transition in commercial, economic, scientific, technical, environmental, social and humanitarian spheres of the UN activity; the use of the resources and experience of intergovernmental organizations of the UN system aimed at full integration into the system of world economic relations; the UN contribution to the consolidation of international cooperation in dealing with the impact of the Chernobyl disaster are the key areas of Belarus cooperation with UN.

Today the main objectives of Belarus within the UN system are as following:

- further support of initiatives featuring the Republic's priorities in the sphere of domestic and foreign policy and their reflection in the final documents and UN General Assembly resolutions;
- the advocacy of the proposals on the reforming and strengthening of the UN that meet the Republic's interests;
- further development of the country's contribution to the processes of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation agreements,
- elaboration of new approaches to the issues of international collective security on a local, regional and global scale;
- creation of the conditions for the attachment of the legally obligatory character to the existing de-facto nuclear-free Central and Eastern Europe region;
- elaboration of an open, nondiscriminatory and transparent system of world trade with World Trade Organization at its core.

Belarus is firmly committed to the key role of the Security Council in maintaining international peace and security. Actions that bypass the authority given to the Security Council by the Charter of the United Nations undermine the legal bases of the established system of international relations and threaten the very foundations of the international legal order.

The Republic of Belarus supports the process of reform of the Security Council, taking into account the major changes in the international arena and the significant increase in the number of States Members of the United Nations. Effective reform of the Security Council can be achieved only by consensus among all the participants in this process.

Belarus attaches great importance to the efforts to ensure transparency, democracy and

accountability in the working methods and procedures of the Security Council, including the decision-making process. Belarus fully supports the measures aimed at improving the flow of information regarding the Council's activities, increasing its cooperation with the General Assembly and further rationalizing the preparation and submission of its annual reports to the General Assembly. There is a need for increased transparency in the Council's work, first and foremost by providing adequate information on the outcome of the closed consultations of the members of the Council and on the activities of the sanctions committees and by increasing the number of briefings for States that are not members of the Council. Belarus has consistently advocated the Council's adoption of the practice of holding orientation discussions at the level of Ministers for Foreign Affairs on the most important issues on the international agenda.

The General Assembly's adoption of any resolution leading to amendments to the Charter of the United Nations must take place in accordance with Article 108 of the Charter.

The gradual codification of the use of the right of veto must be done with due regard for the authority given to the Security Council by the Charter of the United Nations, particularly under Chapter VII, and the position of the permanent members of the Council.

The process of all-round and balanced reform of the Security Council must be conducted on the basis of observance of and adherence to the principles of sovereign equality of States and equitable geographical distribution.

The increase in the membership of the Security Council is a pivotal element of the reform. The following measures and principles will facilitate the correction of the current imbalance in terms of regional representation on the Council, which infringes on the interests of the world's developing majority:

Any expansion of the Security Council must be based on the principles of equitable geographical distribution and sovereign equality of States;

The attainment of the broadest possible agreement on the entire package of reforms must not be subject to any predetermined time-frames;

The membership of the Security Council in both categories should be increased by at least 11;

Additional seats in the permanent-member category should be allocated to the countries of the three developing regions, namely Asia, Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean;

In the absence of general agreement on the expansion of the permanent-member category, expansion should take place in the non-permanent-member category only, taking into account the interests and needs of all regional groups without exception.

Belarus supports the continuation of the efforts of the Open-ended Working Group on the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and Other Matters Related to the Security Council to find the best possible and a generally acceptable formula for the qualitative reform of the Security Council and the number of its members.

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