



BELARUS

**UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**

Annual Ministerial Review
"Implementing the internationally agreed
goals and commitments in regard to
sustainable development"

1 July 2008

Key points of the Statement

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Progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals is evident. The poverty rate in developing countries is decreasing, as well as infant mortality rate and rate of mortality caused by HIV/AIDS. However, globalisation does not benefit equally all countries. Poverty poles became sharply defined. Free market and increased trade regimes could not effectively address the global problems.

The existing practice of unilateral trade and economic compulsory measures disrupts the integrity of the world trade system and is an obstacle for the achievement of MDGs. Active steps should be taken to eliminate unfair unilateral economic sanctions and other measures which hamper sustainable development.

The economic policy of Belarus is based on three pillars: sustainable development, social development and protection of environment. All these principles are reflected as a basis in the National Strategy of Sustainable Development for the period before 2020 as well as in several state programs.

Belarus as a country with economy in transition, after a long period of economic recession in early 90s demonstrates the average growth rate of GDP in the past five years in excess 9 percents despite multiple adverse factors and, in particular, unfavourable energy market trends. The inflation rate increased and is equal to the world average. The paying capacity of the national currency has been continuously improved.

Belarus gives special attention to social and economic development of regions, small and middle size towns and rural areas. Special programs on this issue have been approved and are being implemented now with the focus on improving geographic situation and solving social and economic problems.

Sustainable growth, higher standards of living and favorable conditions for human developments are the key goals for Belarus. Social policy of Belarus aims at minimising negative aspects of the market economy such as unemployment, social differentiation, reduction of civil society activities. Belarus is trying to find an optimal balance between the financial interests of economy and social protection.

Positive trends in the economy of Belarus substantiate an optimistic forecast of timely achieving all Millennium Development Goals.

In order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals the international community should adequately address the major challenges such as the food crisis, unprecedented global warming, energy resources and climate change.

Effective and coordinated efforts of the national, regional and global level are strongly needed to address the food crisis, expansion of arable agricultural land, increase of grain crops production, secure and sustainable grain market.

In the process of development of alternative sources of energy, the interests of all members of international community should be taken into account. A common approach in this area can provide us with responsibility for addressing our energy sources of renewable energy, the use of which will not negatively affect our health.

The rise of energy prices is a great challenge on the way to achieving Millennium Development Goals. The United Nations should create a mechanism of energy supply through creation of an effective mechanism which will assist the transfer of technical know-how and the introduction of new technologies and renewable sources of energy. Belarus proposes to hold a thematic debate for the General Assembly on energy-efficiency, new and renewable sources of energy at its 63rd session.

The Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change provides a legal framework for carbon dioxide management. The effective implementation of this protocol is a priority for Belarus. We call upon all states to complete all internal procedure necessary for the entrance into the force of the amendment to Annex B to the Kyoto Protocol.