



REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

136 EAST 67th STREET, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021
(212) 535-3420

PRESS RELEASE

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STATEMENT

by

His Excellency Sergei Martynov

**Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Belarus**

**59th Session
of the United Nations General Assembly
(general debate)**

New York, 29 September 2004

Distinguished Mr. President,
Distinguished Mr. Secretary - General,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

In a day we will deposit our instruments of ratification and accession of the Republic of Belarus to such important international instruments in the sphere of security as the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition Supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

Today, illegal migration, transnational crime, trafficking in drugs and in persons, as well as ensuring the security of energy supply infrastructure are among the most serious challenges. By dealing with these problems, Belarus, which controls a major European crossroad, acts as an important guarantor of stability in Europe.

Our country also plays a major role in the Eurasian transit of energy resources. From this rostrum, we propose to all our neighbors, to the NATO and to the European Union to engage in regional cooperation to secure critical infrastructure installations: oil and gas pipelines, electrical and nuclear power stations. Besides, there is such an important sphere of cooperation as prevention of emergencies, including those caused by terrorists. Belarus has already declared its readiness to detail to international structures appropriate staff and resources.

The contribution of the Republic of Belarus to regional and international security – starting with the 10 tactical rma

problem of malnutrition. Accord

planned to be held in Minsk in 2006 on the eve of a tragic anniversary of Chernobyl disaster. We invite all interested states and international organizations to take part in preparation and proceedings of this conference.

Distinguished Mr. President,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Not once the United Nations has been a subject of criticism. There have been a lot of pessimistic assessments of its activities and potential. Many of them have been fair enough. But let us simply face the truth: in the world there is still no alternative to the UN as the most important collective problem-solving mechanism – on a regional and global scale. Just as there is no alternative to multilateral approaches. The reality convinces us of that every day.

In view of this Belarus expects with a great interest the outcome of deliberations of the High Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change.

As a Non-Aligned Movement member-state Belarus thinks it necessary that the consolidated position of the Non-Aligned Movement is duly noted and taken into account by the High Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change while drafting the proposals on the ways of increasing the efficiency of the UN reform.

Elimination of misbalance between the Security Council membership and membership of the United Nations as a whole, observance of the principle of equitable geographical distribution of seats must form the basis of this process.

We find it expedient to expand the category of non-permanent members with due regard for the interests of all regional groups. Additional seats in the category of permanent members of the UN Security Council should be allocated to the countries of three developing regions – Asia, Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean – as well as to two developed nations of Europe and Asia which have made the most significant contribution to the maintenance of international peace and security.

Mr. President,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I return to the anxious questions of "Where is our world heading to?" and "Where does the United Nations go?"

The answer to the question 'where the world will arrive' should depend on the United Nations. For the time being it is not so. It is sad but true. To change this situation is within our powers and in our common interests – of small and big states, of rich and developing countries. It is in the interests of the united nations.