



# BELARUS

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**CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**

**STATEMENT**

**BY**

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*GENERAL DEBATE AT THE FIRST COMMITTEE  
ON THE 58<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY*

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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
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Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of the delegation of the Republic of Belarus allow me to congratulate you upon your election to the post of the Chairman of the First Committee. You can count on our support and co-operation in your activities.

Mr. Chairman,

This year international authority of the United Nations was seriously tested by the events in Iraq. Confidence in the UN system among small and vulnerable states was not strengthened. Furthermore, trends towards the intensification of international tension in different regions accompanied by a decreasing UN role in conflict resolution result in accelerated formation and consolidation of regional and sub-regional military-political alliances and organizations. Many states consider now the participation in such alliances as a prerequisite for their security.

Today, the system of international relations in the field of international security, arms control and disarmament goes through a certain crisis and needs reform.

In this connection the Belarusian delegation supports the proposals of the United States and some other nations on the need to adapt the First Committee agenda to new realities proceeding from the assumption that the United Nations, as a leading universal international organization, should elaborate a clear-cut list of top priorities in maintaining international security and generate programs aimed at overcoming concrete problems and real threats to mankind. The wording of the adopted resolutions should contain direct instructions to the existing fora and structures in the field of international security, arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament. This is the only way we will be able to prevent the devaluation of the notions such as "peace", "security", and "stability" and really make our world more secure.

We believe that the active position of the First Committee could revive the activity of a number of fora in the field of arms control and disarmament.

Mr. Chairman,

The Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) is the most important instrument, providing the international community with a consistent program of action in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Belarus supports active work of the Preparatory Committee of its Review Conference (2005).

The Republic of Belarus stands for the earliest entry into force of the

Conference on facilitating its entry into force, which gave new political impulse to the process of ratification of the Treaty and to the consolidation of the regime of nuclear non-proliferation. Belarus calls upon all states, which are not yet party to the CTBT, to accede to it without delay. In this connection we welcome, in particular, the China intention to continue the ratification process.

One of the most important issues is the prohibition of the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. The Conference on Disarmament has to start negotiations on this problem as soon as possible. An international legal regulation should be also applied to the problem of the military use of outer space. The international community has to ban the deployment of offensive weapons in space.

Belarus believes that the process of nuclear disarmament has to be complemented by concrete steps in the field of consolidating nuclear non-proliferation regime including through strengthening the existing and setting up new nuclear weapons free zones.

Mr. Chairman,

The Republic of Belarus pursues a responsible and consistent foreign policy aimed at fulfilling its international commitments including, *inter alia*, the commitments under the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty, the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, the Open Skies Treaty, the Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty, the Intermediate and Shorter Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention, and the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Last year Belarus became one of the states that adopted the Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation (HCOC). And now we would like to see the establishment of a relationship between HCOC and the United Nations in order to explore more comprehensive approaches to address this problem.

As yet another proof of the consistency of our policy the Republic of Belarus has recently deposited with the UN Secretary-General its instruments of accession to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production, and Transfer of the Anti-Personnel Mines and On Their Destruction (the Ottawa Convention). In compliance with the Ottawa Convention provisions our country has to destroy its landmine stockpiles within four years. Belarus requires considerable financial and technological resources to ensure the elimination of more than 4 million anti-personnel mines inherited after the breakup of the Soviet Union. Before acceding to the Convention, Belarus had destroyed on its own more than 100 000 landmines. It should be noted that conventional anti-personnel mines can be disposed of either by incineration or by open detonation; however, because of ecological concerns these methods cannot be applied to the mines with liquid

Under these circumstances we appeal to Governments, international agencies and non-governmental organizations, to assist the Republic of Belarus in its stockpile elimination effort. All kinds of technical, technological and financial assistance will be warmly welcomed.

Belarus supports the expansion of the transparency measures in armaments and regularly submits data to the UN register on conventional arms. We also submit information about the implementation of the UN Program of Action on SALW in accordance with the resolution 56/24 V "Illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects".

We attach special importance to developing confidence-building measures on regional and bilateral levels considering this issue to be one of the priorities of our foreign policy. The Republic of Belarus makes an important contribution to the consolidation of regional security by carrying out its strategy of setting up the "belt of good-neighborliness" whose important component are agreements on complimentary confidence- and security- building measures.

In conclusion I would like to express my hope that the international community will develop reliable mechanisms of countering new risks and threats to our common security. Having demonstrated more than once its adherence to the comprehensive disarmament policy, the Republic of Belarus will continue, on its part, to remain an active participant in this process.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.