



# BELARUS

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STATEMENT

**by**

H.E. MR. VALERY PAVLOV

**FIRST DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR**  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

at the twenty-first special session of the United Nations  
General Assembly devoted to the overall review and  
appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action  
of the International Conference on Population and  
Development

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

**On behalf of the delegation of the Republic of Belarus allow me to congratulate you on the occasion of your election to the high post and express our confidence in fact, that under your leadership the present session will successfully fulfill all its tasks.**

**We would also like to express our gratitude to Ambassador Anwarul Karim Chowdhury for his tireless work in his capacity as the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee to the special session.**

**Mr. President,**

**Since the 1994 Cairo Conference on Population and Development at all levels of the state administration principal attention has being paid to the questions of achieving sustainable development of the country and to the population problems. In 1995 the National Committee on Population was established in Beiarus in order to elaborate the state demographic policy and coordinate the activities within the country in the sphere of population.**

**The progress in implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action at the national level was comprehensively analyzed during the conference «Belarus – 3 years after the Cairo Conferences which was held in Minsk in 1997. The adoption of the Conception of the State Demographic Policy and Principal Guidelines on its Implementation is considered as the main outcome of the Conference. These documents were worked out with utilization of direct assistance provided by the United Nations Population Fund.**

**Mr. President,**

**The transition of Belarus to the market economy has being accompanied, since 1993, by a dramatic deterioration in the demographic situation. The demographic reaction of the population to the economic crisis and a decrease in living standards started to reveal itself. it expressed itself in mortality rate growth, and especially among able-bodied men, decrease in birth rate and average life expectancy, significant changes in the field of forming and stability of the family, reproductive behaviour and migration. Natural diminution of the population takes place in the Republic of Beiarus. The consequences of the Chernobyl disaster which affected for the most part the Republic of Belarus should not also be forgotten. The trend of the population aging**

keeps strengthening. Due to its geographic situation Belarus has also encountered the illegal migration problem recent years.

The population census was organized in Belarus this year. According to the census, the population of Belarus is 10.04 million. Taking advantage of this opportunity, allow me on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Belarus to express our appreciation to the United Nations Population Fund and personally to UNFPA Executive Director Dr. Nafis Sadik for assistance in carrying out the above mentioned census provided to Belarus.

Currently more than ten state programmes aimed at strengthening health care system and reproductive health of population, preventing further HIV/AIDS spreading, empowering of women and improving the life conditions of families, young people and elderly persons, rendering assistance to refugees have being implemented in the Republic of Belarus. Our country highly estimates its cooperation with the United Nations and the UN specialized agencies in implementing these programmes. in particular, it should be noted that the United Nations Development Programme and International Labour Organization are providing consultative and financial assistance to our country in realization of an international project on promoting set&employment among unemployed people. The elaboration of international project aimed at achieving the gender equality in Belarus and promoting self-employment among women is on the final stage.

Mr. President,

Achieving the indices and fulfilling the tasks stipulated in the Programme of Action will require considerable internal and external resources, purposeful measures of national governments as well as effective and transparent partner links. The developing of the basic spheres of activities mentioned in 'the report of the Preparatory Committee will require more strong political commitment and national potential build-up, increase in the volume of international assistance and internal resources mobilized for the implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action. Our country shares the concerns of many states with regard to cutting down of resources allocated to funds and programmes of the United Nations system. We welcome the efforts of these funds and programmes aimed at increasing the effectiveness and quality of the programme activities, including ones in the sphere of population and development. In such conditions, from our point of view, there is a necessity in more close collaboration of the funds and

programmes with the Bretton Woods institutions, civil society and nongovernmental organizations in order to solve financial problems and achieve more effective interaction within the United Nations system in the sphere of implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action.

We positively estimate strengthening of the universality of the UN operational funds and programmes activities as well as taking into account the needs and requirements of the countries with economies in transition in developing these activities.

The agreed recommendations for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development deserve positive estimates. And especially we would like to note the provisions regarding intensification of efforts to protect human rights and dignity of migrants, prevention of illegal migrant trafficking, aggravation of combating against HIV/AIDS spreading, maintenance of reproductive health of population and mobilization of resources to implement the Cairo Programme of Action. Our country has quite constructive experience of cooperation with the UN programmes in the field of operational activities. We are interested in further interaction with these institutions as well as in their assistance that could become a significant supplement to the national efforts to fulfill the recommendations stipulated in the final document. At this stage it is of extreme importance to work out and implement complex programmes tackling the population problems in developing countries and countries with economies in transition with utilization of the potential of the United Nations Population Fund, UNDP, other UN operational funds and programmes, as well as national resources and funds provided by donors.

Mr. President,

The evolution of events in the world during recent months clearly showed huge significance of maintenance of the international peace and security for solution of the population problems and implementation of the Programme of Action of the Cairo Conference in general. The destructive purposeful military operation on the Balkans has resulted in appearance of several hundred thousand refugees, rise of niduses of some dangerous infectious diseases. It has thrown rather prosperous, from economical point of view, European country to tens of years back in its development. From our point of view, the crisis on the Balkans should urge on the international community to better understanding of the extreme importance of the joint activities within the framework of the

**mandates given by the UN bodies in the field of solving ethnic conflicts by peaceful measures in order to maintain peace, protect human rights and provide an opportunity to every person for unhampered actualization of its human and spiritual potential.**

**In conclusion, Mr. President, our delegation would like to note that the Republic of Belarus has the intention to further make maximum efforts in order to fulfill the tasks and achieve the goals stipulated in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development.**

**I thank you.**