REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

NATIONAL VOLUNTARY REVIEW
ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA
FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world.
Implementation of the SDGs in Belarus

- Adoption of program documents:
  - National Strategy for Sustainable Social and Economic Development of the Republic of Belarus for the period up to 2030;
Implementation of the SDGs in Belarus

- Coordinating mechanism for the SDGs implementation:
  - Establishment of the institute of the **National Coordinator for Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals** – Deputy Chair of the Council of the Republic of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus (appointed by the President of the Republic of Belarus);
  - Establishment of the **Council for Sustainable Development** – consultative and advisory body under the National Coordinator for Achieving the SDGs.
National Review on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

• SDG 1 (No poverty) and SDG 8 (Decent work and economic growth);
• SDG 2 (Zero hunger);
• SDG 3 (Good health and well-being);
• SDG 4 (Quality education);
• SDG 6 (Gender equality);
• SDG 9 (Industry, innovation and infrastructure) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for Goals);
• SDG 6 (Clean water and Sanitation), SDG 13 (Climate action), SDG 14 (Life below water), SDG 15 (Life on land).
• In the 1990s every third Belarusian was below the poverty line;

• Belarus achieved an important MDG on eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, and in 2016 only 5.7% of Belarusians were officially recognized as low-income individuals;

**Target** – 5.5% of low-income individuals by 2020 and 3 – 4% by 2030.
Guaranteed income and social support:

- Minimal salary – 36.7% of the average monthly wage in Belarus in 2017;
- Improvement of the pension system – ratio of the average pension by age and the average wage at a level of at least 40%;
- State social support for needy citizens;
- Expenditures on social payments (pensions, allowances, scholarships, etc.) account to 13.7% of the GDP.
Belarus fully meets the requirements for food, the share of imported products does not exceed 15%;

Export of agricultural products and food in recent years accounts to about 8% of the country's GDP and 15% of the total exports;

In the Global Food Security Index 2016 Belarus was ranked 46th out of 113 countries;

**Target 2030** – creation of competitive and environmentally safe production of agricultural products, necessary to maintain the achieved level of food security, ensuring full nutrition and healthy lifestyle of the population.
In 2013 Belarus achieved the MDGs on reducing child mortality, improving maternal health, combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases;

Right of the citizens to health protection, including free treatment at public health institutions, is guaranteed by the Constitution of Belarus.
Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

• Maternal mortality rate has decreased more than 18 times since 1990. Today the rate is 1.7 per 100,000 live births;
• In 2014 Belarus took the first place in the world in reducing the level of maternal mortality;
• Belarus ranked 25th in Mothers' Index;
• Infant mortality rate is 3.2 per 100,000 live births, taking into account children with a body weight of 500 grams;
• Mortality rate of children under the age of 5 declined almost 4 times since 1990 and now it is 4.1 per 1000 live births.
Incidence of HIV in 2016 was 25.2 cases per 100,000 people;

Prevalence of HIV among the population – 0.18%;

Belarus’ achievement in transplantology of organs – 50 transplantations per 1 million population;

**Target** – to increase average life expectancy to 75 years in 2017 and 77 years by 2030.
Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

- Right to receive free general secondary education is guaranteed by the Constitution of Belarus;
- Belarus is the regional leader in terms of pre-school education coverage: pre-school education for children – 94%, provision of children with places in pre-school institutions – 97.6%;
- Belarus develops inclusive education;
- Budget total expenditure on education – 5.42% of the GDP.
Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Targets:
- developing inclusive education;
- achieving optimal structure of education;
- introduction of new forms of organization of the educational process;
- increasing the effectiveness of educational work.
The Constitution of Belarus guaranties women equal rights with men;

Belarus has developed its National plan on gender equality for 2017–2020 (the fifth National plan since 1996);

Coordination mechanism – the National Council on gender policy under the Government;

Women in Belarus make up over 53% of the population and almost 50% of those involved in the economic activities.
Belarus ranked 32nd among 188 countries in Gender Inequality Index;

Gender Development Index (GDI) is 1,021;

Belarus ranked 30th out of 144 countries in Global Gender Gap Index (World Economic Forum);

33.7% of the Members of the Parliament are women.

Challenges:
- economic inequality of men and women;
- gender pay gap is 23–24%.
Mobilization and effective use of internal resources are critical for achieving the SDGs;

Belarus ranked 88th among 127 countries in the Global Innovation Index 2017 Report;

2017 is declared the Year of Science in Belarus;

**Targets 2030:**
- increase in the share of a high-tech science-intensive sector in the GDP up to 8–10%;
- increase of expenditures on R&D up to 2.5% of the GDP;
- Comprehensive digital transformation of the national economy, promotion of information and communication technologies (IT-country).
• Private-public partnerships – an important tool for mobilizing domestic resources for the SDGs implementation;

• Promotion of the initiative of "integration of integrations" proposed by the President of Belarus at the UN Summit in 2015.
Being a landlocked country Belarus nevertheless contributes to achieving the SDG 14;

Belarus is located on the Black Sea-Baltic Watershed, and it pays serious attention to the protection of transboundary rivers, contributing to preservation of the Baltic and Black Seas;

Belarus adopted the Water Strategy for the period until 2020, which defines the main problems and tasks in the sphere of water use and protection;
Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

- Over the past five years, the diversion of sewage into rivers and other water bodies has been reduced by 8.5%;
- The general state of water bodies in the basins of large rivers including transboundary ones (the Dnieper, the Western Dvina, the Neman and the Pripyat) has improved especially in terms of biogenic elements.
Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

- Five-year state programs "Clean Water" are implemented aiming at ensuring supply of quality drinking water to consumers

Target of the current program – ensuring 100% supply of quality drinking water to consumers by 2020 (currently – 84%).
Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

• SDG 13. Climate action:
  – Belarus has become a party to the Paris Agreement on Climate Target – to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 28% by 2030 compared to 1990.

• SDG 15. Life on land:
  – Comprehensive legal framework has been created for ensuring conservation and rational use of biodiversity.
Welcome to Belarus

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