



B E L A R U S

HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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**Statement by Mr Anatoli Isachanka, National Coordinator
for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in Belarus**

Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals requires innovative approaches, partnerships and global cooperation. It was the multilateral approach that led us almost 5 years ago to the adoption of the ambitious 2030 Agenda. Multilateral cooperation is not just one of possible options for its implementation, it is a necessity.

The coronavirus pandemic has exacerbated existing systemic challenges and barriers. The unprecedented crisis associated with the COVID-19 has shown our vulnerability. As never before, we need to respond to it with unity, solidarity and multilateral cooperation. The HLPF provides an excellent opportunity to discuss ways to expand collective actions, formulate more ambitious tasks and deepen partnerships.

Belarus continues its consistent way towards sustainable development in conformity with the 2030 Agenda. This work is carried out with the involvement of all stakeholders within the country and in close cooperation with international partners.

Since the presentation of its Voluntary National Review in July 2017, Belarus has made further progress towards the SDGs through an integrated and systematic approach to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the national level.

In Belarus, a National Strategy for Sustainable Development for the period until 2035 has been developed. This Strategy, in which, along with national development priorities, the SDGs are taken into account, will be approved by the end of the year.

In the near future it is planned to sign four programme documents laying the framework for cooperation with the UN development system on sustainable development for a five-year period. These are UN sustainable development cooperation framework for Belarus and UNDP, UNICEF and UNFPA programme

country documents. The adoption of these documents will accelerate achieving the SDGs in close cooperation among government, parliament, civil society, business, and international partners.

In January 2019, the first National Forum on Sustainable Development was held in Minsk. It was attended by over 450 people, including Heads of the Government, the Parliament, and ministries. As a result of the event, its final document has been adopted.

In Belarus, particular importance is given to the work at the regional level. Regional sustainable development groups are organised in all areas. In June 2019, the first local forum on sustainable regional development was held in the city of Mogilev.

The general public does not stand aside. Partner group for sustainable development, which includes representatives of business, public associations, academia, international partners, is actively involved in the implementation of the SDGs.

Besides mobilizing domestic resources and achieving economic self-sufficiency are important, creating an enabling international environment, providing an environment for attracting investment, wider access to financial resources and providing technological assistance continue to be important components of the SDGs. The private sector can provide such resources, so the UN should strengthen partnerships needed to achieve the SDGs.

It is in the partnership of all stakeholders, both at the national and international levels, that we see one of key factors for accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Given this vision, Belarus attaches priority to the exchange of experience and joint efforts to achieve the SDGs, and advocates for the establishment of cooperation among national institutions responsible for achieving the SDGs. Results of the Regional SDG Coordination Leaders Forum for Europe and Central Asia, held in Minsk, Belarus, in February 2018, are proof of this.

We are convinced that the creation of such international partnership would facilitate the exchange of best practices in sustainable development, and we call for building partnership between countries and international organisations on issues related to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.