



# B e l a r u s

*Unofficial translation*

## **HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

**New York, July 2021**

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

Your Excellences,  
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by the international community in 2015, remains, over six years, an effective action-oriented document aimed at improving standard of living. The global strategic plan based on the motto “Leave no one behind” includes 17 Goals-Steps for socio-economic development of the country and meeting environmental challenges.

The Member States are fulfilling their commitments in line with their capacities and priorities. This factor determines how the goal is being delivered but it goes without saying that Sustainable Development Goals work for people. The strategic goal of the 2030 Agenda, which Belarus fully supports, is to provide high living standards and conditions for comprehensive development of the individuals; transition to a highly-efficient, knowledge- and innovation-based economy; “green” transition for inclusive sustainable growth.

We have to admit that the COVID-19 pandemic has dramatically changed sustainable livelihoods of the international community with the devastating and multifaceted effects and has slowed down a delivery of the 2030 Agenda. At the same time, uncovering systemic problems, the pandemic has created “a window of opportunities” for socio-economic and socio-political changes.

In delivering the 2030 Agenda Belarus applies the principle “think globally, act locally”. We also use the strategy of “all national stakeholders’ involvement”. We have created so called national architecture for SDGs achievement that has proved its efficiency. Belarus as a middle-income country has showed good intermediate results. According to assessments by international experts, as of today the level of progress of Belarus towards SDGs is 70 per cent.

Belarus has ranked 53<sup>d</sup> by the UNDP Human Development Index 2020, remaining in the category of countries of very high human development rank, and, according to independent experts, Belarus took the 24<sup>th</sup> position in the ranking of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (out of 165 countries).

Based on the evaluation methodology using target values Belarus has made most progress in:

SDG 1 “No Poverty” (*in Belarus there is no poverty, the Goal has been achieved*);  
 SDG 5 “Gender Equality” (*Belarus has ranked 31<sup>st</sup> by the Gender Inequality Index*);  
 SDG 7 “Affordable and Clean Energy” (*100 per cent of the population has access to electricity. Belarus strives to maximize the use of renewable energy sources, that the United Nations is today designated as the key to achieving the 2030 Agenda*);  
 SDG 11 “Sustainable Cities and Communities”;  
 SDG 17 “Partnerships for the Goals”.

Belarus demonstrates positive trends in implementation of the following SDGs:

SDG 2 “Zero Hunger” (*Belarus ranked 23<sup>d</sup> (out of 113 countries) by the Global Food Security Ranking*);  
 SDG 3 “Good Health and Well-Being” (*Belarus ranks high in the world in the access of population to health services*);  
 SDG 4 “Quality Education” (*Belarus is included in 30 countries according to the Educational Level Index. Adult literacy rate close to 100 per cent*);  
 SDG 6 “Clean Water and Sanitation” (*practically all of the population has access to the basic sanitation*);  
 SDG 8 “Decent Work and Economic Growth” (*GDP per capita at purchasing power parity has increased by 17 per cent over the past five years, reaching more than \$21,000 in 2020. Belarus, which has not followed the path of total isolation, has managed to ensure stable employment. This measure has helped retain jobs and prevent wages from falling*);  
 SDG 9 “Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure” (*Belarus ranks 47<sup>th</sup> (out of 152 countries) in the Competitive Industrial Performance Index*);  
 SDG 12 “Responsible Consumption and Production” (*Belarus is continuing its transition to new waste-processing technologies and is actively implementing elements of the circular economy*);  
 SDG 13 “Climate Action” (*Belarus ranks 49<sup>th</sup> (out of 180 countries) in the Eco-Efficiency Index*);  
 SDG 15 “Life on Land” (*Belarus is among the top 10 forest States in Europe*).

We would like to note that it is of a vital importance to extend the achievements in the regions. It is necessary to ensure that all regions of Belarus are equally developed without lagging behind. This is our near-term strategic task in delivering of the 2030 Agenda.

Next year we are planning to present our Second Voluntary National Report on SDGs Implementation and we will share our results with you.

Belarus attaches the highest importance to regional and international cooperation in achieving the 2030 Agenda. Collective efforts to address global economic challenges based on the principles of solidarity and multilateralism are the key factor in successful implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

We strongly believe that regional and inter-regional integration could play a special role in this process. The outcomes of the virtual High-Level Conference “Harnessing Inter-Regional Integration for SDGs” (20 May, 2021), initiated by Belarus and organized together with Barbados and UNCTAD Secretariat, proved it.

Amid the complex geopolitical situation in the world and growing regional tensions the international community urgently needs a universal unifying agenda more than ever. Accurate dialogue should dominate in the agenda. Increasing the use of unilateral coercive measures, political pressure and blatant interference in the internal affairs of sovereign states could severely erode the benefits and affect critically and adversely the whole global sustainability.

I call everybody to concentrate both on constructive implementation of the 2030 Agenda and on the achievement of meaningful outcomes that will further to enhance people’s well-being, to overcome devastating socio-economic effects of the pandemic COVID-19 and other current challenges.