

**United Nations General Assembly  
Fifty-ninth session  
Plenary meeting**

**Agenda items 45 and 55**

**“Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields; follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit: report of the Secretary-General”**

**7 April 2005**

**Written statement by**

**Ambassador Andrei Dapkiunas  
Permanent Representative of Belarus  
to the United Nations**

**General observations**

The delegation of Belarus supports the overall spirit of the Secretary-General’s report. We consider its input on many of the most topical issues actively debated in the process of the United Nations reform as bold, valuable and significant.

The Secretary-General’s report is a timely and commendable attempt to **provide thoughtful guidelines** and **assist Member States in their momentous effort to achieve a historic compromise** and agreement on fundamental problems facing the international community at the dawn of the Millennium.

We fully share the content and emphasise **the weight and validity of the comments** made at this meeting by the Chairman of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement on behalf of **NAM**.

Member States are the major stakeholders in the reform of the United Nations. Member States bear the ultimate burden of responsibility for the success or failure of the reform. **Member States have an exclusive right to determine the format and the timetable of the reform.**

We propose to use as the main criterion for assessing the acceptability of initiatives to strengthen and modernise the United Nations the conformity of these contributions with **the fundamental principles of international law and international relations enshrined in the UN Charter**. The United

Nations reform can achieve its goals and meet expectations of Member States only if these principles are duly respected and kept intact.

Belarus firmly believes that reform of the United Nations is an **ongoing process**. Reform will not end in September 2005. Today is indeed a critical moment of opportunity. But the urge to seize it right away should not prevail over the objective of arriving at **workable solutions**.

Prompt decisions are good as long as they are based on a solid ground of **consensus** and address a problem at hand in a **comprehensive** manner. Dissecting the appealing institutional form from the onerous substance of **the working methods** and going full-speed for the 'tastier' bit without addressing the issues in their complex entirety may lead only to illusionary solutions.

In this respect some **notable innovative contributions** to the process of UN reform – primarily in the area of institution-building – **would require much more detailed elaboration and reasoning** before they can be responsibly addressed by Member States as a matter of practical priority. The full 'pendulum' spread of public opinion on the possible format of the UN Commission on Human Rights is just one such example.

## **Special concerns**

The degree of responsiveness of the international community to specific problems and concerns of Member States is an important indicator of the probability of greater concurrence of views on matters of global concern.

## **COUNTRIES WITH ECONOMIES IN TRANSITION**

Many countries with economies in transition continue to face serious difficulties in implementing market-oriented reforms, achieving sustained economic growth and integration into the world economy. These difficulties have a serious negative impact on the movement of these countries towards the Millennium Development Goals.

We find it critically important to reassert the significance of the continued attention and consistent measures of the international community to assist these countries in dealing with the hardships of the transition period.

Timely, targeted and effective international support to the countries with economies in transition not only addresses the crucial problems of development of these countries but simultaneously works for **the increase of the overall assistance potential of the international community** in the longer term: today's recipients of aid will become donors tomorrow.

We propose to include in the draft outcome document the following paragraph:

**“Ensure that adequate international assistance is provided to the countries with economies in transition to assist them in overcoming their specific difficulties in socio-economic development, implementing market-oriented reforms and achieving Millennium Development Goals”.**

## **RESPONSE TO HUMANITARIAN DISASTERS**

Belarus shares the view of the Secretary-General that the United Nations humanitarian response system should be upgraded. Improving the response capacity of this system should be considered as one of the most urgent problems.

We propose to include in the draft outcome document the following paragraph:

**“Commit themselves to strengthen the potential of the United Nations humanitarian response system by developing new funding arrangements necessary to provide timely and adequate response to sudden and large-scale natural and technological disasters and other humanitarian emergencies”.**

## **SECURITY COUNCIL ENLARGEMENT**

Belarus finds unacceptable any models of enlargement of the Security Council which lead to the elimination of the Eastern European Group (even if only for the purpose of distributing seats in the Council).

Belarus supports the fully righteous claim of the Eastern European Group for an additional non-permanent seat on the enlarged Security Council.

We suggest that the primary consideration in choosing the preferably consensual formula of the Council's enlargement should be not the abstract

beauty of the model but its **fairness**. As a criterion of fairness we propose to use the chances of an individual Member State to get elected to a non-permanent seat as well as the general ratio of regional representation on the Security Council.

With all due reverence for contributions – by individual Member States and collective, past and future – to the search of the best formula of the Council's enlargement Belarus finds it necessary to submit a formal proposal on this matter which will put the Eastern European Group back on the map of the future bigger Council.

As there is hardly anything entirely new in the process of the UN reform, we cannot claim any intellectual property rights to the model we are humbly proposing for the attention of the General Assembly (please find the relevant paper attached).