

**Meeting of the United Nations  
Inter-Agency Task Force on Chernobyl**

**New York, 24 January 2007**

**Statement by  
Mr. Sergei Rachkov  
Deputy Permanent Representative of Belarus  
to the United Nations**

Distinguished Mr. Associate Administrator,  
Dear colleagues and friends,

Belarus welcomes the timely convening of United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Chernobyl. We agree with the United Nations Development Programme's opinion that the international Chernobyl cooperation becomes one of the best examples of the system-wide coherence in addressing a complex issue in the United Nations agenda.

More than a year ago we spent a lot of effort in working out a resolution of the General Assembly on Chernobyl. Member States and UN agencies were satisfied with the outcome of those consultations. Indeed, the resolution 60/14 is one of the best in the history of the United Nations documents on Chernobyl. Sixty-nine countries became its co-sponsors (best result since 1992).

Now it is the time to assess the first preliminary results of its implementation and determine the priority measures for this year. We should also look into the future and keep in mind that this year at the 62<sup>nd</sup> session of the General Assembly the Chernobyl issue will be considered again. In this regard we should already think about the outcome of the forthcoming discussion.

We think that the year of 2006 was a very important period to sum up the results of the international Chernobyl cooperation for the 20 years and determine a clear strategy of this interaction for the next decade. Two international conferences in Minsk and in Kiev, the final document of the Chernobyl Forum and a special commemorative meeting of the General Assembly were devoted to this common goal. I would like to take this opportunity to draw your attention to the summary of the Minsk Chernobyl 20 years conference. This summary was published as an official document of the General Assembly A/61/74. This is a unique document which contains the basic results of a scientific analysis of the current situation in the affected regions of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine and outlines our collective vision of the priorities of further efforts to overcome the long-term consequences of the Chernobyl disaster. In particular, in paragraph 29 the Conference supported the

initiative of the Republic of Belarus regarding the declaration by the United Nations of a **decade of rehabilitation and sustainable development of Chernobyl-affected areas**.

This initiative is aligned with the new United Nations strategy in the field of Chernobyl. In order to implement it we will need **an international inter-agency plan of action**. And, from our perspective, this is the issue for the Inter-Agency Task Force. If we have such a plan of action it would give us an opportunity to include this initiative into the new resolution of the General Assembly on Chernobyl. We raised this issue during the consultations with the RBEC officials in September last year. It is clear that nobody else but UNDP can and should play a coordinating role in preparing such a plan of action. We cannot exclude that it may necessitate one more meeting of the Inter-Agency Task Force in July or August to finalize the draft.

Dear colleagues,

Belarus was one of the countries who stressed at the 61<sup>st</sup> session of the General Assembly the importance of **humanitarian dimension** of the international Chernobyl cooperation. Using this opportunity I would like to thank the Governments of donor countries, the United Nations agencies and other international organizations for the most valuable humanitarian assistance. Belarus needs modern medical equipment, mobile medical laboratories to better serve the people in the affected areas, especially the inhabitants of remote villages. We hope for the continuation of this important assistance.