



Summary

International Conference
**«Chernobyl 20 years after. Strategy for recovery
and sustainable development of the affected regions»**

19–21 April 2006
Minsk

The goals of the Conference were the following:

- to summarize accumulated experience in mitigation of the Chernobyl consequences and to work out recommendations specifying the strategy of actions for the future decade;
- to discuss the outcomes of the research studies and specific recommendations aimed at efficient management of post-Chernobyl situation;
- to share with positive experience of social-oriented policy and development of cooperation with international organizations, governments, non-governmental organizations in the field of implementation of new strategy in solution of the Chernobyl problems – complex rehabilitation of living conditions on the contaminated territories;
- to support by the world community the efforts undertaken by the affected states to reconstruction of normal life in the affected regions;
- to involve into international Chernobyl cooperation new partners, present new international Chernobyl programs and projects, involve funds of the international donors to remediation of contaminated territories.

Twenty years after the Chernobyl accident it is the time to assess in full amount its consequences and adequacy of undertaken countermeasures.

During the initial period after the accident unavailability of data dealing with radiation situation, knowledge related to radiation effect to the organism and radiation safety did not allow to specialists and common people to estimate the real consequences of the Chernobyl accident. As a result, subjective perception of the consequences and further concrete actions were not always adequate to real situation.

During the following years parallelly to wide scale countermeasures there was studied radionuclide contamination of the environment, exposure doses were estimated, numerous often conflicting data related to health effects of the Chernobyl accident were presented.

Regardless continuous debates it is evident that the Chernobyl accident has changed significantly lives of numerous people and, first of all, in Belarus, Russia and Ukraine. Such events as resettlement, limitations in manufacturing of agricultural and industrial products, contradictory information with estimate of possible Chernobyl consequences, deterioration of the economic situation and disintegration of the Soviet Union changed the way of life, negatively effected to psychology and mentality. All these make the accident a real disaster for millions of people.

After hearing and discussion of the national and reviewing reports, conclusions of the sectional sessions, summary of international organizations studied the Chernobyl consequences, the Conference has achieved understanding of accident consequences, efficiency of response, existing problems, and has formulated the following conclusions and recommendations.

1. The Chernobyl accident resulted in radioactive contamination of the environment significantly exceeded permissible levels of radiation safety on a huge territory. Zone of radioactive contamination covered:

- 46,5 thousand sq. km (23%) of Belarusian territory;
- 43,5 thousand sq. km (7%) of Ukrainian territory;
- 59,7 thousand sq. km (1,5%) of European part of Russia.

Radionuclide depositions were characterized by its considerable unevenness through content, time, and place. Effect of short lived radionuclides (iodine-131, barium-140, lanthanum-140) lasted relatively small period of time (weeks) after the accident. However it determined the main part of the exposure doses of population. Contamination with iodine-131 was observed on a vast territory including far from the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant: Baltic countries, Poland, Hungary, Georgia and a lot of other countries . This “iodine stroke” caused significant growth of thyroid pathology particularly in Belarus, Ukraine, Russia.

The larger part of the most dangerous in radiological aspect long lived radionuclides (stroncium-90, transuranium elements – plutonium and americium isotopes) were isolated in the zone closely located to destroyed reactor. Population was resettled from these territories, however negative effects to ecosystems will last hundreds years. For a long period return of population to these territories is impossible, and economical activity there should be conducted with care.

2. Nowadays most radionuclides, deposited on soil, are located in its top layers. Caesium-137 and strontium-90 migration deep into the soil occurs very slowly. The average speed of such migration makes 0,3–0,5 cm/year, therefore practically there is no threat to aquifers.

In soddy-podzolic loamy soils with high content of clay components the part of available forms of caesium-137 over a last period has been considerably decreased in comparison with 1986 and does not exceed 5 %. The main radionuclide part is in the bound form, including form introduced into crystal lattice of clay minerals. In soddy-podzolic sandy loams and sands soils part of available forms is 10-20 %. The part of accessible forms of strontium-90 (mainly exchangeable) generally increased. It reaches 70 % in soddy-podzolic soils and 50 % – in peat soils. The part of mobile forms of plutonium and americium constitutes 10 % and 13 %.

Thus, on significant territories of Belarus, Ukraine and Russia the huge stiff stock of radionuclides was generated. Within many decades it will cause significant damage to ecology and economical activity.

3. The major part of radioactive fallouts entered to drainage territories of Dnieper, Pripyat and their inflows. In the first years after the accident washout of radionuclides from drainage areas was the most significant secondary source of radioactive contamination of ecosystems.

Currently, when the radiation situation is stabilized, radionuclides washout from catchments areas is essential only of those rivers which basins partially or completely are in 30-kilometer zone of Chernobyl NPP. Radionuclides wash-off, especially strontium-90, from river basins in the 30-kilometer zone, considerably increases during floods. Transboundary transfer of caesium-137 with surface waters of such rivers as Iput and Besed (Russia-Belarus), does not exceed 1 % from general stocks of caesium-137 on catchments areas.

Due to processes of water transfer, suspensions sedimentation on the bottom of reservoirs and natural decay concentration of caesium-137 in large and middle rivers has considerably decreased. However in surface waters of the majority of the controllable rivers activity of caesium-137 and strontium-90 till now exceeds levels before the accident.

In closed and low circulating water systems of lake type due to radionuclide wash-off from catchments areas activity of caesium-137 and strontium-90 in surface waters is close, and in some cases exceeds sanitary-hygienic norms (for cesium-137 – 10 Bq/l,

and for strontium-90 – 0,37 Bq/l). Lakes, storage reservoirs and meliorative systems are characterized by high levels of caesium-137 accumulation in benthic sediments (up to 49 kBq/kg).

At present in subsurface waters of the controllable bores located near to settlements in radionuclides contaminated areas, isotopes of caesium-137 and strontium-90 are not found out.

4. Radioactive contamination of atmosphere near the ground surface remains actual mainly for the territories adjoining to the exclusion zone. There is observed insignificant seasonable growth of radioactivity in surface layer during agricultural activity. Some short term increase of activity in the atmospheric air is observed during fires.

5. The Chernobyl accident caused considerable contamination of forest ecosystems. In Belarus area of forests having density of soil contamination by Cs-137 - 37 kBq/sq.m and higher is over 20,0 thousand sq. km.

During the initial period after the accident about 80% of all radioactive fallouts to forests were detained by overhead part of trees.

Forecasts show that pollution of wood vegetation will increase, and root accumulation is the main mechanism of radionuclide transition into plants. The nearest 10 years surface phytomass will accumulate up to 10-15 % from the general stock of caesium-137 in large forestland.

This creates serious problems in forestry including problems of radiation protection of employees. As for local population there is also a great problem relating to gathering of mushrooms, berries and herbs as far as limitations are effectiveless.

6. Monitoring of natural plants populations indicates that vegetative complexes in general are rather resistant to radiation. The majority of flora representatives on the contaminated territories underwent no essential changes. Visible effects of radiation effect to vegetation are observed only at abnormally high contamination (above 3700 kBq/m²), in immediate proximity from the destroyed reactor. Among them: a curvature and tumoral thickenings of stems, leaves asymmetry and curliness, growth strengthening of suckers, microsomia, bushiness, giantism, “a red wood”, and also violations at cells level (chromosome breaks).

7. Radionuclides accumulation in animals corresponds to radioactive contamination of their habitat territory.

The cessation of economic activities in contaminated areas influenced both the structure of birds species and their quantity and hunting-trade mammals. Stabilization and significant growth of species of hunting-trade mammals have occurred in 30-kilometer zone. Owing to rich forage reserve and absence of hunting the number of wolves has increased 4-5 times. Redistribution in communities and structure of species of small mammals is noted. Number and species variety of insects has increased 3-3,5 times in comparison with homestead personal lands of neighbor non-resettled villages. In locked meliorative systems a variety of species and number of amphibians and reptiles, birds of marsh and tree-bush complexes have been increased. In general a number of some rare animal species has been increased in faunistic complexes.

The issues on parasitology demand special attention. Diversity and number of parasites of wild birds, small mammals, inhabitants of their jacks and blood-sicking dipterous insects in radionuclides contaminated areas is higher than in adjacent territories. Eventually the further increase of species' numbers having epidemic and epizootic significance is expected. It is a source of a real danger of infections and invasions, circulation of rabbit-fever activators, tick-borne encephalitis and Californian

fevers on the territory of exclusion and resettling zones even in droughty years that are non-favorable for insects.

8. Foodstuff taken from forest (mushrooms, berries, nuts), got on hunting or fishing traditionally makes the major part of ration for the rural population of Belarus, Russia and Ukraine. On the contaminated territories concentration of radionuclides in these foodstuff could significantly exceed hygienic standards.

Radionuclide concentration in mushrooms and berries (bilberry, cranberry, strawberry) exceeds standards even on the territories with inconsiderable (less than 37 kBq/sq.m) density of soil contamination. Specific activity of caesium-137 in berries and fresh mushrooms could exceed 20 thousand Bq/kg, in meat of wild animals – 250 thousand Bq/kg, that is hundreds times higher than permissible level. Cesium-137 concentration in fish of stagnant basins could be extremely high reaching the values of 300 thousand Bq/kg.

According to recent researches in the nearest future essential decrease in the radionuclides content in considered foodstuff is not expected. Meanwhile contribution of these foodstuff to internal doses formation could reach 70-80% for some groups of population that is a serious radiological problem.

9. Emergency and recovery operation workers and population residing in contaminated territories received additional exposure doses of up to hundreds mSv and are still exposed to chronic irradiation in small doses. By 2005 the main part of population received up to 80% of expected life time dose.

Excess of accumulated dose to the whole body over 200 mSv in Belarus has been recorded in citizens of 214 settlements aged 1-2 years at the time of the accident. In 968 settlements accumulated dose has exceeded 70 mSv in the same age group.

The largest contribution into cumulative effective dose was made by iodine-131, and depended on the age at the time of the accident. Iodine radionuclides contribution to cumulative accumulated effective dose was up to 80%.

Contribution of strontium radionuclides to cumulative exposure dose after the Chernobyl accident was insignificant (1–4% of cumulative exposure dose), and transuranium element even smaller (0,1–1% of cumulative exposure dose).

Thyroid dose estimation showed that average dose in group varied in a wide range from several hundredths to dozens Gy. Maximal doses of thyroid exposure were received by those who were children and adolescents at the time of the accident. This population is a group of high risk for development of radiation induced thyroid cancer.

10. For the period of 1986–2004 among individuals exposed in the age of 0-18 years, 2430 thyroid cancers were recorded, 2399 of them were diagnosed since 1990. Peak of incidence occurred in 1995–1996 when the incidence in children was increased 39 times as compared to 1986. Correlation between thyroid doses and increased incidence of thyroid cancer among children and adolescents is scientifically confirmed. All the cases of thyroid cancer were successfully treated in specialized hospitals. As a result lethality did not exceed 1%. However all this individuals have health problems and have to take hormonal medicines for life time. That is why their quality of life is different from that of healthy people.

For the period of 1986-2004 incidence among adult population demonstrated 6-fold increase from 1,9 cases per 100000 population in 1986 to 12,7 cases per 100000 population in 2004. Recent scientific data evidence that in adult population at the time of the Chernobyl accident like in children and adolescents dose-effect dependence had a linear character.

11. Recently conducted studies still have not demonstrated direct relationship of the effect of accidental radiation and increased rate of other oncological diseases except thyroid cancer. At that we should consider short period of time passed since the end of theoretically minimal latent period, insufficient duration of life under risk of exposed populations, and probably specifics of cancerogenesis at chronic exposure to low doses.

Among the most exposed cohort of liquidators excess growth of such malignant tumors as of lung, bladder, skin, and stomach has been recorded vs. control group. The risk to have malignant tumors of all sites in liquidators is 23% higher than in non-exposed population: stomach cancer – 15 %, colon – 33%, lung cancer – 26%, urinary bladder – 65%, kidney – 24%, thyroid – 2,6 times.

Statistically significant increase of breast cancer was recorded in female population resided in radionuclide contaminated areas. The risk to have breast cancer in this group is 25% higher than in control one. Specific feature of the breast cancer on contaminated territories is its shift to younger age: peak of incidence was recorded 15 years earlier and corresponded to age group of 55-59 years, and in women of the control group – 70-74 years. There was recorded a linear dependence between accumulated radiation dose and realized relative risk of breast cancer development.

12. World medical science has not still found a solution of the problem that for all groups of the Chernobyl affected population increase of non-cancer incidence is observed (first of all in clean up workers): autoimmune thyroiditis, cataract, blood circulation disorders. All these diseases except cataract according to existing knowledge are not considered as radiation-induced.

13. Statistically significant increase of congenital malformations is not recorded in the affected regions, however number of diagnosed congenital malformations of strict registration was increased twice as compared to pre-accidental period.

14. Health effects of the Chernobyl accident is not limited by radiological problems. The accident caused inadequate perception of radiation risk resulted in stable psychological discomfort. Anxiety for health is not decreased. Moreover it is spread among wide populations including those living outside contaminated territories.

Health state of children is under special concern. In the affected regions negative demographic trends are developed. There is observed decrease of birth rate, increase of mortality and lowering of a number of able-bodied citizens.

15. The economic loss caused by the Chernobyl accident is tremendous particularly for Belarus, Ukraine and Russia. The usage of mineral and raw material resources was reduced essentially. Majority of acting enterprises are operating at a loss owing to the decrease in production volume and the impossibility to compensate money invested into infrastructure, deficiency of qualified specialist and managers. The losses of fuel and raw materials are essential.

16. Economic loss of the Chernobyl disaster to the economy of Belarus considering 30-year period is projected to be 235 USD billion, this is 32 times budget for 1985. This loss involves deteriorating health of the population; degrading in industry, agriculture, construction, transport, infrastructure and social spheres, etc. Among them it is the contamination of mineral and raw material, water, soil, forest and other resources. Besides, it covers additional expenditures on liquidation and minimization of the consequences of the accident and maintenance of standards of living.

17. The agriculture has suffered most. 2,65 thousand square kilometers of farmland was withdrawn. Consequently crop areas, the gross output of the agricultural products, and the total number of livestock reduced sharply.

In Belarus more than 1,8 million hectares of agricultural land (which is about 20% of its total area) were affected by ^{137}Cs contamination of more than 37 kBq/m². As a result of the high density contamination 265 thousand hectares of agricultural land was withdrawn from the economy. 53 state collective farms were liquidated. The annual loss from the dropped out agricultural lands estimated as more than 717 million US dollars. The annual shortage of production is equal to 641,1 thousand tons of feed units; 256,4 thousand tons of milk, 24 thousand tons of cattle meat and pork in the live weight, respectively.

Belarusian forests concentrate up to 70% of radionuclides deposited in the country. 53 of 95 forestries have been contaminated. In the contaminated areas with cesium content of 137 555 kBq/m² adult and overmature forest density exceeds 2 mln.m³ nowadays and is expected to be 3,5 mln.m³ by 2010. In the most radionuclide-contaminated areas with cesium-137 content equal 555 km² (Gomel and Mogilev regions) logging was stopped.

18. The Chernobyl accident put to former USSR and three the most affected countries – Ukraine, Belarus and Russia extremely difficult tasks first of all related to radiation safety of population. Solution of these tasks required immediate involvement of significant resources, adequate and ranged scheduling of actions, strict and systematic management of emergency and long term measures. Wide scaled measures were undertaken to mitigation of the accident consequences on the Chernobyl NPP, decontamination of the adjusted territories, evacuation of population. In general, response on the initial stage of the accident was adequate and efficient. However extraordinary nature of the accident resulted in a number of mistakes and delays. Particularly it concerned iodine prophylaxis of population.

Scales of the accident required development and implementation on the state level of long term and financially efficient program of urgent measures to overcome the Chernobyl consequences. This program was carried out in 1990–1992.

19. Dissolution of the USSR made the republics to solve the Chernobyl problems by themselves.

In Belarus for which the consequences occurred to be the most significant in relative expression since 1993 three State Programs to mitigate the consequences of the Chernobyl accident and funded by the state budget had been implemented. The fourth program covering the period till 2010 has been initiated. The Chernobyl problems, health state of population residing in contaminated regions is in focus of special attention from the side of legislative and executive power, the President of the Republic of Belarus. All activities are coordinated by a special state body – Committee on the problems of the Consequences of Catastrophe at the Chernobyl NPP under the Council of Ministers, Republic of Belarus.

20. Chernobyl related costs annually accounted a significant share of the country's national budget: Belarus invested from 17% to 5% of its budget in the official Chernobyl programmes. However a number of the most urgent problems has been solved.

–Regulatory and legislative base covering practically all aspects of the accident mitigation has been set up.

–Profound medical examination annually involves 1,5 millions individuals. Improvement of health care system, wide scale program of sanatorium treatment and rehabilitation of the affected population prevented from the growth of incidence rate among clean up workers and the affected population.

–Resettlement of population (135 000 individuals) from the most contaminated territories and their employment at new places of residence has been practically completed. 4,6 millions sq. m. of housing have been constructed.

–System of social protection of the affected population has been put in practice.

–Countermeasures in agro-industrial complex and forestry allows to control production corresponding to radiological standards.

–System of radiation control and monitoring has been set up and successfully operates.

–Complex activity is conducted to maintain exclusion zone including 30-km zone of the Chernobyl NPP, where state radiation ecological reserve has been set up.

–System of training and retraining of specialist in the field of radiation safety and population inform has been created.

–The activity to mitigate Chernobyl accident consequences has scientific support. New research institutes and centers have been established.

–Instruments for measurements and control over ionizing radiation have been worked out and put into production.

–Significant efforts were aimed at attracting of world community to the problems of the Chernobyl accident for the mostly affected states.

However state funding is inadequate for solution of all problems in the nearest future. To mitigate the consequences of the disaster estimated as 235 billions USD or 32 times the national budget of the pre-accidental 1985, for 20 years the country has managed to invest only about 17 billions USD.

21. Among the problems requiring further solution the most important is radiation safety of population. Radiation situation in a number of affected regions is still complicated. There are settlement where average annual effective doses of additional exposure at the cost of the Chernobyl fallouts exceed 1 mSv requiring further countermeasures in accordance with national laws. Special attention should be paid to existing even in relatively safe settlements of so called critical groups of population whose exposure doses could significantly exceed 1 mSv.

22. In the contaminated regions wide scaled countermeasures are justified, otherwise their products won't correspond to radiological standards.

Nowadays the agribusiness is conducted on 1,1 million hectares of land, contaminated with caesium-137 from 37 to 1480 kBq/m². Such lands are available in 633 agricultural enterprises on the territory of 61 district of the Republic. Furthermore, 276 of them in the area of 0,375 million hectares of soil are at the same time contaminated with strontium-90 with the density of more than 5,5 kBq/m².

Radiation situation predetermined introduction of special rules, recommendations and limitations to agricultural and economic activities, production of agricultural cultures

accumulating radionuclides.

23. Strategic task for the future is to provide radiation-ecological remediation and sustainable social-economic development of the contaminated territories without limitation their economic activity by radiation factor; create conditions for affected population and those residing in the contaminated territories at which they could feel increased social and health care protection, and their health reserve could be at least the same as for common population.

Achievement of real economic recovery and sustainable development should be based on continuous radiation monitoring of the environment, reconstruction of the economy potential in the affected region; introduction of progressive technologies in agro-industrial complex and forestry, increase of welfare of the affected population. All these require improvement of national approaches and international assistance for reconstruction of social infrastructure of the affected regions and places of compact residence of the evacuated population.

The actual problem is to create favorable conditions for national and foreign investments, innovation social policy in contaminated regions providing economic development of these regions, development of small and middle business, new working places.

Sustainable development of the contaminated territories is impossible without serious state support and assistance from the side of foreign and national partners aimed at strengthening of private farms. Development of private farms will provide recovery of psychological climate in rural communities, improve business activity, increase of profits and decrease in future dependence from state social support.

24. Solution of the rehabilitation problems is interfered by a psychological condition and inadequate information among the affected population. It is necessary to improve the system of informing and educating the population on the questions of the radiation situation, the efficiency of countermeasures, and other aspects that can help the inhabitants of the contaminated territories to follow the recommendations of science and medicine regarding the safe vital ability. It is important to overcome the syndrome "Chernobyl victim" that hinders the active involving of the population into the social-economic activity.

25. Normative legislative base needs to be updated considering international recommendations, including the system of social protection and creation of favorable economic conditions for development of the contaminated regions.

26. A complexity and a variety of the problems caused by the Chernobyl accident are dictating the necessity of keeping a high level of corresponding scientific investigations.

To specify the role of radiation factor in possible increase of cancer incidence it is necessary to conduct thoroughly designed long term radiation-epidemiological study. There are still problems in individual doses reconstruction for clean up workers. The problem of non-cancer incidence growth (cataract, cardio-vascular diseases, etc.) in clean up workers and the affected population requires additional study.

The scientifically proved strategy of the maintenance and possible economic use of the contaminated territories is necessary. The development of new organizational, agricultural and chemical, agricultural and technical actions, and technologies directed to the manufacturing of clean agricultural products in private farms and in the public sector is still actual.

Scientifically grounded strategy for maintenance and possible economic use of resettled territories is required.

Till now the biological effects of small irradiation doses, the combined action of the radiation and other factors, the influence of the developed conditions on the environment are not investigated in full measure.

The territory of the Polesie state radiation-ecological reserve in the Republic of Belarus should be an object of fixed attention. It is a unique area for research of the radiation influence on natural biogeocenoses, the processes of self-purification of natural objects. The obtained data should be used for forecasting the consequences of a long influence of radioactive nuclides on the natural world, for developing the rational ways of protection of the environment, and for planning the economic activity on the territories to be remediated.

It is required to specify the features of distribution and behavior of plutonium and americium radionuclides in ecological systems, which is necessary to estimate the condition of the natural environment, to forecast the radiation situation.

27. The system of dose monitoring needs to be updated through the optimization of the amount of instrumental estimation of radionuclide concentration in the environmental objects and human body, identification of critical territories and groups of population.

It needs to be developed metrological support of the system of radiation control in accordance with the international standards ISO including programs of quality assurance of radiation measurements. Actual task is modernization of the system of current instrumental base. It should correspond to the requirements of acting and developing more strict standards regarding radionuclides concentration in produce, and provide high accuracy of measurements in accordance with international system of products certification.

28. Efficient international cooperation is an important component of the activity aimed at mitigation of the Chernobyl consequences. The Conference states significant contribution of the international community in the overcoming of the accident consequences and new impulse of this activity for the recent years.

The most significant documents regulating International Chernobyl cooperation are the Resolutions of the UN General Assembly. The Conference states positive character of the 60th UN General Assembly “Strengthening of International Cooperation and Coordination of Efforts to Study, Mitigate and Minimize the Consequences of the Chernobyl Disaster”, accepted on November 14, 2005. A recognition of the urgency of the stated problems manifested itself in the co-authorship of 69 states on a draft resolution – by far the greatest number of the co-authors of the resolutions of the General Assembly on Chernobyl for the last thirteen years.

29. The conference supports the initiative of the Republic of Belarus on proclaim by UN “A decade of recovery and sustainable development of regions affected by the Chernobyl accident” with UNDP coordination of this activity.

30. The Conference notes Belarusian experts’ significant experience in mitigating the Chernobyl disaster’s consequences as well as the amount of scientific data in the field of effects of nuclear radiation, collected and methodized by Belarusian scientists, and finds Belarus’ participation in the activities of the United Nations Committee on Effects of Atomic Radiation expedient.

The Conference calls on the UN General Assembly to consider the increase in the membership of the United Nations Committee on Effects of Atomic Radiation.

31. During the period of 1990–2001 Chernobyl problem was raised in the programs

of cooperation of the leading UN agencies such as UNDP, IAEA, UNICEF, UNESCO, World Bank, WHO, OSCE, TACIS, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and other.

Cooperation have been initiated with the state and non-governmental organizations of Switzerland, Italy, France, Germany, UK, Ireland, USA, Japan.

According to the UN estimates, during 1990–2001 the support to our country from the organizations of the UN system was about 45 million dollars, from the side of EU TACIS program – above 2 million dollars, from the EU humanities office – 6.5 million dollars.

The foreign free aid in the form of goods and money resources was sent to the Republic of Belarus by private structures basically from Germany, Canada, Italy, Chinese People’s Republic, Japan, and some other countries (total sum is over 50 mln. USD).

At the same time, the international Chernobyl cooperation during the period till 2001 was not systematic and actually remained within the framework of classical humanities operations associated with an extreme situation.

32. Contractual relations received further development with Russia Federation in the Program of Joint Actions to Mitigating the Chernobyl Disaster Consequences within Russia-Belarus. The indicated programs are targeted at development, perfection, and support of functioning of an uniform system of rendering specialized medical aid to the affected population, formation and practical realization of uniform approaches to rehabilitation of the population and territories, development and introduction of uniform standards, most effective technologies and realization of economically justified actions.

The participants of the Conference from Russia Federation and Republic of Belarus note the high efficiency of implemented activities and propose to liven up the work under the new program of joint actions on minimization the Chernobyl disaster consequences in the framework of Union State of Belarus and Russia.

The Conference underlines the necessity of intensification the cooperation in solving the Chernobyl problems between three mostly affected countries: Russia, Ukraine and Belarus and also in the framework of joint programs and projects.

33. Principally new approaches to rendering assistance to the affected population are stated in the UN mission report “Human Consequences of the Chernobyl Nuclear Accident, Strategy for post-Chernobyl Rehabilitation”, where for the first time recommendations are made for changing priorities of international Chernobyl cooperation form rendering humanitarian aid to long term process of complex rehabilitation of the affected regions. Such approach is commonly accepted on international level that is evidenced by the summary of International Chernobyl Forum presented at the Conference held on 6-7 September 2005 in Vienna, and outcomes of this Conference.

34. The Conference welcomes innovation nature of international technical assistance “Cooperation for Rehabilitation” – the program of the new generation presented within the UN strategy for social-economic development of the affected regions.

35. The Conference states development of new approach of post-Chernobyl international cooperation – joint Project of World Bank and the Government of the Republic of Belarus for rehabilitation of the affected regions. Providing with loan for overcoming the Chernobyl consequences will open a new stage of cooperation: from humanitarian aid to loan projects.

36. The Conference stresses out the importance of purposeful activity aimed at coverage of the Chernobyl problems in mass media to provide objective information of the Chernobyl consequences and problems need to be solved.

37. The Conference greets the participants of forthcoming International Conference in Kiev and makes a preposition to join the main statements of the present conclusions and recommendations, to consolidate the efforts for overcoming the Chernobyl consequences.