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Letter dated 21 June 2024 from the Permanent Representative of Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to convey to you the outcome document of the Second National Forum on Sustainable Development, convened under the auspices of the National Sustainable Development Goals Coordinator and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus, with the participation of the Council for Sustainable Development and with the support of the United Nations, held in Minsk on 19 June 2024 (see annex).

I would appreciate it if you could kindly circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 18.

(Signed) Valentin **Rybakov**



Annex to the letter dated 21 June 2024 from the Permanent Representative of Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Second National Forum on Sustainable Development

Outcome document

Based on the outcome of the discussions held during the Second National Forum on Sustainable Development, the approaches proposed to guide further work to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in Belarus, supported by the Forum's participants, are as follows:

1. The social sector

1.1. Improve the well-being of the population on the basis of sustainable income growth that guarantees equal opportunities for social integration, and create an effective system of support for citizens in need of social protection.

1.2. Develop the social protection system and the social services market in support of children and families in difficult situations and senior citizens, and provide social assistance to persons with disabilities for their successful social integration, creating equal opportunities for them to realize their potential.

1.3. Implement measures to ensure an accessible living environment for persons with disabilities and for physically challenged persons.

1.4. Create conditions for active longevity and new opportunities to realize the potential and increase the social role of senior citizens.

1.5. Shape and promote in society family values, responsible motherhood and fatherhood, large families and strong intergenerational relations.

1.6. Help popularize ideas and real-world instruments among employers in support of working parents through the promotion of parent-friendly company initiatives.

1.7. Shape human resources potential in accordance with the needs of the economy, develop new business models for employment and expand employment opportunities for those experiencing difficulties in finding a job.

1.8. Modernize existing professions and introduce new ones into the national qualifications framework, including through the development of professional standards.

2. The environmental protection sector

2.1. Continue implementing measures to preserve natural ecological systems and conserve biological and landscape diversity.

2.2. Continue climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts and develop the national system for the monitoring, reporting and verification of greenhouse gas emissions, taking into account the international climate agenda.

2.3. Create an environmentally-friendly living environment by ensuring that air quality in cities meets international standards.

2.4. Continue implementing measures to improve the efficient regulation of the water level regime on surface water bodies.

2.5. Create conditions for increasing the resource efficiency of production activities and the widespread implementation of green economy principles, including the circular transformation of industry, agriculture, energy, transport, housing, utilities and other sectors.

2.6. Raise the population's environmental education and literacy levels and create economic incentives for environmental safety compliance.

3. The health sector

3.1. Continue implementing the Healthy Cities and Towns project, with the expansion of project activities to cover more population centres in the Republic.

3.2. Provide the population with easily accessible and high-quality health care at all levels on the basis of modern standards and techniques.

3.3. Integrate concepts of large families, family values and generational continuity into existing social ties and maximize the nation's the demographic potential.

3.4. Motivate the population to pursue a healthy lifestyle and broadly apply health-saving technologies and behavioural standards.

4. The education sector

4.1. Include in the 2040 national sustainable development strategy of the Republic of Belarus, which is under development, provisions on developing lifelong learning as a strategic priority of the national education system, as well as provisions on proactively establishing attitudes and competencies relevant to sustainable development subjects and ensuring innovative practices in this regard as priorities of State programmes related to the development of education and youth policy in Belarus.

4.2. Organize comprehensive research to establish a system of targeted expert and advisory support to local communities and regions, taking into account the existing and growing educational needs of residents, organizations and structures as subjects of sustainable development at the local level.

4.3. Support the activities of general secondary and vocational education institutions operating in regions as providers of additional adult education in the context of organizing sustainable development education practices for all generations.

4.4. Ensure the adaptation and implementation of sustainable development practices and international experience in basic and supplementary education programmes at all levels, involving a wide range of stakeholders not only from academia and research, but also from businesses, manufacturing industries and local government authorities.

4.5. Mobilize young people's efforts and their inclusion in Sustainable Development Goal processes at all levels by stimulating, supporting and implementing collaborative initiatives and enhancing the exploratory, innovative and transformative nature of education, develop a professionally-oriented volunteer movement of students and teachers and draw up complex project ideas (including on adaptation to climate change in local communities).

4.6. Strengthen the connections between Youth Ambassadors for the Sustainable Development Goals and young audiences, promote greater interaction between Youth Ambassadors for the Goals and governmental authorities and promote international cooperation between Youth Ambassadors for the Goals and similar mechanisms in other countries.

5. Smart cities and sustainable regions of the future

5.1. Rely on the provisions of the 2040 national sustainable development strategy of the Republic of Belarus when developing regional strategies.

5.2. Increase the investment attractiveness of Belarusian cities and the quality of life in the regions while respecting environmental principles.

5.3. Continue implementing the Smart Cities of Belarus project for the effective management of the urban environment.

5.4. Include “experience tourism” in the draft 2040 national sustainable development strategy of the Republic of Belarus as a promising area for development.

6. International activities

6.1. Disseminate the outcomes of the Second National Forum on Sustainable Development as an official document of the seventy-eighth session of the United Nations General Assembly and further publicize those outcomes at international events.

6.2. Undertake the third voluntary national review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with the participation of all stakeholders and present the review at the high-level political forum on sustainable development.

6.3. Take an active role in the annual meetings of the high-level political forum on sustainable development in New York and the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development in Geneva to emphasize the successes of the Republic of Belarus in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

6.4. Pursue a targeted policy in international organizations regarding the negative impact of illegal unilateral coercive measures on the sustainable development of countries, and work to enshrine the relevant provisions in the outcome documents of international events.

7. Monitoring and measuring the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals

7.1. Ensure maximum availability of data from the national list of Sustainable Development Goal indicators, including through the use of new sources of information and innovative approaches.

7.2. Provide an annual assessment of progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in order to analyse the results achieved and identify areas requiring additional efforts, with the subsequent dissemination of information on the achievement of the Goals in the Republic of Belarus.