



**Permanent Mission of
the Republic of Belarus to
the United Nations**



**Permanent Mission of
the Russian Federation
to the United Nations**



**Permanent Mission of
Ukraine
to the United Nations**

STATEMENT

**by Zoya Kolontai, Chargé d'Affaires ad Interim
of the Republic of Belarus to the UN
on behalf of the Permanent Missions of the Republic of Belarus,
the Russian Federation and Ukraine to the UN**

January 26, 2011

**Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

On behalf of the Permanent Missions of the Republic of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine to the United Nations I would like to thank Ms Rebeca Grynspan, United Nations Development Programme Associate Administrator, and Ms Kori Udovicki, Assistant Administrator and Director of the Regional Bureau for Europe and the CIS, for convening this important conference. Meetings of the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) on Chernobyl have already proven their usefulness and effectiveness to define essential needs and work out practical measures to address them in order to achieve our common goal which is the restoration of normal life in Chernobyl affected areas.

The Governments of the three most affected countries take vigorous steps to create friendly environment for the revival of economy and sustainable development of the territories suffered from Chernobyl accident. In this context particular attention is focused on providing conditions for safe life and work for the affected population.

The year 2010 was marked by many activities which encouraged the peoples of the affected countries to feel optimistic in their efforts to bring life to normalcy by 2016 on territories hit by this complex man-made disaster. And here it is necessary to mention resolution 65/131 adopted by the General Assembly at its 65th session. The added value of this document is in the confirmation by the General Assembly that Chernobyl would remain to be the focus of attention of the United Nations and UN

specialized agencies, programmes and funds. It also reaffirmed the leading role of the United Nations in coordinating the international co-operation on Chernobyl.

We highly appreciate the efforts taken by the UNDP and its Administrator Ms. Helen Clark to coordinate development and implementation of the UN action plan for Chernobyl recovery to 2016. In the setting of the global financial and economic recession, the implementation of the UN action plan helps to maximize limited resources, avoid duplication of effort and ensure their effective and efficient use. This plan should remain an important instrument for the agencies of the UN system in their Chernobyl activities.

Able coordination of the UN action plan is essential to finding new donors, both within and outside the United Nations, and forward-looking solutions to help local communities and national Governments overcome the still existing problems. In this regard, we welcome creative and sustainable work of the UN agencies involved, the World Bank, the International Atomic Energy Agency and other international organizations on Chernobyl issues. We also would like to commend Ms. Maria Sharapova, UNDP Goodwill Ambassador for Chernobyl, for her generous contribution and personal persistent advocacy of the interests of the youth from the affected territories.

In 2011 we will mark the 25th anniversary of the accident at Chernobyl NPP. A number of international events, including Special Commemorative Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly in New York and the International Conference “Twenty-five Years after the Chernobyl Disaster: Safety for the Future” in Kyiv, Ukraine, is expected to take place in April.

These activities and the GA special commemorative meeting in particular, will provide an outstanding opportunity to draw attention to Chernobyl. They should send a clear positive message to the international community that our targets and goals in dealing with Chernobyl legacy are feasible, realistic, timely and achievable. It is essential to stress the importance to restore environment and infrastructure for sustainable development of the affected territories.

Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine reaffirm the need for all stakeholders of co-operation on Chernobyl to implement their obligations, including those connected with the construction of a new safe confinement “Shelter” around damaged Unit 4 of Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant.

Along with health, nuclear safety and environmental issues, special attention should be paid to the promotion of knowledge-sharing. In this regard, we attach great importance to the success of the International Chernobyl Research Information Network (ICRIN) project.

We are concerned that despite of all efforts, mobilization of donor resources for Chernobyl-related projects aimed at achieving sustainable development in the affected areas is still a pending problem. Sustainable development of the affected areas is a long-term process which requires considerable and coordinated international assistance.

Such assistance should be comprehensive. Along with the financial, scientifically grounded methodological assistance is of great importance. In this context we appreciate the work of the United Nations Scientific Committee on Effects of Atomic Radiation, which is aimed at scientific systematization of the experience gained and serve as a firm basis for developing recommendations on rehabilitation activities. We are convinced that close co-operation between this Committee and Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine will increase its efficiency, especially, in the Chernobyl direction.

Our countries together with many other UN Member States and agencies involved stand for keeping Chernobyl in the UN agenda. We intend to continue close co-operation on the whole spectrum of the Chernobyl issues.

Thank you.