



BELARUS

Address by

His Excellency Sergei Martynov

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belarus

to the High-Level Event on the Millennium
Development Goals,
Roundtable III: Environmental Sustainability

25 September 2008

Government of Belarus has a clear understanding of how to achieve all MDGs in the country. In these efforts **environmental sustainability** is the key priority.

Even though not yet deeply affected by the negative consequences of the climate change, Belarus fully commits herself to joint actions of humankind to mitigate the adverse effects of this phenomenon and to adapt to its consequences. Belarus already contributes to the global actions, inter alia by providing hundreds of millions of dollars of budgetary resources to reduce carbon emissions.

Recognising the importance of the Kyoto mechanisms Belarus is somewhat disappointed by the lack of political will on the part of the Members of the Kyoto Protocol to ratify the **Amendment to the Annex B of the Protocol**. This Amendment puts Belarus on the list of countries which have voluntarily undertaken upon themselves quantified emission reduction commitments. Belarus' participation in the Kyoto mechanisms would allow it to triple by 2012 the amount of reduced emissions.

Seeing such difficulties in implementing the Kyoto Protocol Belarus intends to take active part in the negotiations on the new climate change treaty. It is crucial that this treaty contains effective measures to assist countries to implement their commitments on emissions reduction. **Development and transfer of technologies** play a central role in these measures. Introduction of new technologies is of particular importance for Belarus and other countries where high rates of economic growth together with insufficient technological modernisation may lead to the significant growth of emissions.

To achieve progress in emissions reduction an **effective mechanism of technologies transfer** to developing countries and countries with economies in transition on preferential terms should be established. The General Assembly should contribute to the elaboration of such mechanism.

The discussion on this issue may be started at the **thematic debate of the General Assembly on ensuring fair access of all countries to the technologies of energy efficiency, alternative and renewable sources of energy**. To be held at the 63rd session of the General Assembly, this thematic debate could also allow to consider the proposal of the President of 62nd session of the General Assembly Srgjan Kerim to elaborate a global plan of action to tackle energy crisis as well as other relevant proposals.