



# **B E L A R U S**

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**UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
SUMMIT FOR THE ADOPTION  
OF THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA**

**Statement  
by His Excellency  
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**New York, September 27, 2015**

**Sustainable development** is impossible without **peace and security**. The people of Belarus have fully appreciated this absolute truth by their own fate. In the past century, Belarus came to be a place of the bloodiest battles of the two world wars.

That is why we attach utmost importance to preventing military conflicts and threats to people's lives.

Having lost one third of her population in the struggle against fascism, Belarus rose from the ashes and has sacredly preserved peace and social harmony while seeking to ensure the nation's well-being and stable development.

During the years of its sovereignty our country has honorably achieved the Millennium Development Goals related to the elimination of hunger and poverty, ensured one hundred percent literacy, gender equality, social and political stability, non-discrimination on ethnic and religious grounds.

Unfortunately, the same is not true about the planet as a whole. The world has come to this summit as **dissociated and divided** as never before in the past three decades. The planet is shaken by numerous conflicts and acts of terrorism. Regrettably, no adequate answer has been found to an increased number of global threats.

We have not been able to restore the balance of power lost with the disintegration of the Soviet Union. **And if there is no balance there is neither peace nor stability**. This is a **systemic crisis**. In any system, a single force acts without any restraint seeking prosperity only for itself at the expense of others.

The policy of hegemony and national egoism leads to wider use of pressure, sanctions, restrictions and military action. As a result, **we are losing trust in each other**.

Mutual alienation is typical not only of big countries, but also of smaller ones. There are many who do not even have the slightest wish to understand traditions, culture and convictions of other peoples.

**Restoring a balance is obviously a long way towards a multipolar world**. We will get closer to this goal only if we take action rather than sit and wait.

We must **recognise in practice that we are all different** and that every nation and every country has the right to choose their own path of development. **Our diversity is a prerequisite for common progress and success of everyone**.

This approach will help **restore trust in our international relations**. But in order to do this we need to **meet and talk to each other**, looking for the ways of constructive interaction.

History teaches that anyone claiming unilateral leadership without regard for the interests of others is ultimately bound to fail. Any advantage gained at the expense of others is short-lived and illusive.

No wonder popular wisdom goes that one cannot build one's happiness on the misfortune of others.

The contemporary world goes through a **crisis of responsibility**. Self-interest and momentary advantages are at the core of many decisions. International actions by a number of countries often fail to take into account concrete reality and peculiarities of other nations and societies.

I am convinced that with a different approach there would have been no hundreds of thousands of victims in **Iraq, Libya, Syria and other countries** that refugees flee in an attempt to escape war. There would have been no **Islamic State**. There would have been no acts of terror in Europe and **civil war in Ukraine**. The list of these "would not have beens" can be quite long.

Today we need **responsible politicians** capable of acting globally, strategically, willing to take decisions in the interest of the **entire international community** and to make compromise for the common good.

While at the United Nations, I cannot help touching upon the crisis of international institutions.

One gets the impression that lately their role has been reduced to being a mere place of disputes between states and sometimes an instrument of pressuring individual countries that do not please the powerful of this world.

Just take a look at the multitude of resolutions adopted at the UN. Does voting on them help end conflicts? Does this voting help consolidate the international community?

Let us give an honest answer: "No!" We take a vote and get separated into camps. As a result, there is even more mistrust and estrangement.

I am deeply convinced that the **United Nations should not be used to demonstrate one's power**. It weakens the Organisation, destroys trust in it and contradicts its very nature and mission.

It is hardly surprising that traditional **international institutions** play insufficient role in preventing and settling conflicts.

We must put an end to this deplorable practice. The United Nations must be a **venue for cooperation of states, not for their confrontation**.

Only mutual understanding and responsibility, awareness of the world's diversity, renewal of trust will help us **get united, safeguard peace and security, and find effective responses** to global threats and challenges.

Sustainable development of every country and the increased role of the United Nations will be the practical result of our common efforts.