Letter dated 14 September 2023 from the Permanent Representative of Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit an information note highlighting the progress of the Republic of Belarus in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the commitments of Belarus towards accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda (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
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Belarus and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals

The Republic of Belarus has made considerable progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals at the national level.

• A national list of indicators of Goal achievement has been developed and a national platform for reporting on the Goals has been established. The national list of Goal indicators includes 267 indicators.

• More than 60 per cent of the indicators show progress in achieving the Goals and 80 per cent of the 2030 indicator targets will be met.

• **Goal 1.** Extreme poverty has been eradicated in Belarus. There are virtually no citizens in the country whose income level is less than $1.90 per day.

• **Goal 2.** Belarus ranked thirty-sixth out of 113 countries on the Global Food Security Index 2021, securing almost all staple foods. In 2022, Belarus exported foodstuffs and agricultural raw materials worth about $8.3 billion to more than 100 countries.

• **Goal 3.** Belarus ranks “very high” (sixtieth out of 194 countries) on the universal health coverage service coverage index, it is the twenty-fifth most comfortable country for motherhood out of 180 countries and it is among the top 50 countries for managing pregnancies and organizing childbirth.

• **Goal 4.** The adult literacy rate in Belarus is 99.87 per cent; the enrolment rate of preschool-age children in pre-primary education is 100 per cent; and the proportion of employed people who have received basic, general secondary and vocational education is 99 per cent. Belarus ranks fortieth out of 180 countries on the childhood happiness scale and, in 2021, it ranked seventeenth out of 163 countries on the Social Progress Index according to the “Access to basic knowledge” indicator. In the *Human Development Report 2020* of the United Nations Development Programme, Belarus was ranked thirty-second in the ranking of countries by the education level index.

• **Goal 5.** Belarus is one of 22 countries where the human development index for women is equal to or greater than the equivalent indicator for men. Belarus ranks thirty-first out of 162 countries on the gender inequality index and thirty-third out of 156 countries on the Global Gender Gap Index.

• **Goal 6.** The entire population is provided with basic sanitation and hygiene services. Over the last 10 years, more than 99 per cent of domestic and industrial wastewater has been safely treated.

• **Goal 7.** A hundred per cent of the country’s population has access to electricity and its consumption is fully provided by the country’s power plants.

• **Goal 8.** Gross domestic product per capita at purchasing power parity has grown by 11 per cent over the past five years to reach over $20,000 in 2022. The country’s unemployment rate in 2022 was less than 4 per cent.
• **Goal 9.** Belarus ranks forty-sixth out of 152 countries on the Competitiveness Industrial Performance Index and sixty-second out of 132 countries on the Global Innovation Index, and 90 per cent of the population uses the Internet.

• **Goal 10.** Belarus is among the top five countries in the world with the lowest levels of property inequality. The Gini coefficient is 2.68. In Belarus, special attention is paid to implementing measures to ensure the rights of persons with disabilities.

• **Goal 11.** In total, 99.1 per cent of the urban population has access to improved drinking water sources. Belarus has adopted the concept of sustainable cities and towns, the main objectives of which are to create a comfortable, energy-efficient and safe urban environment, as well as to ensure environmentally sustainable urbanization.

• **Goal 12.** About 3.9 million tons of municipal solid waste is generated in Belarus annually, which is about 6 per cent of the total amount of waste generated.

• **Goal 13.** Belarus is globally responsible for 0.13 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions. As a party to the Paris Agreement, Belarus has committed itself to reducing its economy-wide greenhouse gas emissions by 35 percent of 1990 levels by 2030, alongside projected economic growth. By 2021, the Republic of Belarus had reduced emissions by 36.7 percent from 1990 levels.

• **Goal 14.** Belarus is located on the watershed of rivers belonging to the basins of two seas, namely, the Baltic Sea and the Black Sea. Being landlocked, Belarus contributes to life below water through the protection of transboundary rivers, thereby protecting the waters of the Baltic Sea and the Black Sea.

• **Goal 15.** Belarus is one of 10 forested countries in Europe. Poland is constructing protective fences on the Belarusian-Polish border, which will partly affect the territory of Belovezhskaya Pushcha, a World Heritage site of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and is giving rise to uncertainty about the preservation of this relic forest and its biological diversity.

• **Goal 16.** Belarus is active on the international arena in combating trafficking in persons. At the initiative of Belarus, the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons was adopted in 2010, and numerous resolutions on this topic have been adopted by various entities of the United Nations system at the initiative of Belarus.

• **Goal 17.** In its interaction with other States, Belarus is guided by the principle of partnership and supports the establishment of global thematic partnerships.

**Commitments**

• **Commitment 1.** As a party to the Paris Agreement, Belarus has committed itself to reducing its economy-wide greenhouse gas emissions by 35 percent of 1990 levels by 2030, alongside projected economic growth (contribution to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 13).

• **Commitment 2.** To ensure access to affordable and clean energy, Belarus will achieve a 60 per cent reduction in the share of gas in heat and electricity by 2025 through the commissioning of a Belarusian nuclear power plant. This will reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 7 million tons annually (contribution to achieving Sustainable Development Goals 7 and 13).

• **Commitment 3.** Belarus plans to build 87 ultra-fast charging stations by 2030, in addition to 628 operating electric charging stations. These will increase the
share of renewable energy sources in the fuel and energy balance of Belarus and improve the sustainability of urban infrastructure (contribution to achieving Sustainable Development Goals 7 and 9).

- **Commitment 4.** Belarus plans to raise the rate of recycling the main types of secondary material resources from municipal solid waste to 64 per cent by 2025 (79 per cent by 2030 and 90 per cent by 2035). The Republic of Belarus is gradually introducing a system for the separate collection and sorting of solid domestic waste, which will eventually ensure that zero disposal of municipal solid waste is achieved (contribution to achieving Sustainable Development Goals 11 and 12).

- **Commitment 5.** To accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Republic of Belarus plans in the short term to harness additional financial and non-financial mechanisms that provide scientific support for processes to achieve the Goals in the areas of digitalization, the green economy, biodiversity and health (contribution to achieving Sustainable Development Goals 3, 9, 13 and 15).