



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Ref: EWCA/040/09

30 October 2009

Dear Ms. Pillay,

I address you in the context of the periodic review on human rights, which the Republic of Belarus will undergo in May 2010.

UNODC Executive Director was approached by H. E. Mr. Aleyksandr Sychov, Ambassador of the Republic of Belarus to the United Nations in Vienna, with a request to briefly inform your Office about the cooperation between UNODC and the Republic of Belarus.

I enclose a concise note for the file on some of the areas in which UNODC works with the Government of the Republic of Belarus. Our Office is ready provide further information if necessary.

I remain, dear Ms. Pillay, yours sincerely,



Francis Maertens
Deputy Executive Director

Her Excellency
Ms. Navanethem Pillay
United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
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Making the world safer from drugs, crime and terrorism

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Cooperation between United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Government of the Republic of Belarus

Note for the file

- Belarus was elected to the membership of **the Commission on Narcotic Drugs** in May 2009. Its membership of the Commission will commence on 1 January 2010 for a period of 4 years.
- Belarus was also elected to membership of **the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice** in May this year. Its membership of the CCPCJ will begin on 1 January 2010 for a period of 3 years.
- Belarus ratified **the United Nations Convention against Corruption** on 17 February 2005 and reported (through the designated tool, UNCAC self-assessment checklist) on efforts to implement the Convention on 15 November 2007.
- Belarus ratified **the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto**. The Convention and the first two supplementing Protocols (Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children; Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Air and Sea) were ratified on 25 June 2003. Belarus ratified the third Protocol (Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition) on 6 October 2004.
- Belarus responded to the checklist/questionnaires on the implementation of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto.
- Belarus participated in the 4th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, held on 8-17 October 2008, as well as in the related inter-sessional Working Groups held in 2009.
- Belarus provided inputs into **the Global Report on Trafficking in Persons – UN.GIFT** study on the state of the world's response to the crime of human trafficking. In particular, information/data was provided on a national institutional framework, criminal justice response, statistics on persons convicted for trafficking in persons, number of registered crimes and identified victims of trafficking and services provided to victims.
- Belarus provided financial support (USD 20,000) to the work of **the Inter-Agency Cooperation Group against Trafficking in Persons (ICAT)** – a group of agencies and bodies of the UN system and other relevant intergovernmental organizations, chaired by UNODC and established to improve coordination and cooperation among involved agencies and to facilitate a holistic approach to preventing and combating trafficking in persons including protection of and support for victims of trafficking. Belarus attended in the ICAT meetings (the last meeting conducted 23 April 2009 in Vienna).
- In 2008, Belarus initiated United Nations Economic and Social Council resolution “Strengthening coordination of the United Nations and other efforts in fighting trafficking in

persons”, sought to enhance the role of the **ECOSOC** as a major UN body in dealing with anti-trafficking.

- At the national level, Belarus established an **International Anti-Human Trafficking Training Centre** aimed at promotion of international cooperation to prevent human trafficking and conducting training for government officials involved in prevention of illegal migration and trafficking in persons in 2007 and organised a wide range of public awareness activities on human trafficking.
- Belarus provided inputs for **the UNDOC Crime Trends Survey**, and has partially answered to **the UNODC Annual Reports Questionnaire**.
- Belarus has ratified 13 out of 16 international **counter-terrorism treaties**. The remaining non-ratified treaties are the following:
 - 2005 Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material
 - 2005 Protocol of 2005 to the Convention for the suppression of unlawful acts against the safety of maritime navigation
 - 2005 Protocol of 2005 to the Protocol for the suppression of unlawful acts against the safety of fixed platforms located on the continental shelf
- Belarus does not belong to the list of countries, which finalized their drafting of, or already adopted counter-terrorism legislation or amendments, with assistance of UNODC.
- UNODC is not supporting any ongoing technical cooperation project in Belarus at this moment.