

Speech at the general debate on the topic:
“Promoting peaceful coexistence and an inclusive society:
fighting intolerance”

Dear Mr. Chairman!
Dear Colleagues!

Today the world is undergoing global changes - the system of international security is deformed, existing conflicts and crises are escalating and new ones are emerging.

Interstate relations are challenged and lack dialogue and mutually respectful cooperation.

In this context, it is important to recall the initiative of President of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko to launch a global process in the spirit of the San Francisco conference. The outcome of this process should be clear and transparent agreements on the rules of the new world order, which will provide security guarantees to all members of the international community.

Belarus has always been a donor of regional security. Under the auspices of the UN and other international organizations, a number of high-level events on international security issues have been held in Belarus.

Belarus is consistently pursuing a peaceful foreign policy. We know the value of the world like no one else. Every third Belarusian died during the Second World War.

On the issue of resolving the conflict in Ukraine, our country has consistently called on the parties concerned to implement the Minsk agreements.

President of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko personally initiated contacts between Russia and Ukraine for negotiations in Belarus to resolve the situation.

Three rounds of negotiations were organized on the territory of Belarus. The Belarusian side provided all the conditions for their holding.

Belarus is making every effort to provide assistance to Ukrainian refugees - since February 2022, we have received more than 65,000 Ukrainians from Belarus, for whom all the necessary conditions have been created for a normal life in our country.

The organization of negotiations between Russia and Ukraine, assistance to refugees, all this corresponds to the unifying and peace-loving initiatives that the Republic of Belarus has been promoting in recent years.

Belarus calls on all those interested to find solutions to resolve the conflict in Ukraine, to intensify political and diplomatic efforts in order to achieve peace as soon as possible.

Mr Chairman!

The current turbulent situation in international relations creates serious challenges for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Agenda.

According to UN estimates, the progress of Belarus in the implementation of the Agenda is almost 80%. In 2022, Belarus took 34th place in the ranking of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

However, the efforts of Belarus to implement the SDGs, like many other developing countries, have become a hostage to the growing processes of interstate confrontation, the unwillingness of a group of countries to respect the sovereign choice of development paths of other states and to conduct an honest dialogue on topical issues of global and regional security.

The situation is complicated by the use by Western countries of unilateral coercive measures that contradict the UN Charter, damage the economies of entire countries and regions, and violate the rights of hundreds of thousands and millions of people.

In this context, we call on the Inter-Parliamentary Union and parliamentarians to stand in solidarity against the illegal sanctions policy of Western countries.

Over the past years, Belarus has been facing systemic discrimination against Belarusian athletes in the international arena, which is based solely on political motivation.

Decisions to deprive Belarusian athletes of membership in international federations and the right to participate in international competitions flagrantly violate not only the Olympic Charter, but also a number of international human rights treaties, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

Belarus calls on the Inter-Parliamentary Union to appeal to the international Olympic movement with a call to stop the interference of Western politicians in sports and their discriminatory policy of isolation based on country affiliation.

Mr Chairman!

Today in Belarus, in order to ensure the constitutional rights and freedoms of citizens, a system of measures has been built and is in place aimed at ensuring the vital activity, equality and full participation in the life of society

of all citizens, regardless of gender, age, physical characteristics, nationality and religion.

The country has clearly built legislation that has consolidated the centuries-old traditions of peaceful good neighborliness.

Belarus is taking concrete steps to ensure gender parity in various spheres of society, and special attention is paid to the issues of ensuring the participation of older citizens and people with disabilities in the life of society.

The Belarusian parliament keeps in focus the work on the inclusion of children with special needs in society.

Under the leadership of the Chairwoman of the Council of the Republic Natalya Kochanova, the Advisory Council for Social Adaptation and Integration