

## **General Debate**

### ***Upholding humanitarian norms and supporting humanitarian action in times of crisis***

Mr. President,

Ladies and gentlemen!

The topic proposed for consideration at today's Assembly is of particular importance.

As one of the founding States of the United Nations and a party to the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their additional protocols, the Republic of Belarus emphasizes the special role of international humanitarian law in the set of factors that shaped the current system of international peace and security.

Belarus ensures the faithful implementation of humanitarian norms, actively participates in humanitarian activities and in the work of International Conferences of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, promotes the strengthening and dissemination of knowledge about international humanitarian law.

The President of the Republic of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko pays special attention to humanitarian issues.

To implement international legal obligations in the field of humanitarian law, the Government of the Republic of Belarus has established a Commission for the implementation of International humanitarian law in national legislation.

Great assistance to the state in carrying out humanitarian activities provides the Belarusian Red Cross Society.

We hope that the full-fledged status of the Belarusian Red Cross Society has been suspended due to a politicized decision will be restored as soon as possible within the framework of the International Federation of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent, and that work on a wide range of humanitarian activities will be resumed.

Today, Belarus has built the most effective system for providing humanitarian assistance to affected states, A procedure for making decisions on its delivery is determined by Presidential Decree.

Since 1999, at the initiative of the Belarusian state, assistance has been provided to 34 countries around the world. It varies from sending rescuers to delivering humanitarian supplies and financial support. Belarusian specialists have proven to be among the best trained in international missions.

The activities of Belarus in providing humanitarian assistance are not just a gesture of goodwill, but a manifestation of responsible participation in solving global problems. It demonstrates the active role of the country in the international arena, contributes to the strengthening of mutual understanding and trusting relations between States. Humanitarian aid is an important tool of the Belarusian foreign policy and a clear example of the commitment of the Belarusian state to the ideals of mercy and compassion.