

Remarks by the Chairperson of the Council of the Republic of the National
Assembly of the Republic of Belarus Natalya Kochanova
at the Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament

Your Excellency Madame Barron!

Your Excellency Mr. Sobotka!

Distinguished heads of delegations of participants of the Fifth World
Conference of Speakers of Parliament!

Dear colleagues!

Today we take part in the Fifth World Conference of Speakers of
Parliament in a new, online format due to the COVID-19 pandemic that
affected all countries.

This pandemic exacerbated numerous global and regional problems in
political, economic and humanitarian fields.

Within this complicated geopolitical context, several days ago Belarus
held its presidential elections that outer forces tried to use to destabilize the
situation in the country and unleash chaos and violence. Not everyone in the
world and the region is happy with stability and tranquillity in Belarus and its
multi-vector peaceful foreign policy. We came out victorious in the battle
against the Nazi invaders and in the Second World War, and we will do so this
time in the battle against destructive outer forces.

I would like to draw attention of all parliamentarians to the **initiative** put
forth by the Belarusian Head of State **on launching a global dialogue** on
security. To promote this initiative, in 2018-2019 Minsk hosted several high-
level events. We welcome initiatives calling for all-encompassing dialogue on
global security as a means to ease geopolitical tensions and to establish more
constructive international relations.

In the context of addressing new challenges, the Republic of Belarus
identifies key topics of international counterterrorism, including in cyberspace.
President of the Republic of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, put forward a
proposal to establish the “belt of digital neighbourhood”. I call on my
colleagues to join this initiative through signing agreements on international
digital security based on respect for digital sovereignty and neutrality, as well
as on non-interference of states towards each other's digital resources.

We are proud of the outcomes of the **Belarusian initiatives on
combating human trafficking**. The UN Group of Friends united against
human trafficking unites 23 states, the UN Global Plan of Action against human
trafficking was adopted and is being implemented as well as Belarus-initiated
UN resolution “Improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking in

persons”, and under Belarusian initiative the World Day against Trafficking in Persons was established.

Today sustainable development is one of the dominant topics. Belarus is engaged in this process. Overall coordination of this activity in Belarus is carried out by the Deputy Chairperson of the Council of the Republic, and there is a special parliamentary working group on achievement of the SDGs.

In July 2017, in New York, Belarus was among the first to submit its national review on achievement of the SDGs.

Several important national measures were implemented: the Council on Sustainable Development was formed, the work on harmonisation of national development indicators with the UN-approved universal SDG indications was organised, and monitoring of SDG indicators is carried out.

The SDGs are integrated into the National Strategy of Sustainable Development of the Republic of Belarus for the period until 2035.

From 2017 to 2019 Belarus witnessed successful implementation of the UNDP international technical assistance project to support the activities of the National SDG Coordinator and to involve the Parliament into the work on implementation of the global goals.

In 2019 Belarus ranked the 23rd among 162 states in the SDG Index.

It’s obvious that countries can’t achieve SDGs alone mobilising only national resources, that’s why Belarus is interested in international and regional partnerships for sustainable development. **We are ready to share our experience and learn and borrow the best practices of other countries.**

Dear colleagues!

Parliamentarians have the closest connection with the citizens because they elected us. In the post-Coronavirus period people and their problems must be the primary focus of attention of legislative and other parliamentary activities.

Let me wish you fruitful work at the Conference to find common approaches to ensure multi-polar world order and sustainable development of humankind and our planet.