

Belarus' cooperation with UN human rights mechanisms

- ***In 2007*** as a result of adoption of the Institution-building package of the Human Rights Council the Council itself and, subsequently, UN General Assembly decided not to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus established by the discredited Commission on Human Rights.
- ***In May 2009*** upon the invitation of the Government the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially in women and children, paid a country visit to Belarus.
- ***On November 13, 2009*** the Government extended its standing invitation to eight special procedures of the Human Rights Council.
- ***In late November 2009*** upon the invitation of the Government OHCHR conducted the first needs assessment visit to Belarus: meetings were held with officials in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Internal Affairs and its International Training Center, National Center for Legislation and Research, CIS Executive Committee.
- ***In December 2009*** Belarus submitted its fifth periodic report to the Committee against Torture.
- ***In May 2010*** Belarus passed the Universal Periodic Review and accepted 75 recommendations of 93 made by the UN Member States. The national plan on implementation of UPR recommendations was adopted and the interagency group was established. To date Belarus has implemented a **majority** of UPR recommendations.
- ***In July 2010*** the training seminar by OHCHR on the Universal Periodic Review and on the treaty body reporting was held in Minsk.
- ***In November 2010*** Belarus submitted its combined periodic reports to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.
- ***In December 2010*** the Government identified to OHCHR several areas for cooperation on the implementation of UPR recommendations and requested support.
- ***In 2011*** Belarus presented its seventh periodic report to the Committee on the Elimination Discrimination against Women, three reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child and a periodic report to the Committee against Torture. Belarus' report to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights is currently pending consideration by the Committee. Belarus has also submitted a core report to the UN treaty bodies.
- ***In 2010–2011*** OHCHR representatives visited Belarus four times to discuss the ways and means to strengthen interaction in the area of promotion and protection of human rights.
- ***In 2011*** upon OHCHR's invitation Belarus government representatives have participated in three international events on human rights during which they presented information about the progress made with regard to implementation by Belarus of UPR recommendations.
- ***In August 2011*** the Government of Belarus issued an official invitation to the Higher Commissioner for Human Rights in order to study on site measures taken by the Government to ensure the promotion and protection of human rights.
- Belarus' second UPR cycle is due in 2015. To date, Belarus has implemented over 70 per cent of the recommendations accepted as a result of the first UPR cycle.