



B E L A R U S

*Address by the delegation of the Republic of Belarus
to the Member and Observer States to
the United Nations Conference on Disarmament
in connection with the 75th anniversary of the Khatyn tragedy*

Seventy-five years ago (March 22, 1943) a small Belarusian village of Khatyn was destroyed together with the inhabitants.

149 people were burned alive, including 75 children, all 26 houses were destroyed.

The village of Khatyn shared the fate of hundreds of other settlements that were destroyed during the war in Belarus and in other countries.

The word "Khatyn" has become for several generations of Belarusian people and people now living in countries, formed after the collapse of the USSR, a symbol of the horror and suffering of civilians.

The tragedy of Khatyn is the most truthful illustration of the finale of any war and of their result that will forever remain in the memory of people.

That is why we note with regret, deep concern and anxiety the highest level of mistrust in the past few years and the continued growth of hostility between those states, that are the most important participants in the international security system and possess the overwhelming part of the entire military potential of the planet, note the growing confrontational rhetoric, the growth of military spending, conflicts escalation.

We really want to believe that historical memory will be the best vaccine from a new war. It is important to stop in time to avoid crossing the line, behind which irreversible consequences for the existing civilization are.

The United Nations Conference on Disarmament has a special role in the process of ensuring and preserving peace. At the most difficult moments of the Cold War, when the world repeatedly faced the threat of use of weapons of mass destruction, it was the Conference entrusted with the concrete task of developing tools of a modern system of international security.

We believe that in the current conditions we are also obliged to make maximum use of the opportunities of the Conference as a platform for reducing tensions and building trust and confidence.

We encourage everyone to implement our own decision CD / 2119 and to draw the Conference potential for the benefit of the safe world and sustainable development with concrete work.