



# B E L A R U S

---

**Human Rights Council  
40<sup>th</sup> session  
High-level segment**

26 February 2019

**Statement by  
H.E. Andrei Dapkiunas,  
Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus**

Human rights make sense when a person is alive and can exercise them, i.e. when a person is surrounded by a world without war and violence.

Today trade, informational and hybrid wars, armed conflicts, the war on terrorism as well as their consequences for the civilian population increasingly limit the ability of modern civilization to ensure everyone's right to life in principle and even less to a decent life.

Therefore, it is so important right now to work together to stop our collective slide into a situation when the world will be ruled by the reasons of national security. What happens in such cases? Everyone in this room knows perfectly well – they forget human rights or severely limit them.

That is why the President of the Republic of Belarus put forward the idea of expanding a large-scale international dialogue on global security issues. Human rights issues should be an integral part of this dialogue.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Global peace and sustainable development of each nation are the most important key to success in the implementation of the concept of human rights as it was conceived 70 years ago.

What is the role and place of the UN Human Rights Council right now?

Unfortunately, the Council reflects in its work dangerous trends of degradation of the system of international law, abuse of a dominant position, and practices of interference in internal affairs.

It is unacceptable that the Human Rights Council is used to “promote” new crises and legitimize violent actions against sovereign

states. An example of this is the conflict in Syria, interference in the internal affairs of Venezuela and Nicaragua and other countries under the pretext of "concern for human rights." The Member States of the HRC should be aware of the consequences of the decisions taken here.

We believe that the current Council does not meet the expectations of most countries – neither its agenda, nor its instruments, nor its results.

The work of the UN Human Rights Council must now be reorganized so that it meets the requirements of the time, is to be aimed at implementing the sustainable development agenda.

The rule of law is the goal that the Human Rights Council is called upon to serve. Achieving this goal is certainly a national responsibility of States. At the same time, all UN structures, including the HRC, should contribute to national efforts and act exclusively within the priorities of governments.

The Council should also be more effective in protecting economic and social rights, defending the interests of the most vulnerable members of our society: women, children, the disabled, victims of armed conflicts and human trafficking.

Belarus continues to believe in the power of multilateral approaches and hopes that the UN Human Rights Council will be able to work to reduce tensions in interstate relations and counter the global trend of growing inequality between and within countries.

Thank you, esteemed Council, for your attention.