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**MATERIAL RELATING TO THE CHERNOBYL ACCIDENT  
SUBMITTED BY BELARUS**

The material contained in Attachments 1-4 has been provided by the Resident Representative of Belarus to the International Atomic Energy Agency, who has requested that it be circulated to Member States in connection with the First International Conference of the European Commission, Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine on the Consequences of the Chernobyl Accident held in Minsk from 18 to 22 March 1996.

## Declaration

of participants of the First International Conference of the European Commission, Belarus, Russian Federation and Ukraine on the Radiological Consequences of the Chernobyl Accident.

It has been 10 years since the accident at the Chernobyl NPP happend biggest technology – related accident of the 20th century which has affected vast territories and millions of people.

This accident has caused an alarm of the whole world community. The world – wide character of its aftermath has forced the world to have a new look on the problem of national and global safety.

The Chernobyl accident has become a national tragedy for Belarus, the Ukraine and Russia. The catastrophe has resulted in a large – scale contamination of the environment. It has caused social and psychological tensions and has become the most powerful destructive factor as for sustainable development of the affected regions.

Participants of the Conference express their concern about the worsening state of health of the affected people as a result of impact of a number of factors, including economic, psychological and social ones.

An obvious consequence of the Chernobyl accident is a significant increase in incidence of thyroid cancer in children and adolescents. Among the groups of increased risk are liquidators of 1986 – 1987, the evacuated population and children and adolescents living in the contaminated territories.

The consequences of the Chernobyl accident can not be eliminated in a few years. In one way or another, they will be experienced by many generations to come.

International bilateral and multilateral co – operation, mutual exchange of gained experience and information on alleviation of the consequences of the Chernobyl accident is of great significance.

Collaborative work of scientists from EU countries, Belarus, Russia and the Ukraine under the quadripartite "Agreement for International Collaboration on the Consequences of the Chernobyl Accident" has been an integral part of the established interaction. The obtained results have made a considerable contribution to studies of radioecological, medical and biological, social and economic issues resulted from the large-scale contamination. An important step has been made towards setting up a system of nuclear and radiation safety of Europe.

There is no such a thing as a guarantee against an accidents like the Chernobyl one. The mankind must have in hand knowledge and expertise required for minimizing negative effects of such accident, should they occur.

The participants of the Conference are convinced that the attention to the post-Chernobyl situation should not be reduced. They urge to expand mutually beneficial scientific and technical collaboration in this area. Application of the collaboration results and analysis of the lessons learnt in mitigation of the accident will make it possible to make a considerable step forward increased radiation safety of the European countries.

The Conference concludes that in the near future efforts should be focused on the following problems of priority

- rehabilitation of the contaminated territories;
- monitoring of health status and development of optimum methods for diagnosis, treatment and prevention of diseases for liquidators and other affected population groups;
- development of early diagnostics and therapeutic methods for thyroid and other cancers;
- development of a system to minimize social-psychological consequences of the accident;
- development of methods and computerized decision-making support systems to protect population in case of a radiation accident.

The experience of dealing with the nuclear disaster gained over the latest decade must belong to the whole mankind. Setting up reliable safeguards of radiation safety would benefit each inhabitant of the Earth.

From the CIS participants