JOHANNESBURG SUMMIT 2002

BELARUS

COUNTRY PROFILE

UNITED NATIONS

INTRODUCTION - 2002 COUNTRY PROFILES SERIES

Agenda 21, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, underscored the important role that States play in the implementation of the Agenda at the national level. It recommended that States consider preparing national reports and communicating the information therein to the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) including, activities they undertake to implement Agenda 21, the obstacles and challenges they confront, and other environment and development issues they find relevant.

As a result, in 1993 governments began preparing national reports for submission to the CSD. After two years of following this practice, the CSD decided that a summarized version of national reports submitted thus far would be useful. Subsequently, the CSD Secretariat published the first Country Profiles series in 1997 on the occasion of the five-year review of the Earth Summit (Rio + 5). The series summarized, on a country-by-country basis, all the national reports submitted between 1994 and 1996. Each Profile covered the status of all Agenda 21 chapters.

The purpose of Country Profiles is to:

- Help countries monitor their own progress;
- Share experiences and information with others; and,
- Serve as institutional memory to track and record national actions undertaken to implement Agenda 21.

A second series of Country Profiles is being published on the occasion of the World Summit on Sustainable Development being held in Johannesburg from August 26 to September 4, 2002. Each profile covers all 40 chapters of Agenda 21, as well as those issues that have been separately addressed by the CSD since 1997, including trade, energy, transport, sustainable tourism and industry.

The 2002 Country Profiles series provides the most comprehensive overview to date of the status of implementation of Agenda 21 at the national level. Each Country Profile is based on information updated from that contained in the national reports submitted annually by governments.

Preparing national reports is often a challenging exercise. It can also be a productive and rewarding one in terms of taking stock of what has been achieved and by increasing communication, coordination and cooperation among a range of national agencies, institutions and groups. Hopefully, the information contained in this series of Country Profiles will serve as a useful tool for learning from the experience and knowledge gained by each country in its pursuit of sustainable development.

NOTE TO READERS

The 2002 Country Profiles Series provides information on the implementation of Agenda 21 on a country-by-country and chapter-by-chapter basis (with the exception of. chapters 1 and 23, which are preambles). Since Rio 1992, the Commission on Sustainable Development has specifically addressed other topics not included as separate chapters in Agenda 21. These issues of trade, industry, energy, transport and sustainable tourism are, therefore, treated as distinct sections in the Country Profiles. In instances where several Agenda 21 chapters are closely related, for example, chapters 20 to 22 which cover environmentally sound management of hazardous, solid and radioactive wastes, and chapters 24 to 32 which refer to strengthening of major groups, the information appears under a single heading in the Country Profile Series. Lastly, chapters 16 and 34, which deal with environmentally sound management of biotechnology, and transfer of environmentally sound technology, cooperation, capacity-building respectively, are presented together under one heading in those Country Profiles where information is relatively scarce.

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LIST OF COMMONLY USED ACRONYMS

ACS	Association of Caribbean States
AMCEN	Africa Ministerial Conference on the Environment
AMU	Arab Maghreb Union
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CARICOM	The Caribbean Community and Common Market
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CGIAR	Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
CILSS	Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
CSD	Commission on Sustainable Development of the United Nations
DESA	Department for Economic and Social Affairs
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECCAS	Economic Community for Central African States
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FIDA	Foundation for International Development Assistance
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
GAW	Global Atmosphere Watch (WMO)
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GEMS	Global Environmental Monitoring System (UNEP)
GESAMP	Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
GLOBE	Global Legislators Organisation for a Balanced Environment
GOS	Global Observing System (WMO/WWW)
GRID	Global Resource Information Database
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
ICSC	International Civil Service Commission
ICSU	International Council of Scientific Unions
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
ICTSD	International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development

IEEA	Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFCS	Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety
IGADD	Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMO	International Maritime Organization
IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IPCS	International Programme on Chemical Safety
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
IRPTC	International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals
ISDR	International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organization
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources
LA21	Local Agenda 21
LDCs	Least Developed Countries
MARPOL	International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships
MEAs	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
NEAP	National Environmental Action Plan
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NSDS	National Sustainable Development Strategies
OAS	Organization of American States
OAU	Organization for African Unity
ODA	Official Development Assistance/Overseas Development Assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PPP	Public-Private Partnership
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers
SACEP	South Asian Cooperative Environment Programme
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SARD	Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SPREP	South Pacific Regional Environment Programme
UN	United Nations
UNAIDS	United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNCHS	United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRO	Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme

UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFF	United Nations Forum on Forests
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
UNU	United Nations University
WFC	World Food Council
WHO	World Health Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development
WTO	World Trade Organization
WWF	World Wildlife Fund
WWW	World Weather Watch (WMO)

CHAPTER 2: INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO ACCELERATE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND RELATED DOMESTIC POLICIES

Decision-Making: No information available.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 2: INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO ACCELERATE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND RELATED DOMESTIC POLICIES - TRADE

Decision-Making: No information available.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 3: COMBATING POVERTY

Decision-Making: The Ministry of Labor and Social Protection is entrusted with development and implementation of the principle guidelines of the social policy, as well as coordination of activities undertaken by other state agencies. To boost the social protection of the population, the President and the Government adopted a range of legal acts aimed at: improving the livelihood of the least protected segments of the population; modifying the pension system; and providing privileges and compensations. These legal acts include the Law of the Republic of Belarus: "On The Social Protection of Disabled Individuals"; "On Veterans"; "On the Social Protection of Individuals Adversely Affected by the Chernobyl Disaster"; "On Social Services"; and "On State Allowances to Families with Children". The legal acts also include the following programmes: the National State Program "Addressing the Problems of Aged and Disabled Citizens"; the National Program "The Prevention of Disability and Rehabilitation of Disabled Individuals"; and the Presidential Program "Children of Belarus" and its Subprograms "Children of Chernobyl", "Disabled Children", "Orphans", "Baby Food", and "Modification of Social Protection Accorded to Families and Children". The Law of the Republic of Belarus "On the Subsistence Wage", adopted on December 15, 1998, lays down the legal framework for the calculation of the subsistence wage. The Law further stipulates that the subsistence wage should be factored into the development and execution of the state policy of the regulation of the living standards, and in the drafting of the social protection measures.

Social protection of the low-income segment of the population is carried out through: provision of state allowances to families with children; housing and other subsidies; monetary compensations; targeted social and financial assistance; and services rendered by social protection agencies. The budget of social protection programs, with the exception of education and healthcare costs, stands at 14% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). A sizeable share of these funds is distributed through allowances and subsidies extended to families and different segments of the population regardless of the income level. Consequently, only a small faction of these funds goes to low-income families and individuals.
The 2000-2005 Complex System of Social Protection Measures was developed to boost the efficiency of the social state policy. The Complex System aims to raise the efficiency of the social protection system by modifying its functional and organizational structure and improving the legal and methodological framework. The Complex System will also address the following tasks: (a) increase popular incomes; (b) modify the social protection system of low-income households; and (c) optimize social protection costs.

The social protection system reform is being executed in two stages. The first stage, which ran from 2000 to 2001, sought to: alleviate the social consequences of the transition period; stem the decline in living standards; strengthen the system of minimal labor and social guarantees; and boost targeted social assistance to disadvantaged segments of the population. The second stage, which will be implemented from 2002 to 2005, will ensure gradual restoration of the wage function with regard to the expanded reproduction of the workforce and completion of the reformation of the social protection system that will be split into to separate systems, namely social insurance and social assistance.
To render emergency assistance to certain categories of disadvantaged families and lonely individuals, the system of targeted social support was rolled out on January 1, 2001. The following segments of the population are entitled to targeted social support: families with many children and one-parent families with underage children; families with disabled underage children; families with underage children where one of the parents is a disabled individual of the first and second rank; families with underage children where both parents are officially registered unemployed or full-time students of vocational and higher learning institutions; families where an employable family member looks after a disabled individual of the first rank; an aged citizen older than 80 years or an underage disabled child; lonely disabled individuals of the first or second ranks; lonely disabled individuals of the third group and lonely individuals suffering from childhood disability older than 18 years of age; recipients of social pensions; and lonely pensioners and pensioner couples. The eligibility for the targeted social assistance is judged on the basis of average per capita income for the period of three months, preceding the month the targeted social assistance application is submitted. The income should be less than 60% of the minimal average per capita

subsistence income. The targeted social assistance is a monetary or in-kind allowance to increase the recipient's income to the minimal average per capita subsistence budget.

Programmes and Projects: The 2001-2005 Program of the Social and Economic Development of the Republic of Belarus envisions the introduction of new mechanisms for income assessment, eligibility verification, streamlining of social allowances, and their unification into a system of targeted social support. In 2002, a pilot project will be launched in one of the regions to develop the mechanism that will facilitate the creation of a uniform targeted social support system. The pilot project will set the stage for the nation-wide rollout of such a system.

Status: In order to render the existing social protection system more equitable and cost-effective, the reformation of the system is required. It is required due to the following problems: the existence of a stable group of disadvantaged individuals; the lack of uniform eligibility procedure; incomplete income records; and the complicated allowance allocation procedure.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 4: CHANGING CONSUMPTION PATTERNS

Decision-Making: The Republic of Belarus places particular emphasis on the implementation of structural economic reforms aimed at reducing the consumption of raw materials and energy as well as raising the effectiveness of the existing technological potential and boosting the efficiency of local resource utilization. The principal guidelines of altering the structure of the production and consumption are set forth in the National Strategy of Sustainable Development, adopted by the Presidium of the Cabinet of Ministers on March 25, 1997. The measures for implementation are stipulated in: the Concept and the Program of the Development of the Industrial Sector of the Republic of Belarus for a period from 1998 to 2015; the 2001-2005 Program of the Social and Economic Development of the Republic of Belarus; and sectoral programs and annual social and economic prognosis. The implementation of the measures brought down the share of manufactured goods in the GDP from 68.9% in 1990 to 49.2% in 1995, and to 45.2% in 2000 while the percentage of services registered a significant increase. The final consumption costs in the overall cost structure of the GDP went up from 71.2% in 1990 to 79.6% in 1995, and to 78.3% in 2000. At the same time, the household consumption was on the rise and went up from 44.5% in 1990 to 56% in 1995, and to 56.2% in 2000. The spending of state agencies showed a reverse trend and declined from 23.9% in 1990 to 20.5% in 1995, and to 20% in 2000.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: Belarus experienced a change in the consumption models of key resources and consumer goods. The deep economic crisis of 1991 to 1994 brought about a steep decline in production. As a result, in comparison with 1990, the year 1995 saw a precipitous decrease in the per capita consumption of the key resources: electricity 65.4% of the level registered in 1990; oil 34.4%; and metals 25.5% (see Table 1). The positive economic tendencies, which emerged in 1996, translated in the upturn of the per capita consumption of these principal resources. From 1996 to 2000, the per capita consumption of electricity grew by 4.4%, oil by 0.6%, and metals by 19.4%. The growth in the per capita consumption of electricity reflects the continuous improvement in the living standards and electrification of technological processes in all spheres of activities. The energy saving policies driven by a set of energy conservation measures and the launch of an energy saving project in cooperation with the World Bank, allowed to reduce the GDP's power intensity by 28.5% from 1996 to 2000.

Table 1
Consumption of Principal Resources in Belarus

	Unit	1990	1995	2000
Per capita consumption of electricity	KWh	4804,7	31411,6	3279,9
Per capita consumption of oil	Kilogram	3882,4	1334,2	1341,9
Per capita consumption of ferrous metals	Kilogram	364,7	93,1	111,2

Gross fuel consumption per BRB 1 billion of the GDP (in 1995 average prices) decreased from 295 tones of equivalent fuel in 1995 to 207 in 2000. The discharge of equivalent fuel per kilowatt-hour of electricity went down from 297 in 1990 to 282 in 1995 and to 275 in 2000.
From 1996 to 2000, the share of fuel and energy costs in the overall production costs decreased in the economy as a whole and in industry but rose in some sectors (See Table 2). The share of material costs in the overall production costs has been increasing in the national economy as a whole, as well as in the industry, and especially in the agriculture and communications. The opposite is evident in transport, construction, trade and food services.

Table 2
Changes in the Share of Material Costs in the Overall Production Costs Broken down by Sector (in percentage points to 1995) as of 2000.

	Costs Total	Including			
		Material Costs	Of these		
			Raw materials	Fuel	Energy
National Economy	100 100	66,8 68,4	34,3 41,8	9,3 8,6	8,5 7,1
Industry	100 100	73,1 74,0	37,2 44,3	11,8 8,6	11,6 7,9
Agriculture	100 100	64,4 72,1	42,7 50,1	7,8 9,4	4,4 5,5
Transport	100 100	53,5 45,6	11,2 10,9	14,5 18,8	8,6 8,9
Communications	100 100	11,3 17,4	2,6 4,1	1,7 2,5	3,8 4,4
Construction	100 100	60,1 57,4	45,2 41,3	4,5 6,0	2,3 1,6
Trade and Food Services	100 100	52,8 37,0	11,1 17,0	2,6 1,9	2,8 3,8

Ferrous metallurgy, light, chemical, petrochemical, and power and fuel industries have been most effective in reducing their costs per BRB 1,000 worth of products (see Table 3). Over the last several years, forest management has seen considerable improvements. The share of converted timber per 1,000 cubic meters of timber went up: from 328.2 cubic meters in 1995 to 397.2 cubic meters in 2000; plywood from 18.1 to 20.5 cubic meters; fiberboard from 5.097 to 7.266 square meters; paper and cardboard from 25.7 to 35.7 tons; and cellulose from 6.7 to 9.1 tons.

Table 3
Reduction/Increase in Costs per BRB 1,000 Worth of Goods Broken down by Industry (in Percentage points to the previous year)

Sectors of Industry	Year						
	1990	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Industry, Total Including:	0,2	11,5	-1,6	-1,5	1,1	-0,8	0,5
Power industry	1,3	3,8	-0,5	0,6	6,2	2,2	-5,5
Fuel Industry	-0,1	-3,8	2,4	5,6	18,0	-12,9	1,8
Ferrous Metallurgy	-0,5	40,6	-6,0	-1,0	2,3	-0,5	-3,3
Chemical and Petrochemical Industry	1,3	18,6	-0,4	-0,8	-0,8	-5,4	2,0
Machine Building and Metal-Working	0,02	20,9	-4,9	-4,7	0,7	1,7	0,5
Timber, Woodworking, Pulp and Paper Industries	0,1	15,5	0,0	-3,4	0,1	1,2	5,4
Construction Materials Industry	2,5	2,1	2,5	-3,4	3,4	-1,8	0,4
Light Industry	-1,0	22,0	-2,2	-1,7	-3,0	-2,3	4,7
Food Processing Industry	0,8	-0,4	-0,1	-0,4	-1,1	0,6	2,7

The efficiency of water resource utilization has also showed an increase. The industrial fresh water consumption has decreased. The share of re-used water in the overall industrial water consumption went

up from 85% in 1990 to 89% from 1995 to 2000. Household water consumption was on the rise fueled by construction of new housing and expansion of sewage and water supply systems (Table 4).

Table 4
Water Consumption

	1990	1995	2000
Natural Sources Diversion Flow, in mln cubic meters	2883	1980	18 37
Including aquifers	1210	1104	1082
Fresh Water Consumption in mln cubic meters	2790	1878	1700
Including Irrigation and Other Agricultural Purposes	401	286	160
Industrial Consumption	1698	891	758
Household Consumption	691	701	782
Volume of Re-Used Water, in mln cubic meters	9515	7135	6155
In percentage Points to the Overall Amount of Industrial Water Consumption	85	89	89

To put a country on the path of sustainable development, sensible popular consumption habits should be shaped through the introduction of research-based consumption norms. Presently, the Belarussian economy is capable of fully or almost fully meeting the consumption needs in staple foodstuffs (meat, dairy, bread, potatoes and vegetables) and household goods (televisions, radios, watches, refrigerators, motorcycles, bicycles and furniture). However, the compliance with the recommended consumption norms ranges from 50% to 80%. In comparison with the consumption structure in the developed countries, the Belarussian population spends a greater share of its income on food and significantly less on manufactured goods and even less on paid services. In the period from 1995 to 2000, the consumption structure remained largely unchanged (Table 5).

Table 5
The Household Consumption Structure in the Republic of Belarus in the Period from 1995 to 2000 (based on the survey of randomly selected households, in percentage points to the total)

	1995	2000
Consumer Spending , Total *Including :*	100	100
Food	61.6	59.6
Alcoholic Beverages	3.3	3.5
Tobacco	1.5	1.8
Clothes, footwear, fabrics	9.9	11.7
Hygiene products	2.3	2.0
Household goods and furniture	4.7	4.1
Services		
Healthcare	2.0	2.2
Utility	4.7	3.0
Transport and Communications	4.2	6.9
Education, Culture, and Recreation	2.0	2.2
Other goods and services	3.8	3.0

Although, food accounts for a large portion of consumer spending, the per capita consumption of some individual foodstuffs is decreasing (Table 6).

Table 6
Annual Per Capita Consumption of Staple Foodstuffs in the Republic of Belarus, in kilograms

	1990	1995	2000
Meat and Meat Products	75	58	57
Milk and Dairy Products	425	363	301
Eggs,	323	294	226
Fish and Fish Products	19,4	7,2	6,4
Sugar	48,7	31,8	35,2
Vegetable Oil	8,6	6,4	8,4
Potatoes	170	180	173
Vegetables	78	82	93
Fruits and Berries	38	37	27
Bread and Related Products, including macaronis, flour, cereal	126	120	110

Foodstuffs produced on privately owned land plots account for a considerable share of food consumption (Table 7).

Table 7
Share of Foodstuffs Produced on Privately-Owned Land Plots in the Overall Consumption in the Republic of Belarus (in percentage points)

	1995			2000		
	Total	City residents	Rural residents ü	Total	City residents	Rural residents ü
Bread Products	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.6
Potatoes	87.6	76.4	97.5	85.4	74.0	97.5
Vegetables	76.6	67.7	90.6	72.4	64.1	89.1
Fruits and Berries	46.2	38.1	69.2	53.7	46.4	77.5
Meat and Meat Products	33.7	17.2	66.8	21.8	9.8	56.8
Fish and Fish Products	11.8	9.2	17.7	15.6	10.4	29.3
Milk and Dairy products	32.7	8.7	67.5	27.9	7.2	67.0
Eggs	38.1	18.0	78.7	34.9	16.1	79.8

The transition of Belarus to sustainable development calls for further improvements in the utilization of fuel, energy, mineral and technical resources; and rationalization of the popular consumption patterns to reflect the climate conditions and the demographic situation.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 4: CHANGING CONSUMPTION PATTERNS - ENERGY

Decision-Making: The Council of Ministers' Committee for Energy Efficiency is entrusted with the execution of the state policy in the field of: energy saving; supervision of activities aimed at effective utilization and savings of fuel and energy in the national economy; as well as implementation of the state control over the rational use of fuel, electricity and heat. The Committee's activities are governed by: the 1998 Law "On Energy Conservation"; the Regulation "On the Committee for Energy Efficiency of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus"; as well as 35 normative and technical acts adopted from 1993 to 2000. From 2001 to 2005, the Committee will be operating within the framework of the National Energy Saving Program. In addition, electricity generation, transportation and distribution fall into the purview of: the Law of the Republic of Belarus "On the Ratification of the Agreement on the Parallel Electricity Grids of the CIS Member States"; the Law of the Republic of Belarus "On the Ratification of the Agreement on the Transit of Electricity through the CIS Member States"; and the Law of the Republic of Belarus "On the Priority of the Social and Economic Development of the Rural Areas and the Agro-Industrial Complex". The Republic of Belarus regards energy conservation as a top priority in addressing the energy problem.

Programmes and Projects: the following nationwide programs and projects regulate the development of the Belarussian energy sector:

- The Program for the Socio-Economic Development of the Republic of Belarus for the period from 2001 to 2005;
- The Principal Guidelines of the State Energy Policy from 2001 to 2005 and up to 2015;
- The Gasification Program for the Period of up to 2005;
- The State Program for Combating the Consequences of the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Station Catastrophe for the Period from 2001 to 2005 and up to 2010; and
- The Program for Gasification of Detached Houses Located in Contaminated Ares Using the Existing Pipelines from 2001 to 2005.

Status: In 2001, Belarus generated 24.4 billion kWhs of electricity and 33 million Gigacalories of heat. Electricity imports amounted to 8.3 billion kWhs. In 2001, electricity consumption stood at 33.7 billion kWhs. In 2000, the Belarussian Energy State Concern consumed 11.8 million tones of equivalent fuel. Of these natural gas accounted for 91%, oil gas 1.8%, and mazut 7.2%. For the next 10-15 years, Belarus will rely on natural gas to meet current consumption and rising demand. Alternative sources of energy, such as nuclear fuel or coal, are unlikely to play a significant role. Belarus covers about 15% of its needs using the local fuel resources, which include oil-well gas, fuel-grade peat, firewood, etc. Taking into account its geographical and meteorological condition, Belarus can make use of the following alternative energy sources: small hydroelectric power stations; wind-driven power units; bioenergetic power generating units or biogas generation units; heliowater heaters; waste briquetting and incineration units; and etc. These sources, however, can produce no more than 5% of the projected energy savings. From 1996 to 2001, the negative environmental impact of the energy sector continued to decline largely due to: the reduction in the use of furnace oil and mazut; introduction of cleaner technologies; and increased utilization of natural gas. In 1998, the total pollutant emissions went down by 20.5% in comparison with 1995.

Along with ensuring of the uninterrupted supply of energy resources, the Belarus energy saving doctrine focuses on increasing the effectiveness of energy resource utilization. The execution of the 1996-2000 National Energy Saving Program has allowed coordinating the activities of the state agencies aimed at solving organizational and technical issues connected with improving the effectiveness of the energy resource utilization. The set of energy conservation measures, adopted within the framework of this Program, produced a 36 percent increase in the GDP without an accompanying jump in the gross energy consumption. Consequently, the GDP's power intensity declined by 29.4%. In particular, from January 2001 to November 2001, the GDP growth rate stood at 104%, whereas its power intensity went down by

4.8% in comparison with the eleven months of 2000. According to the 2001-2005 National Energy Saving Program, the GDP power intensity will be further reduced by 15.1-18.7% in 2005 as compared with 2001. The attained results to a certain extent mitigated the difficulties Belarus currently experiences in meeting its energy resource needs, as local energy resources cover a mere 18% of the consumption. However, a lot remains to be done in terms of energy conservation in most sectors of the national economy.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: The introduction of energy saving technologies is accompanied with an extensive public education campaign. A mandatory energy conservation course was launched in high and vocational training institutions in 1998. The Belarussian State Technological University has started a course entitled "Energy Conservation and Energy Management" and established an energy conservation chair to develop facilitating methodological materials. An educational center of the Belarussian Energy Saving State Unitary Enterprise trains and re-trains energy conservation specialists. A nation-wide magazine entitled "Energy Efficiency" is also being published.

Information: The National Information and Analytical System is a major source of information as it plays a leading role in publicizing new technology and equipment. The Committee for Energy Efficiency also posts useful data on its website located at: www.energoeffekt.gov.by.

Research and Technologies: The present energy saving and efficiency research seeks to meet the following objectives that are set forth in the Republican Scientific and Technological Program for Energy Conservation for up to 2005: development and introduction of new energy saving technologies; development of energy efficient equipment and materials; preparation and implementation of pilot projects in the realm of small and alternative power generation; and creation and modification of energy saving computer systems.

Financing: The following sources of funding are tapped to finance energy conservation projects: national and local budgets; sectoral innovation funds; the Republican Fund for Energy Saving; funds, provided by enterprises; and loans extended by international financial institutions. The 2001-2005 National Energy Saving Program envisions the allocation of US$ 795 million for the implementation of energy conservation initiatives from all funding sources.

Cooperation: Belarus extensively cooperates with international financial institutions, which are presently co-funding a number of investment projects aimed at boosting the efficiency of energy utilization and promoting environmental safety. For example, under the aegis of *the UN European Economic Commission*, the Committee for Energy Efficiency is executing a project entitled "Development of Energy Efficiency Investment Programs to Mitigate the Consequences of the Climate Change and to Ensure the Stability of Energy Systems". In partnership with the *Global Ecological Fund*, the Committee is carrying out a project called "Abolition of Factors Impeding the Utilization of Wooden Waste for Heating to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions in the Republic of Belarus". The Committee for Energy Efficiency also runs joint energy saving projects with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the World Bank. Under the Transform Program, the Belenergo State Concern was involved in the execution of a project to develop new schemes for running heat and energy systems of the City of Minsk. In 1999, a consortium headed by the company called KEMA of Germany completed a project entitled "Restructuring and Corporatization of the Energy Sector of the Republic of Belarus" with assistance from Technical Assistance to the Commonwealth of Independent States (TACIS). The project drafted a set of energy sector restructuring proposals.

The Belenergo State Concern under the auspices of TACIS also carried out the following projects: "Global Energy Strategy"; "Novopolotsk Heat Station Audit"; and "Development of New Management Schemes in the Republic of Belarus". The Belenergo State Concern also cooperates closely with the company called ALSTOM CENTRALES ENERGETIQUES SA of France, which was involved in the modernization of the Orsha Heat Station. This cooperation resulted in the introduction of a highly

efficient technology for the generation of electricity and heat using vapor and gas turbines. The retooling of the Orsha Heat Station was financed with a loan extended by the European Bank for the Reconstruction and Development. In addition, the Belenergo State Concern is involved in the implementation of a European Union-financed Baltic Ring Project, aiming to create a common electricity market in the Baltic region. 15 European energy companies are currently executing the second phase of the project.

The following energy efficiency international agreements were concluded in 2001: The Agreement between the Republic of Belarus and the International Bank for the Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) for the extension of a loan to finance a project called "Modernization of Social Infrastructure in the Republic of Belarus"; and The Agreement between the Council of Ministers' Committee for Energy Efficiency and the Ukrainian State Committee for Energy Conservation on cooperation in the fields of energy efficiency and renewable energy sources.

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CHAPTER 4: CHANGING CONSUMPTION PATTERNS - TRANSPORT

Decision-Making: The Ministry of Transport and Communications of the Republic of Belarus operates in compliance with: environmental regulations; international agreements; as well as recommendations of state managerial agencies, national programs and action plans aimed at increasing the effectiveness of natural resources utilization and environment amelioration. The key legal and normative acts are as follows:

- The Law of the Republic of Belarus "On Basic Guidelines of Transportation Activities";
- The Law of the Republic of Belarus "On Motor Transport and Motor Transportation";
- The Transportation Complex Development Concept of the Republic of Belarus;
- On the Accession of the Republic of Belarus to the Agreement "On the Adoption of the Uniform Conditions for the Official Acknowledgement of Certification of Equipment and Parts of Motor Vehicles", adopted by Presidential Decree N247 dated December 3, 1994;
- Presidential Decree N77 dated January 22, 1997 On the Accession of the Republic of Belarus to the European Agreement "On the Principal International Transportation Lines and Pertinent Objects"; and
- On the Adoption of the Procedure for the Development and Execution of National and Regional Energy Saving Programs, passed by the Council of the Ministers' Ordinance N1731, dated November 11, 1998.

Programmes and Projects: Programs and projects concerning consumption patterns and transport are:

- 1998-2000 "Quality" State Program;
- 2001-2003 "Quality" State Program;
- 2001-2005 National Environmental Action Plan;
- 2001-2005 National Action Plan for the Rational Utilization of Natural Resources and Environment Protection;
- National Climactic Program developed within the framework of the Research Program "Nature Management and Environment Protection for the Period from 1996 to 2000 and beyond"; and
- Program for the Development of Transit Passenger and Cargo Transpiration through the Territory of the Republic of Belarus for the period of up to 2005.

Status: The state policy in the realm of transportation is executed in compliance with the recommendations set forth in: the Mutual Actions Program in the Areas of Transportation and Environment adopted by the member states of the UN European Economic Commission; and the Transportation Complex Development Concept of the Republic of Belarus adopted by the Council of Ministers' Ordinance N589, dated May 27, 1997. These documents envision the development and implementation of effective module transportation technologies and acquisition of new rolling stock capable of transporting articulated lorries. Many of the projects set forth in the Concept have been finalized. In particular, the Law of the Republic of Belarus "On Basic Guidelines of Transportation Activities" has been adopted; and Presidential Decree N77, dated January 22, 1997 "On the Accession of the Republic of Belarus to the European Agreement On the Principal International Transportation Lines and Pertinent Objects" was passed. The Draft Law "On Transportation and Freight Forwarding in the Republic of Belarus" has been prepared in accordance with the Concept. To facilitate the implementation of the 2001-2003 "Quality" State Program, the 2001-2003 "Quality" Sectoral Program has been adopted. The sectoral program envisions the creation of technical diagnosis stations to inspect vehicles. These stations will allow confirming the compliance of the vehicles to the European environmental standards and will be authorized to issue the internationally accepted certificates. The program also mandates the development of normative and methodological documents regarding the certification of truck and bus servicing and repairs as well as passenger motor transportation. The Transtechnika Unitary State Enterprise has

developed draft certification standards in the field of transportation. In addition, managers and state officials will be trained in new technologies, standardization, metrology and certification under the sectoral program.
To reduce the pollution of surface and underground waters, as well as air and soil, and to ensure the utilization of valuable waste components, the Ministry of Transport developed the 2001-2005 Waste Recycling Program, which was agreed upon with the BelResource State Concern. Similar programs will be prepared by state agencies supervised by the Ministry. To improve the environmental safety of the transport industry, the Ministry of Transport drafted the Ecology Program for a period from 2002 to 2005. The program will focus on the following areas:

- development of a regulatory framework outlining the state mechanism of fostering environmental safety of the transport industry;
- implementation of environmental projects;
- development of environmentally-friendly technology and modernization of equipment;
- execution of R&D projects;
- training of managers and environment protection specialists; and
- dissemination of information.

To further protect the environment and the public health, the Ministry of Transportation is presently executing the 2001-2005 National Environmental Action Plan. The Action Plan envisions the gasification of the motor transport and introduction of controls to monitor the technical condition of the rolling stock and air emissions. To attain the above-mentioned objectives, the Ministry of Transport will develop stricter standards for vehicles and devise an economic mechanism prescribing sanctions for the violation of environmental regulations.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: The Ministry of Statistics and Analysis of the Republic of Belarus is a state agency that is entrusted with maintaining official statistical records and providing statistical information to the President of the Republic of Belarus and to the Government and state managerial agencies. The Ministry of Statistics and Analysis also furnishes all interested parties (research and educational institutions, mass media, Belarussian and foreign individuals and legal entities) with summary statistical data. The Law of the Republic of Belarus "On State Statistics", dated February 17, 1997, regulates the activities of the Ministry of Statistics and Analysis. In compliance with international agreements, the Ministry provides international organizations with statistical information and exchanges statistical data with its foreign counterparts.
Official statistical information regarding the key economic indicators is posted at http://www.president.gov.by/Minstat/mam.html. Data, outlining the social, economic and demographic situation in Belarus, is included in the statistical publications of the leading international organizations, including: the United Nations; the International Monetary Fund; the World Bank; the European Bank for the Reconstruction and Development; the International Labor Organization; and etc.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: The funds for the implementation of these activities are allocated from: the state budget; the Ministry of Transport's Innovation Fund; and the Preventive Action Fund, financed through mandatory insurance of civil liabilities of vehicle owners. In addition, individual enterprises are also called upon to allocate financing for the activities listed above.

Cooperation: The Ministry is extensively involved in the working groups of the Internal Transport Committee of the European Economic Committee and the European Confederation of Transport Ministers. In accordance with Presidential Decree N247, dated December 3, 1994, Belarus acceded to the Agreement on the Adoption of Uniform Conditions for the Official Certification and on Mutual Acknowledgement of

the Official Certification of the Equipment and Components of Vehicles. Belarus also ratified the European Agreement "On the Principal International Transportation Lines and Pertinent Objects" as set forth in Presidential Decree N77, dated January 22, 1997. In addition, Belarus became a member of the European Confederation of Transport Ministers and the Council of Ministers issued Ordinance N178, dated March 31, 1995. Belarus also complies with the Vienna Declaration, the Mutual Action Program and the Resolution adopted at the Regional Conference on Transport and Environment, conducted in Vienna from November 12 to November 14, 1997. To facilitate the implementation of the Complex of Measures to Develop Transit Railroad and Truck Transportation, the Ministry of Transport in concert with the Ministries of Internal and Foreign Affairs drafted a proposal for Belarus' accession to the Agreement on the Adoption of Uniform Conditions for the Periodic Technical Inspection of Vehicles and Mutual Acknowledgement of Inspection Certificates, passed at Regional Conference on Transport and Environment.

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CHAPTER 5: DEMOGRAPHIC DYNAMICS AND SUSTAINABILITY

Decision-Making: The National Population Committee, made up of managers of state agencies was established under the auspices of the Cabinet of Ministers, as the demographic processes are inextricably connected with those occurring in all social spheres, particularly in economy, healthcare, and education, The Ministry of Labor and Social Protection is empowered to develop and organize the implementation of the key guidelines of the state demographic policy as well as coordinate the activities of other state agencies. The legal framework that regulates the demographic activities in the Republic of Belarus includes: the Concept of the State Demographic Policy and the Principal Guidelines for the Implementation of the State Demographic Policy adopted in 1998; the Law of the Republic of Belarus "On Demographic Safety", passed in 2001; and the National Strategy of Sustainable Development approved by the Belarussian Government in 1997. The Law of the Republic of Belarus "On Demographic Safety" mandates the development and implementation of the National and Regional Demographic Safety Programs that contain a set of concrete measures to tackle the key demographic problems.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: In the early 1990s, Belarus experienced a severe demographic crisis. The decline in the birth and mortality rates, currently in evidence in the Western Europe, is accompanied by increases in the life expectancy that to a certain extent alleviates depopulation. The tendency in Belarus, however, is different as the upturn in the mortality rate is exacerbated by the plunging birth and life expectancy rates. Over the last ten years, the average life expectancy has gone down by 2,1 years and presently stands at 69 years. The life expectancy of the male population is 63,4 years and female 74,7 years. For the first time in the post war period, Belarus is suffering from depopulation. From 1990 to 2000, the birth rate plummeted by 32.4% and sunk to 9,4 newborns per 1,000 residents. The mortality rate over the same period registered an increase of 26%. The mortality rate of employable men is from three to four times higher than that of women in the same age group. As a result, the population of Belarus has contracted by 2.9% or 300,000 people. The worst affected were rural areas, whose population has fallen by 415,000. The share of the city population is on the rise and currently stands at 70.2%. The population aging process continues unabated. In the early 1990s, pensioners accounted for 19.6% of the population, whereas in 2001 their percentage rose to 21.3%. This process is most evident in rural areas where the share of pensioners went up from 31.7% in 1990 to 33.2% in 2000. The percentage of individuals in the under 15-age group continues to decrease and plummeted from 23.5% in 1990 to 19.9% in early 2001.
According to the UN demographic forecasts and the prognosis of the Belarussian research institutions, by 2050 the population of the Republic of Belarus might contract by two million people and amount to 8.3 million. The age structure of the population will continue to deteriorate. The share of children, teenagers and individuals of employable age is steadily decreasing, while the percentage of pensioners is on the rise. In 2000, the share of population in the age of 0-15, 16-59 and 60 years and older age groups was 20.6%, 58%, 21.4%, respectively. The projected distribution of these age groups in 2050 percentages of these age groups is set at 14.6%, 49.6% and 35.9%. It should be noted that the active involvement on the part of the state in the regulation of demographic processes since 1998 has started to bear fruit, and some negative tendencies have been either slowed down or reversed. In comparison with 1999, the natural population loss was 0.8% lower in 2000 and stood at –4.1%, whereas the birth rate registered an increase of 0.1% and amounted to 9.4%. The mortality rate also dropped from 14.2% to 13.5%.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: Belarus implements demographic research projects and conducts scientific conferences.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: Cooperation with the following UN organizations is instrumental in solving demographic problems encountered by Belarus: UNDP; UNFPA; WHO; UNICEF; UNAIDS; UNHCR; and ILO.

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CHAPTER 6: PROTECTING AND PROMOTING HUMAN HEALTH

Decision-Making: The Ministry of Health of the Republic of Belarus is a principal authority in the field of healthcare. All healthcare activities are financed by the state budget. Healthcare is regulated by the following legal acts:

- The Constitution of the Republic of Belarus;
- The Law of the Republic of Belarus "On Healthcare";
- The Law of the Republic of Belarus "On the Sanitary and Epidemiological Well-being of the Population";
- The Law of the Republic of Belarus "On the Prevention of Disablement and Rehabilitation of Disabled Individuals";
- The Law of the Republic of Belarus "On the Ratification of the Protocol on the Uniform Procedure for the Application of Technical, Medical, Pharmaceutical, Sanitary, Veterinary, Fitosanitary, and Environmental Standards, Norms, Rules and Requirements Imposed on Goods Imported from Member States of the Customs Union"; and
- The Law of the Republic of Belarus "On the Ratification of a Framework Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Belarus and the World Health Organization on Technical Cooperation".

Programmes and Projects: Programmes and Projects concerning health promotion and protection are: The 2002-2006 State Program of the Formation of the Healthy Life Style of the Population of the Republic of Belarus; The Presidential Program entitled "Children of Belarus"; and The following state targeted programs:

- "Improvement of the Technical and Material Base of Healthcare Institutions for a Period from 2000 to 2002, and up to 2005";
- "On the Reduction and Reversal of the Negative Consequences of the Chernobyl Nuclear Accident for a Period from 2001 to 2005 and up to 2010";
- "Tuberculosis";
- The 2001-2005 HIV-Prevention Program;
- "Public Health";
- "The 2001-2005 State Program of the Alcoholism Prevention"; and
- The 2001-2005 State Program "On the Prevention of Disablement and Rehabilitation of Disabled Individuals".

Status: The 2001-2005 Program of the Social and Economic Development of the Republic of Belarus considers the development of the healthcare system as a priority area of the state policy. The Government plans to increase the healthcare budget to 7.5% of the GDP by the year 2005. Emblematic of Eastern European countries, Belarus fell prey to the negative demographic and medical tendencies of the early 1990s, which included: depopulation; deformation of the population age structure; reduced life expectancy; and increased incidence of socially dangerous illnesses and chronic diseases. Over the last several years, these negative tendencies have been gradually reversed. Population mortality rate and prevalence of socially dangerous illnesses are on the wane and the growth rate and life expectancy are showing signs of rebounding. These positive developments can be ascribed to the equitable healthcare system that provides all segments of the population with medical care. An estimated 30 national and sectoral programs spanning the following key healthcare sectors are presently being carried out: prevention of socially dangerous disease; improvement of the technical and material base of healthcare institutions; modification of the Human Resource (HR) policies; propagating of healthy life styles; and etc. AIDS and Tuberculosis Prevention Project financed by the World Bank's loan of US$ 25 million is scheduled for implementation.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: Particular emphasis is currently being placed on the training of medical cadres. At present, more than 120,000 graduates of medical colleges and *4,500* doctors are involved in the healthcare sector. Belarus has: 15 medical schools; two medical colleges; one medical institute; three medical universities; and a post-graduate medical economy. Training is provided in accordance with the programs developed in compliance with state and international educational standards. An average of 1,100 specialists graduate from high educational institutions; 5,500 from medical schools and colleges; and an estimated 10,000 medical professionals attend training courses. Over the last few years, the average number of doctors per 10,000 people has stood at 43,3 and the staffing levels have reached 93.8% for doctors and 97.1% for medium-level medical professionals.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: The research projects focus on the priority areas of practical healthcare and are implemented with the framework of the following:

- State Research Programs: Treatment and Diagnostic Technologies; Infections and Medical and Biological Technologies; Cardiovascular Disease; and Oncology.
- Sectoral Research Programs: Mother's and Child's Health; Medical Rehabilitation; and Hygienic Safety.
- Innovation Projects;
- Research and Development (R&D) projects; and
- Fundamental research projects.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: The cooperation between the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Belarus and the World Health Organization with the participation of the UN Resident Office in Belarus, the UNICEF, and the UN Population Fund is executed within the framework of two-year cooperation programs. The 2000-2001 Cooperation Program envisions the implementation of the following projects and programs:

- The Healthcare Reform Program deals with the following issues: funding and implementation of training programs for medical professionals; development of a family doctor concept; emergency medical care; and policy in the field of medications.
- The Program "Mother's and Child's Health" seeks to reduce the mortality rate among pregnant women through the introduction of safe motherhood principles and foster family planning to lower the incidence of abortions among teenagers and young women. The Program also envisions: sex awareness campaigns; improved medical assistance to new-born and young children; further development of prenatal technologies; reduction of mortality rates among mothers and newborns through the introduction of a program entitled "Pregnancy and Pancreatic Diabetes"; propagation of breast feeding; and monitoring and reduction of the instances of respiratory and enteric infections.
- Infectious Disease Prevention aims to cut the prevalence of infection illnesses through an extensive immunization program and reduce the incidence of sexually-transmitted disease and AIDS.
- The Non-infectious Disease and Health Improvement Program seeks to (a) develop and implement the National Program "Healthy Life Style" that will tackle smoking and abuses of psychotropic and other substances; (b) carry out the National Program of Prevention of Non- infectious Disease; (c) fight diabetes; and (d) participate in the Obstetrical Quality Indicators and Data project (OBSQID).

- Environment and Health involves the execution of the National Action Plan for Environmental Hygiene and the assessment of the medical consequences of the Chernobyl disaster.

The Ministry of Health is presently implementing a project entitled "Medical Care to Children Affected by the Chernobyl Disaster Through the Introduction of Distance Treatment" in cooperation with the WHO and the Sasakava Memorial Healthcare Foundation. The 2002-2003 Cooperation Agreement between the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Belarus and the World Health Organization is currently at the final stages of development. The Agreement will envision the implementation of the following programs and projects:

- The Healthcare Reform Program will deal with the following issues: funding and implementation of training programs for medical professionals; development of a family doctor concept emergency medical care; and policy in the field of medications.
- Medical Consequences of the Chernobyl Disaster will address the implementation of the National Action Plan for Environmental Hygiene and the issue of breast cancer prevention.
- The Non-infectious Disease and Health Improvement Program will be aimed at: (a) the development and implementation of the National Program "Healthy Life Style" that will tackle smoking and abuses of psychotropic and other substances; (b) execution of the National Program of Prevention of Non-infectious Disease; (c) fighting diabetes; and (d) participation in the OBSQID project.
- Infectious Disease Prevention will address illnesses subject to immunization.

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CHAPTER 7: PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE HUMAN SETTLEMENT DEVELOPMENT

Decision-Making: The Ministry of Architecture and Construction is entrusted with the implementation of the state town-planning policy. The urban development policy of the republic of Belarus is an integral part of the overall state policy and contains a system of goals, principles and instruments that ensures sustainable development of: cities transportation systems; engineering; social and health care services; protection and rational utilization of historical and natural sites; and creation of healthy, safe and esthetical habitat. The Law of the Republic of Belarus "On the Basis of Activities in the Realms of Architecture and Urban Development", adopted by Belarusian Parliament on November 11, 1993, is a principal legal document in this field. The Law aims to create a healthy habitat, while retaining its natural components and cultural and historic values, as well as protect the rights and statutory interests of entities involved in architectural and town-planning activities. Furthermore, the Law: sets forth the scope of authority delegated to the state architectural and town-planning bodies; defines the remits of local and regional management organs; stipulates the procedure for the state supervision of architectural and urban development activities; lays down the basis of planning; and specifies the objects and subjects of architectural and town-planning activities.

Programmes and Projects: Since the International Conference on Environment and Development conducted by the United Nations Organization in Rio-de-Janeiro in 1992, the following key legal acts have been developed in Belarus in compliance with the principles set forth in the XXI Century Agenda. Within the period from 1996 to 1999, the Cabinet of Ministers adopted the Regulations: "On Architectural and Urban Development Activities in Areas Subject to Special State Regulation"; "On the Procedure for the Maintenance of the State Urban Development Cadastre"; and "On the Procedure for the Exchange of Information between the State Urban Development Cadastres, Registers and Other Informational Systems". Over the same period, a host of projects to modify the territorial structure of Belarus was completed. These include: the development of the Computer Database of the State Cadastre; the Scheme of the Areas Subject to Special State Regulation; the Program for the Optimization of the Territorial Development in the Area of Berlin-Paris-Warsaw-Minsk-Moscow Trans European Corridor; the Scheme of Border Regions; and the Concept for the Formation and the Development of the Settling System. In addition, the following legal acts were adopted: "The National Concept for the Development of Towns and Cities in the Republic of Belarus" (1996); "The National Action Plan for the Development of Towns and Cities in the Republic of Belarus up to the year 2000" (1997); "The National Strategy of Sustainable Development of the Republic of Belarus" (1997); and "The National Scheme of the Territorial Organization of the Republic of Belarus" (2000).

The State Scheme of the Territorial Organization of the Republic of Belarus (the National Scheme) is one of the key instruments for the implementation of the state policy of sustainable development of towns, cities and territories. The national scheme sets forth: the conditions for the territorial organization; defines priorities; and stipulates the region and town - specific strategies for a short, medium and long term. The national scheme was designed on the basis of the premise that Belarus adopts sustainable development principles. Presently, it is the only document that contains comprehensive data and forecasts regarding economic, social, demographic, environmental and other aspects of urban development. The state policy in the housing construction sector, which is one of the priorities of the social and economic development and an integral part of a set of economic stabilization measures, is outlined in the National Housing Program. Adopted in 1999, the Program sets forth the key principle of the new state housing policy, namely gradual adoption of the market principles by the housing construction sector and increased social security for low-income individuals. The state support of construction, renovation and acquisition of housing by individual citizens is implemented through cash subsidies, introduced in 1996. The forms of state support available and the amount of bank loans depend on the social status of an individual citizen and on the period applicant was registered on the list of persons that need to improve their living conditions.

Status: The current stage of the city development process has the following characteristics: territorial expansion of cities; emergence of agglomeration areas; and degradation of small towns and villages. In the end of 2000, Belarus had 213 towns and cities and 24,150 villages. The cities, that occupy 1.1% of the territory, have 70% of the population, which is a fairly high level of urbanization. From 1995 to 2000, the number of city dwellers increased by 53,140 people or 0.8%; and the share of the city residents rose from 67.9% to 69.7% of the overall population.
As a result of high growth rates of industrial production and territorial concentration of industrial and other enterprises in the preceding years, Minsk, regional capitals and nine large cities have: 66% of the total city population; more than 70% of industrial staff; and most educational, research and cultural institutions. They boast a fairly well-developed social, transport and engineering infrastructures. At the same time, major cities are presently facing a host of structural problems that stem from the need to move away from traditional resource intensive industries to highly technological production. The speedy solution of these problems will not only create condition for the sustainable development of large cities but also give a fillip to the growth of smaller towns and rural areas. Belarus has a high percentage (93%) of small and medium-sized towns, which have 33% of the overall city population. Small cities and villages, whose economies are based on the processing of local agricultural products and locally-mined raw materials, have an insufficiently developed social, engineering and transport system, but they are less exposed to environmental problems.

As a result of the Chernobyl disaster, 20% of the Belarussian territory was contaminated. The worst hits were in the Gomel (70%) and the Mogilev (34%) Regions. A total of 23 towns are presently subject to periodic radiation control and residents of a further 17 are entitled to relocation. Three towns still remain in the relocation area. Over the last few years, the measures to battle the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster have been refocused from the relocation of the population from the contaminated regions to rehabilitation of these areas.
The strategy for the construction of new generation residential housing is presently being implemented. The strategy is aimed at: improving the level of comfort of residential housing; optimizing structural-spatial concepts; introducing energy-saving measures, new construction materials and techniques; and reducing overall housing construction costs. The complex reconstruction of residential areas that includes building over empty spaces and constructing attic floors over existing blocks of flats is also a very promising method of city development as it allows for the establishment of the social housing stock and the creation of highly comfortable flats. The positive trend, that over the last few years has been evident in all towns and cities throughout Belarus, is the steadily increasing owner-occupation rate, which is driven by privatization of state housing boosted by the Laws of the Republic of Belarus “On Property” and “On the Privatization of the Housing Stock”.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: For the last five years, the Belarussian Urban Development Research Institution has been running the Urban Training Center that provides informational support to urban and regional planners and organizes training courses for officials of regional, city and district executive committees, architecture and town-planning departments, as well as experts from urban planning research institutions. The Urban Training Center covers the following three areas: Organization of seminars and training courses; Provision of informational and methodological assistance regarding sustainable development of towns and territories; and Development and implementation of the tactical urban development plan.
Seminars and courses are rendered by state officials, university lecturers, representatives of state and non-governmental organizations, and entrepreneurs. Over the last five years, the Center has trained more than 850 managers and leading experts of architectural and urban planning institutions. Drawing upon the analysis of the training provided to managers and experts of the Ministry of Architecture and Construction, the Presidential Management Academy has developed a concept system for the training of territorial development and urban planning managers and specialists. The Concept: sets forth the guidelines and the scope and methods of training; and lays down several options for the development of postgraduate training and the recommendations on how to determine whether the training is required. Presently the course entitled “Urban and District Planning” is taught in the following high educational

institutions: the Presidential Management Academy (to managers of national, regional, and local state organs); the Belarussian State Polytechnic Academy (to students of architecture); the Belarussian State Economic University (to students of regional and municipal governance); the Non-State Institute of Parliamentarism and Entrepreneurship (to management students); and etc.

Information: In 2000, the trials of the State Urban Planning Cadastre were launched. The cartographic data base includes the 1:200 000 scale vector map developed on the basis of digital vector topographic maps created by Belgeodesiya Unit of the State Land Committee of the Republic of Belarus. An array of national databases has been established. These include: databases on the city population; the popular educational level; employment broken down by sector; housing and housing requirements; on-going construction projects; air pollution; water consumption; sewage; consumer services; trade; and etc. The cartographic data base of the National Cadastre contains information about the borders of the protected areas. All six regions have already established regional cadastres. The creation of city cadastres is currently on the way. Two cities have already launched the trials of such casters.
Since 1997, the Ministry of Architecture and Construction of the Republic of Belarus has been supervising the preparation of the Annual Report On Urban and Territorial Development. This report is aimed at: characterizing and assessing urban living conditions; establishing town-planning policy priorities; and furnishing national and local state agencies as well as the public at large with information regarding the current state of urban development in Belarus. A list of sustainable urban development indicators, drawn up in accordance with the recommendations of the UN Habitat Center, is used as a primary tool to assess the urban conditions. The list was also incorporated in the state statistical reporting system in 2001.

In 1996, a National Report "Urban Development Problems in the Republic in Belarus" was prepared for presentation at the International Urban Conference Habitat II conducted in Istanbul. The Report dealt with: general urban development issues; problems encountered in the transition to sustainable development; and conditions required for the initiation of this process. In 2001, a National Report "Problems and Tendencies of Sustainable Urban Development in the Republic of Belarus" was devised for the presentation at the Istanbul +5 Special General Assembly Session. The report sought to analyze the problems, ways of their solution, and prospect for further development. It also aimed to determine whether urban development in Belarus complied with the Habitat Agenda principles.
To raise the awareness of the general public of the activities of state agencies, NGOs, international organizations, and the Ministry of Architecture and Construction publishes a magazine entitled "Architecture and Construction". It deals with: urban development; housing construction; building technologies; energy saving problems of small towns; reconstruction and renovation; and etc. Further information about sustainable development of Belarus is available at www.bel-habitat.org.by and www.nsys.by.

Research and Technologies: The network of research and development institutions supervised by the Ministry of Architecture and Construction has been developed. These institutions deal with: state territorial organization; R&D in the field of engineering systems of buildings and structures; as well as building units, designing of housing and social objects for rural areas and development of new construction materials. The Belarussian Urban Development Research Institution is a principal facilitator of urban development and territorial development projects. An important tool for the provision of the population with housing is the addition of top floors and attics to the existing residential buildings. The Belarussian Construction Research Institute has developed attic designs suitable for all kinds of existing apartment blocks and building technologies.
The technology, allowing the construction of residential housing of renewable materials, fully complies with the principles of sustainable development. The project to this effect developed by a Belarussian construction company was named "one of the best practices in the Central and Eastern Europe" at the Conference of European Environmental Ministers in Orhus, Denmark. The construction of environmentally friendly rural houses from straw blocks has become widely spread in some regions of

Belarus as these houses are cheap (US$ 100 per square meter) and provide excellent thermal insulation. In 1999, this project was included in the best practice list of the World Habitat Award.
In 2000, a project "Construction of Social Housing from Renewable Materials", designed by the Belarussian Branch of the International Academy of Environment in cooperation with the Habitat Center, was awarded Second Prize in the Housing Nomination of the World Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Power Engineering Award in Lenz, Austria. Designs of city environmentally-friendly houses that will consume no energy, have already been finalized.

Financing: All urban and territorial development projects are primarily financed by the national and local budgets. The Government of the Republic of Belarus is presently developing the regulatory framework for extra budgetary funding of housing construction and is studying, analyzing and introducing best practices accumulated both in Belarus and abroad. A set of measures that will allow tapping savings of individual citizens and funds of companies to make up for the reduced state subsidies is presently in the works. The so-called "share construction" has been most widely spread. However, this option is open only for high-income individuals that have significant savings. This method envisions that the cost of housing should be fully paid in the course of construction. Share construction projects are as a rule initiated by construction departments of local governments, major construction companies and property developers. The prospects for extra budgetary financing of housing construction largely depend on the availability of systems that will allow low or medium-income segments of the population to accumulate funds for housing construction. An important source of funding for the construction projects, executed in compliance with Presidential Decrees, are low-interest loans extended by the National Bank in accordance with the amount stipulated in the annual state budget. The procedure for the allocation of these loans is set forth in the Presidential Decree "On the Extension of Low-Interest Loans to Individual Citizens for the Construction or Acquisition of Housing".

Cooperation: One of the key instruments that will allow attaining the goals of sustainable development of the Republic of Belarus is furthering of international cooperation in particular with the CIS countries, Central and Eastern European nations, and some UN organizations. Belarus is presently a leader in the realm of urban development among the former Soviet Republics and has initiated the preparation of a concept of the sustainable urban development in the CIS. The issues of interstate cooperation in the field of town-planning and regional development falls within the purview of the Urban Development Commission that operates under the aegis of the CIS Intergovernmental Council for the Cooperation in the Realm of Construction, headquartered in Minsk at the Ministry of Architecture and Construction. The Urban Development Charter of the Commonwealth of Independent States was signed by Heads of State on June 4, 1999.
To facilitate the Charter's implementation, since 2001 the CIS member states have started the preparation of a range of: interstate agreements; joint programs and projects, that seek to drive the development border areas; transport and communications systems; defining the principles of the capitals' urban development; creating national geo-informational systems; monitoring sustainable urban development, and etc. To boost the sustainable urban development, the following events were conducted: the International Conference on Sustainable Development of Countries with Transition Economies (1996, Minsk); the International Conference on the Development of the "Paris-Berlin-Warsaw-Minsk-Moscow" Communication System (1997, Minsk); and the Conference on Urban and Regional Sustainable Development (1998, Minsk). The above-listed events gave an impetus to national, sub regional and regional efforts to implement the decisions and recommendation of the Rio-de-Janeiro Conference.

Interstate Cooperation in the Field of Sustainable Development of the Border Region: The last five years have seen increased cooperation between: interested state managerial organs; local administrations; and design agencies of Belarus, Poland, Ukraine, Lithuania, and Latvia. In accordance with the decision of the Bilateral Belarussian and Lithuanian Commission for Trade and Economic Cooperation, a Concept for the Development of Border Regions is being prepared. The document will contain a set of proposals for national, regional and local state agencies aimed at the effective coordinated development of engineering, customs, transport, social, tourism and recreational infrastructures. Cooperation with the Republic of

Poland will also be continued within the framework of the preparation of "the Forecast for the Development of Border Regions for a period of up to 2015" and other projects of mutual interest.

Regional Cooperation to Further Sustainable Development: With assistance from TACIS, Belarus completed a project entitled "Regional Development and Environmental Protection of the Neman Euro region". This area takes in: the Alitus; Meriampol and Vilnius Districts of Lithuania; the Podlyaska Province of Poland; and the Grodno Region of Belarus. The project sought to analyze the transborder cooperation potential of the Euro region, particularly in the realms of sustainable tourism and regional planning. Strategies and plans to further environmental protection and sustainable tourism, as well as a range of training programs, were developed under the Project's auspices. In addition, a modern computer database was established. The Project was also instrumental in raising the efficiency of: the natural resource management in the border regions; devising environment protection measures; initiating the creation of a precedent-setting region-wide planning system, based on the principles of sustainable development; and improving the interaction of state organs of the three countries.
Being part of the Baltic region, Belarus is involved in projects seeking to raise the effectiveness of utilizing and protecting the region's potential under the Visions & Strategies Around the Baltic (VASAB) 2010 and INTERREG (EU Program for inter-regional cooperation) 3B Programs.

Cooperation with UN Organizations: To facilitate the execution of commitments assumed at the Istanbul Conference, Belarus initiated extensive preparatory work to the 25th Special Section of the General Assembly of the United Nations to review and evaluate the implementation of the decisions adopted at the UN Conference on Urban Development (Habitat II). To this end, the National Report "On Problems and Tendencies of Sustainable Urban Development in the Republic of Belarus" was drawn up. In the course of the session proceedings, it was agreed that the Habitat Center, UNEP and the UNDP would boost their cooperation with Belarus and provide further assistance in the specified areas.
Over the last few years, countries with transition economies have expanded their interaction with the European Economic Commission in the field of sustainable development. The visit of Mrs. *Hubner,* UN European Economic Commission Executive Secretary, was a significant benchmark in the Belarussian-UN relations. In the course of a working meeting at the Belarussian Urban Development Research Institute, Mrs. *Hubner* was familiarized with a set of measures to create the conditions for sustainable urban development, including those aimed at tackling the problems of housing construction and environment. During the visit, Mrs. *Hubner* proposed to establish a UN European Economic Commission's Center for Sustainable Development of Countries with Transition Economies in Minsk. The establishment of such a Center will promote the implementation of the UN European Economic Commission's objectives with regard to: improvements in the urban life quality in the 21st century; social and political stability; and economic development that will not damage the many future generations in the European countries.

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CHAPTER 8: INTEGRATING ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT IN DECISION-MAKING

Decision-Making: To facilitate the implementation of recommendations, adopted at the UN Conference on Environment and Development conducted in Rio-de-Janeiro in 1992, the Cabinet of Ministers' Ordinance N197, dated March 20, 1996, established a National Commission for Sustainable Development. The Commission was to ensure an effective solution of problems connected with socially, economically and environmentally sustainable development at the national level. The Commission initiated the preparation of and subsequently adopted a National Concept for Sustainable Development of the Republic of Belarus. The Concept, the prognosis of the social and economic development, and recommendations and principles of the Rio-de-Janeiro Conference formed the foundation of the National Strategy of Sustainable Development of the Republic of Belarus, which was adopted by the Presidium of the Cabinet of Ministers on March 23, 1997. Item 2 of the Cabinet of Ministers' Ordinance N25, dated March 23, 1997, stipulated that "the prognosis and regional and sectoral social and economic development programs shall be based on the strategy".
It should be noted that the National Strategy of Sustainable Development places particular emphasis on the integration of environment protection and economic development issues. The Section "Preservation and Rational Utilization of Natural Resources and Protection of the Environment" sets forth the guidelines and strategic measures for: the protection of atmosphere; conservation and rational utilization of land, water and forest resources; preservation of biodiversity; and effective use of mineral resources and environmentally-safe utilization of biotechnologies. Other sections, include: "Environmental Imperative and the Development of the National Economy"; "Incorporation of Environmental and Developmental Issues in the Decision Making Process"; and etc.

The Law of the Republic of Belarus "On Economic Forecasting and Social and Economic Development Programs" (adopted by Parliament on April 9, 1998, approved by the Cabinet of Ministers on April 17, 1998, and signed by President Lukashenko on May 5, 1998) conferred the rank of a key forecast document on the National Strategy of Sustainable Development, which is prepared once every five years for a period of 15 years. It outlines the roadmap for the country's development taking into account the environmental situation and a range of other factors. The Law further stipulates that "The Principle Guidelines for the Economic Development for a period of 10 years shall be drawn up on the basis of the National Strategy of Sustainable Development every five years and two years prior to the expiration of the period of the forecast". Medium term projections are contained in the Five Year State Program of the Social and Economic Development and short term objectives are set forth in the Annual Prognosis of the Social and Economic Development. In accordance with the Law, the Principle Guidelines contain a section entitled "Environment and Measures for Its Amelioration" (see "The Principle Guidelines for the Economic Development of the Republic of Belarus for a Period of up to 2010," adopted by the Cabinet of Ministers' Ordinance N445, dated April 3, 2000). The 2001-2005 Program of the Social and Economic Development of the Republic of Belarus includes the sections: "Nature and Resource Potential" and "Rational Nature Management and Environment Protection" (see the 2001-2005 Program of the Social and Economic Development of the Republic of Belarus adopted by Presidential Decree N427, dated August 8, 2001). The Annual Prognosis of the Social and Economic Development contains a section "Protection of the Environment and Utilization of Natural Resources." The above listed documents demonstrate that the issues of environment protection and economic development are interlocked at all stages of the state planning system. In addition, a National Action Plan for the Rational Utilization of Natural Resources and Protection of the Environment was put into place by the Cabinet of Ministers' Ordinance N912, dated June 21, 2001.

To ensure further linkage between environmental issues and economic development aspects, the following legal acts have been adopted over the last few years:

- The Law of the Republic of Belarus "On the Protection of the Environment" dated November 26, 1992. The Law sets forth: the goals, principles, and regulatory framework of environment

protection activities; as well as defines the range of resources, natural objects and complexes to be protected and rights and liabilities of individual citizens and NGOs. The Law also outlines: environmental public education and awareness building programs; the state policy; the state regulation and the economic mechanism of environment protection; and the state monitoring and recording system. In addition, this legal act addresses the issues of technical support and research activities to facilitate the implementation of environment protection measures and provides for the organization of environmental expert assessments. It also contains environmental requirements, imposed on economic activities, and envisions the protection of environment from harmful influences, particularly the ozone layer. In addition, the Law provides guidelines for the dispute resolution and imposition of penalties for the violations of environmental legislation. The provisions of this Law are further specified by the following environmental legal acts:

- The Law of the Republic of Belarus "On the Sanitary and Epidemiological Well-Being of the Population", dated November 25, 1998, aims to prevent the harmful influence of the negative environmental factors on the people's health and regulates the actions of state agencies and individual citizens to ensure sanitary and hygienic safety.
- The Land Code of the Republic of Belarus, dated January 4, 1999, sets forth the procedures for the utilization and protection of specified types of land. The Land Code stipulates that both the state and private individuals can own land. The title for land plots can also be transferred to foreign countries. In addition, land plots can be co-owned by several entities regardless of their type of ownership.
- The Water Code of the Republic of Belarus, dated June 15, 1998, stipulates the conditions and procedure for the efficient utilization of rivers, lakes, ponds, springs and other surface and underground water.
- The Law of the Republic of Belarus "On the Protection of Air", dated April 15, 1997, envisions: (a) air cleanness norms; (b) the largest possible concentration of polluting agents; (c) levels of physical and other damaging influences; (d) the highest allowable levels of contaminant emissions resulting from the utilization of certain industrial objects; (e) concentration of polluting substances in exhaust fumes, and etc.
- The Mineral Wealth Code of the Republic of Belarus of December 15, 1997 sets forth the legal framework for the modification of the mineral wealth management.
- The Law of the Republic of Belarus "On the Protection and Utilization of the Animal World", dated September 19, 1996, contains a set of protective measures, including imposition of regulations and norms regarding: hunting; rational utilization and reproduction of animals; preservation of the habitat; breeding grounds and migration routes; establishment of natural reserves; breeding of rare animals, and etc.
- The Forest Code of the Republic of Belarus, dated July 14, 2000, lays down the legal framework for the rational utilization, protection and reproduction of forests.
- The Law of the Republic of Belarus "On State Environmental Expert Assessment", dated June 18, 1993, introduces a mandatory state environmental expert assessment of all projects and undertakings that can damage the environment. All projects and undertakings shall pass through the state environmental expert assessment at the initial stages of their preparation.
- The Law of the Republic of Belarus "On Industrial and Household Waste", dated November 25, 1993 regulates storage and disposal of solid, dangerous and radioactive waste. The Law seeks to prevent or minimize the negative impact of stored or treated waste on the environment and the public health and to ensure its' recycling.
- The Law of the Republic of Belarus "On Specially Protected Territories and Objects," dated October 20, 1994, governs the functioning of reserves and national parks. The Law also defines: the specially protected territories and objects; legal procedures for the creation and liquidation of a national park; as well as ownership rights of specially protected territories and objects.

A number of legal acts have been adopted to further specify the provision of the laws listed above. The current nature management legislation meets the recommendations of the 21st Century Agenda and allows to take account of environmental issues in the policy making process.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 9: PROTECTION OF THE ATMOSPHERE

Decision-Making: No information available.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 10: INTEGRATED APPROACH TO THE PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT OF LAND RESOURCES

Decision-Making: The entrusted bodies with the regulation of land issues are: the President of the Republic of Belarus; the Council of Ministers; the Council of ministers' Committee for Land Resources; Geodesy and Cartography (hereinafter referred to as the Land Committee); as well as local legislative and executive bodies. The Land Committee supervises the Land Departments of Local Executive and Legislative Organs. The following legal acts regulate land relations in the Republic of Belarus: the Constitution; the Land Code; and the Laws of the Republic of Belarus "On Payments for Land" and "On Farming". In accordance with the Land Code of the Republic of Belarus, land use organization has an activity aimed at managing the utilization of land resources and regulating of relations arising of land utilization. The land use organization represents a system of legal, economic and technical measures: to regulate and improve land relations; increase the effectiveness of land use and protection; and safeguard the environment. Land management is viewed as a key part of land use organization.
From 1995 to 2000, land management was primarily regulated by the State Program of Protection and Rational Utilization of Land, adopted by the Cabinet of Ministers' Ordinance. Land management issues were also addressed in the National Program "Preservation and Utilization of Reclaimed Areas in the Period from 2000 to 2005" and the 2001-2005 Program "The Modification of the Agro-Industrial Sector of the Republic of Belarus". To further boost the efficiency of agricultural land use, the Cabinet of Ministers adopted an Ordinance "On Measures to Improve the Effectiveness of Agricultural Land Utilization," dated January 20, 2000. Over the last ten years, the attainments in this field include the creation of a legal framework that envisions: the introduction of the basic market land relations; equality of state, private land ownership and different organizational forms of agricultural enterprises; fee-based land use; a simplified procedure of land re-allocation; and utilization of economic methods of management and regulation. Land management bodies have been established in all local executive and legislative bodies of all levels. In addition, the technical potential of these agencies has been boosted and the qualifications of the land management officials improved. The modification of the state control of land use and protection has allowed reducing the incidence of land legislation violations, which were rampant at the onset of land reform. All individuals willing to go into farming have been able to obtain land plots. Rural residents now can take out additional land to expand their small holdings or to construct housing or production facilities. The cadastre assessment of agricultural land has also been successfully finalized. The area of territories and objects subject to special protection on the part of the state has drastically increased.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: In the course of the agricultural reform, a total of 5,019 private farms have been created. Of these, 2,361 have already gone out of business. The remaining farms own 98,000 hectors of land, including 69,400 hectors of arable land. A total of 390,300 private individuals (15.1%) have purchased land plots. An estimated 72,800 hectors of land are presently privately-owned. Particular emphasis has been placed on small holdings development and individual housing construction. The area of land allocated for these purposes has increased from 604,400 hectors to 1,027,000 hectors. At the same time, the land management in Belarus requires further improvement. The land management system is overly centralized and local governments, the public at large, landowners and land users are not sufficiently involved in the decision making process. So far, the land management mechanism, that would allow balancing out the interests of all parties at all levels and to improve the economic, social and environmental efficiency of land use, has not been put into place. As a result, the quality of agricultural land in public use continues to deteriorate and the share of ineffectively used or unutilized land is on the rise. Multiple incidences of land contamination and degradation have been recorded. The system of land use planning has yet to be restored, despite the fact that the importance of such a system has increased dramatically in the course of land reform. The current procedure for the land plot allocation is overly complex and is abuse-prone. The cadastre evaluation of city land has not been finalized yet and link-up between the rate of land payments

and the land value has not been established. In addition, leasing and mortgage systems remain underdeveloped.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: It should be noted that insufficient emphasis was placed on the staffing issues of land use agencies at the start of the land reform. As a result, these organs faced a severe lack of cadres in the middle of the 1990s. To address these staff shortages, the Land Committee initiated: (a) an increase in the enrollment of land management students at the Belarussian State Agricultural Academy; (b) the introduction of "Geo-Informational Systems" specialization at the Department of Geography of the Belarussian State University; and (c) the establishment of land management magistracy at the Geodesic Department of the Polotsk State University. The Land Committee also set up a Training Center for State Land Management Officials. In addition, from 1998 to 2000, the Land Reform Association in cooperation with the National Land Service of Sweden and the Land Committee conducted an international conference and 14 seminars on land management, including land utilization planning, for managers and specialists of local land management and architecture. More than 30 Belarussian specialists had an internship in Sweden. The results of this study tour were set forth in two books entitled "Land Management: Swedish Experience" and "Real Estate in Sweden: Legislation and Comparative Analysis".

Information: Land management and land use planning are executed on the basis of information included in the State Land Cadastre, which is a database of information and documents regarding: the legal status, utilization and condition of individual land plots; land ownerships; administrative-territorial units; and the country as a whole. The land cadastre information is collected by means of: aerial photography; land inventory; and surveys and valuations. It includes data furnished by land owners and land users. The computer automation system for the state land cadastre is presently being developed. Within the framework of the state statistical report procedure, reports on the land availability and allocation for each territorial-administrative unit and the whole country are prepared on the basis of the state cadastre. Information contained in the state cadastre is made available to all interested state agencies as well as economic entities and individuals in accordance with the established procedures. The cadastre data is also annually submitted to the Government and is published in "the Land of Belarus" Collection.

Research and Technologies: The research institutions, supervised by the Land Committee and universities, undertake research to modify the methodological basis and the mechanism of land management. The methodological and technological framework for the development of district land management schemes has been finalized. These schemes are the key elements of the current system of land use planning. The medium-term prognosis of land utilization along with the methodology of modification of agricultural landscape organization has also been finalized. The software for the maintenance of the land cadastre that will allow using the cadastre information for land management is being developed. Computer land management systems have been launched in several administrative districts. Land management activities executed by state agencies are financed by the state budgets, whereas undertakings of local governments in this field are paid for by local budgets.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: To further international contacts, the Land Committee concluded in 1999 an Agreement on Cooperation in the Fields of Geodesy, Cartography, Cadastre and Land Valuation with Latvia. In 1997, the Government of Belarus signed an Agreement on Geodesy, Cartography, and Creation and Maintenance of a Land Cadastre with the Government of the Russian Federation. A similar agreement was concluded with the Government of Moldova in 2001. The Land Committee is a member of the International Research Council for Land Relations and Land Management of the Commonwealth of Independent States that was created in 1993. From 1994 to 1998, it implemented a pilot project for the creation of land and environmental cadastres of the Soligorst District of the Minsk Region in cooperation with Switzerland.

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CHAPTER 11: COMBATING DEFORESTATION

Decision-Making: The bodies empowered to supervise forestry activities are: the President; the Government; the Cabinet of Ministers' Forestry Committee; local councils and executive committees; and other state agencies. The forest management legislation of the Republic of Belarus is based on the Constitution of the Republic of Belarus and includes: the Forestry Code; Presidential Decrees; and other legal acts of the Republic of Belarus regulating the utilization, protection and reproduction of forests.

Programmes and Projects: An increase in the quality of forest cultures, expansion of reproduction of forests, and boosting of the share of the overall territory occupied by forests and other deforestation fighting measures, are set forth in: "the Concept for the Development of Forestry up to 2005"; "the Strategic Plan for the Development of Forestry"; the State Program "Forest Restoration and Forest Reproduction for the Period of up to 20015"; "The Program of Preservation of Forest Genetic Resources and the Development of Selective Seed-Farming in the Republic of Belarus for the Period of up 2015"; and other programs that are used for planning forestry activities and preserving the forestry resources.

Status: All forests are owned by the state. Their area as of January, 2001, stood at 9.2 million hectors. Since the 1970s, the forestry management has been implemented on the principles of continuity and inexhaustibility. The share of harvestable timber continues to increase and reached 7.9% of the overall forested area in 2001. Timber production in 2000 stood at 4.3 million m^3. The forest age structure is steadily improving. Since 1996, an annual average of 25,300 hectors of forest has been harvested. Artificial aforestation is generally conducted within the period of two to three years and covers 13,800 hectors yearly. An additional 3,000 to 5,000 hectors undergo natural aforestation. An annual total of 8,000 hectors of swampy soil are replanted with forests. A further 2,200 hectors of deforested land are covered by other aforestation activities and 8,200 hectors are artificially planted. In the space of the last six years, these measures have allowed to boost the share of forested areas from 35.5% to 37.8 % of the total territory. Following the Chernobyl disaster, aforestation measures were undertaken on 53,700 hectors of contaminated land. Of these, 16,300 hectors were the land plot previously pulled out of circulation.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: Forestry specialists of higher rank are trained at the Belarussian State Technological Institute and lower ranking officials at Polotsk Forestry Vocational Collage.

Information: The forestry management informational system is currently being put into place. It will include forest age and type regulation, forestry planning and recording systems, as well as cartographic and other databases. To facilitate the introduction of the informational system: new computer equipment is being purchased; new computer technologies and software are being developed; and personnel are being trained. Some subsystems have already been introduced and are currently being on trial.

Research and Technologies: The Forestry Committee annually commissions scientific institutions to undertake research projects within the framework of Complex Programs, namely: Forests of Belarus; Forest, Environment and Resources; Rational Utilization of Belarussian Forests; and etc. For example, the 2001 Plan of the Commercialization of the Research Results included 39 programs and projects. The introduction of new technologies will further improve forest management, reproduction and protection.

Financing: Forestry activities are financed by the state budget. In addition, the World Bank extended a loan of US$ 41,2 million for the development of forestry.

Cooperation: Belarus has concluded bilateral cooperation agreements in the field of forestry with Poland, the Russian Federation, Lithuania and other nations.

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CHAPTER 12: MANAGING FRAGILE ECOSYSTEMS: COMBATING DESERTIFICATION AND DROUGHT

Decision-Making: No information available.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 13: MANAGING FRAGILE ECOSYSTEMS: SUSTAINABLE MOUNTAIN DEVELOPMENT

Decision-Making: No information available.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 14: PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Decision-Making: The following state managerial bodies oversee the development of the agricultural sector and rural areas: the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus; the Ministry of Agriculture and its Bread Products Department; and the Belarussian State Food Processing Concern. The Ministry supervises Agricultural Committees of the Regional and District Executive Committees. The Parliamentary Agricultural Commission is empowered to consider the legal drafts that shape the agricultural policy of the state.
The agricultural sector in the Republic of Belarus is regulated by the following legal acts: the Laws "On the Priority of Social, Cultural and Economic Development of Rural Areas and the Agro-industrial Sector" (1991); "On Farming" (1991); "On Livestock Breeding" (1994); "On Veterinary Services" (1994); "On Patenting Plant Varieties" (1995); "On Seeds"(1997); as well as a number of Presidential Decrees. Civil relations in the agriculture are governed by a wide array of legal acts, including: the Civil Code of the Republic of Belarus (1999); the Land Code of the Republic of Belarus (1999); the Labor Code of the Republic of Belarus (1999); and the Investment Code of the Republic of Belarus (2001).

Programmes and Projects: To combat negative economic trends in the agricultural sector, the Government has adopted the Program for the Modernization of the Agro-Industrial Complex of the Republic of Belarus. The Program envisions the implementation of a set of organizational and economic measures that include: further specialization of production; more effective utilization of internal resources and reserves; focusing on priority areas of agriculture; introduction of resource-saving technologies; fostering of production and financial cooperation, modification of remuneration system; and improvement in the quality and competitiveness of agricultural production.
Belarus is presently implementing a range of targeted intra-sectoral, sectoral and regional programs. The following State Complex Programs for the Development of the Agro-Industrial Sector and the Promotion of the Agricultural Reform are financed by the state budget: the National Complex Program of Livestock Breeding; the Subprogram "Development of the Baby Food Industry"; the National Complex Program "Sugar"; the Import Substitution Program; the State Program "Protection and Rational Utilization of Land"; the Program of Flood Protection of Cities, Villages and Arable Land in the Polesye Region; the Rural Gasification Program; and the State Program "Roads of Belarus". The following target state complex programs are funded by both state and local budgets: "Pork"; "Beef"; "Poultry Farming"; "Fruit Growing"; "Livestock Breeding"; "Flax"; "Fish and Seafood"; and "Melioration".

Status: Agriculture is one of the key sectors of the Belarussian economy. It generates more than 12.7% of the GDP and employs more than 600,000 people or 16% of the workforce. One third of the country's population (three million people) resides in the rural areas. Consequently, this sector is not only economically but also socially significant. Therefore, the development of the agricultural sector is one of the priorities of the state. The state regulation of the agro-industrial sector seeks to overcome the consequences of the economic contradictions engendered by the transition period and to establish a modern agricultural complex that will be capable of meeting present-day challenges. Significant regressive trends in the agricultural sector were given rise by: severance of economic ties; liberalization of trade; outmoded agricultural techniques; and inability of agricultural enterprises to operate in the free market environment. As a result, Belarus' agricultural exports have been steadily declining over the last ten years. The internal consumption, however, registered only a slight decrease. The emergence of the agricultural market engendered the reformation of the agricultural produce marketing system. Agricultural companies can presently take advantage of a wide variety of distribution channels, including: establishment of proprietary retail network; direct or indirect sales to retail outlets or food service companies; and etc. The role of the state in the agricultural market is undergoing a slight change. It has forsaken its monopolistic credentials and now competes with other players in the market to purchase food for the national and regional funds in accordance with the established quotas. State orders are competitively allocated.

It should be noted that the Belarussian agricultural sector has so far failed to fully implement its export potential. In the early 1990s, the Belarussian exports fell precipitously due to: a decline in the agricultural production; severe competition in foreign markets; lower export and higher import prices; and growth in production costs. The situation has been on the mend since 1995. CIS countries, primarily Russia, are the principal export markets of Belarus.

Belarus is capable of producing traditional agricultural goods in volumes exceeding internal consumption and thus has a significant export potential. Among the products that can successfully compete in the CIS markets are meat and meat products, milk and dairy products, potatoes and potato products and linen. If Belarus is to boost exports, its goods should be rendered more competitive by the modernization of production facilities and introduction of cutting-edge technologies. However, due to their precarious financial position, the majority of agricultural enterprises are unable to invest sufficient funds in their manufacturing facilities. Cooperation and integration are being actively pursued in the agricultural sector. Most state and collective farms have joined forces to produce, process and sell their products. Integration tendencies are particularly pronounced in the meat processing, dairy, sugar and linen industries, where enterprises have established chains covering all production stages from raw material cultivation to the sale of the finished product.

Reformation of the agricultural sector is a multifaceted issue. Stodgy agricultural enterprises are being substituted with flexible, market-oriented firms, which in turn establish joint stock companies, holdings, agricultural financial and industrial groups, etc. These new companies bring the workers closer to the means of production and provide strong motivation by linking the remuneration with performance. To date, 43.7% of agricultural enterprises have been partially privatized. Destatization and privatization are aimed at rendering agricultural enterprises more effective and pursuing a comprehensive state policy of agricultural development.

Agricultural enterprises hold center stage in the overall structure of the reformation of the agricultural sector. A variety of methods are used for the reformation of these enterprises. Bankrupt state and collective farms are often leased out to individuals. An estimated 2,500 farmers are presently tilling 84,000 hectors of land. Some agricultural enterprises will be auctioned off or sold at tender. The range of privatization methods will be expanded to include: sale of shares at stock exchanges; Dutch auctions; and to employees of the privatized enterprises at discount prices. Belarus has finalized cadastral valuation of land that will allow increasing the efficiency of land utilization, redirecting investment to the most fertile lands and pulling infertile land plots out of circulation. The Belarussian Academy of Agrarian Sciences played a key role in this process. *Measures to increase financial incentives for employees of agricultural enterprises and to improve their living conditions that are currently being undertaken will go a long way towards reducing the employee turnover and boosting the attractiveness of agricultural employment.*

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: The policy to foster sustainable development of rural areas in the Republic of Belarus is implemented on three levels (national, regional and local) and includes a set of measures to promote: proprietary relations; economic regulation of social and economic spheres; and environmental awareness. In the context of the agricultural sector, it is particularly important to determine the influence of demographic trends on the key economic indicators, which in turn should be taken account of when designing a human resource policy. The analysis of the population trends reveals considerable changes that occurred in the 20th century, which at its start saw the domination of rural population. Presently, however, the share of Belarussians living in rural areas declined to one third. This tendency was driven not only by migration of the rural population that was evident in all developed countries, but also by country-specific economic and environmental problems. The aging of the population had a broadly similar effect on both the city and rural dwellers. The aging rate, however, exhibited certain differences. In 1998, pensioners accounted for 16% of the city population and 33.6% of people residing in the rural areas. This trend has recently been reversed and the share of employable rural population has been on the rise.

The educational level of people, involved in agricultural production, remains low as only 5.8% of employees have university degrees, which is a major obstacle in the path of modernization. A total of four higher education and 30 vocational training institutions currently train agricultural specialists. They have

a student population of 50,000 people. A total of 6,000 students graduate annually from vocational training institutions, and 3,000 from agricultural institutes and universities. The student intake of non-state institutes is on the rise. The studies of about 34% of university students and 18% of vocational students were paid by enterprises and individuals. Over the last several years the Belarussian higher educational system has been moving in the direction of free market.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: There currently are no research projects into sustainable development per se, but the publications listed below deal with this issue. *Key Publications on Sustainable Development of the Agricultural Sector and Rural Regions:*

- V.G.Gusakov. Market Development of the Agricultural Sector: Conclusions and Suggestions. – Minsk, Belarussian Agricultural Institute Research Institution, 2001;
- Scientific Foundations of the Agricultural Development. Agricultural Economics, 2001. Minsk: Belarussian Agricultural Research Institution, 2001;
- Adaptive Agricultural Systems in Belarus, edited by A.A.Popkov, Prime Minister of Belarus, Minsk, 2001;
- Z.M. Ilyina. Scientific Foundations of Food Security. – Misanta Ltd., 2001;
- Z.M. Ilyina, I.V. Mirochitskaya. Agricultural Markets of Raw Materials and Food. Handbook. – Belarussian State Economic University, 2001;
- Z.M. Ilyina, M.V.Kosukov, V.G.Kurtin, A.N.Korotana. The Strategy for Improving the Competitiveness and Export Potential of Agricultural Produce. – Minsk, Belarussian Institutive for Agricultural Economics, 2000; and
- V.G.Rusakov, L.N.Markusenko, M.V.Ulasevich, V.N.Rakut. Methodological Guidelines for the Rational Utilization of Labor Resources. – Minsk: Belarussian Institutive for Agricultural Economics, 2000.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 15: CONSERVATION OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Decision-Making: No information available.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTERS 16 AND 34: ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY AND TRANSFER OF ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND TECHNOLOGY, COOPERATION AND CAPACITY-BUILDING

Decision-Making: No information available.
Technologies: No information available.
Biotechnologies: No information available.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.
Technologies: No information available.
Biotechnologies: No information available.

Status: No information available.
Technologies: No information available.
Biotechnologies: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.
Technologies: No information available.
Biotechnologies: No information available.

Information: No information available.
Technologies: No information available.
Biotechnologies: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.
Technologies: No information available.
Biotechnologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.
Technologies: No information available.
Biotechnologies: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.
Technologies: No information available.
Biotechnologies: No information available.

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CHAPTER 17: PROTECTION OF THE OCEANS, ALL KINDS OF SEAS, INCLUDING ENCLOSED AND SEMI-ENCLOSED SEAS, AND COASTAL AREAS AND THE PROTECTION, RATIONAL USE AND DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR LIVING RESOURCES

Decision-Making: No information available.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 18: PROTECTION OF THE QUALITY AND SUPPLY OF FRESHWATER RESOURCES: APPLICATION OF INTEGRATED APPROACHES TO THE DEVELOPMENT, MANAGEMENT AND USE OF WATER RESOURCES

Decision-Making: No information available.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 19: ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF TOXIC CHEMICALS, INCLUDING PREVENTION OF ILLEGAL INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC IN TOXIC AND DANGEROUS PRODUCTS

Decision-Making: No information available.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTERS 20 TO 22: ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF HAZARDOUS, SOLID AND RADIOACTIVE WASTES

Decision-Making:

Hazardous wastes: The Ministry of Emergences of the Republic of Belarus is entrusted with the supervision of the transportation of dangerous substances. The Ministry is authorized by the Government of the Republic of Belarus to issue permits for bringing in, removal or transit of: poisonous, asphyxiant and virulent substances; sources of ionizing radiation; nuclear substances and materials; equipment and products that comprise the aforementioned substances; as well as explosives and industrial explosive assemblies. The State Customs Committee of the Republic of Belarus is empowered to supervise the transit of dangerous substances through the state border. The principal legal act in this field is the Law of the Republic of Belarus "On Transportation of Dangerous Substances", which was enacted in July 2001.

Solid wastes: In accordance with Article 12 of the Law of the Republic of Belarus "On Waste", the Housing Ministry is empowered to execute a comprehensive R&D, economic and investment policy as well as to develop and implement targeted state and international municipal waste disposal programs. To facilitate the implementation of the abovementioned Law, the Ministry adopted a List of Municipal Waste. In addition, the Ministry is involved in the development of legal documents that deal with waste handling. The following methods of municipal waste disposal are most widely used in European and CIS countries: stockpiling at dumps (sanitary-biological method); incineration (thermal method); and composting (sorting and biomechanical method). The principal method used in Belarus for municipal waste disposal is sanitary-biological. Although fairly uncomplicated from the technological point of view, it requires considerable land allocation and significant investment. This method also entails high operational and transportation costs. Waste dumps should meet stringent hydro-ecological requirements. Of the currently used 175 municipal dumps, 120 or 69% comply with these requirements. Dumps that are located on permeable soil and in areas with low ground water levels are equipped with expensive water resistant foundations. One of the most effective methods of municipal waste disposal in Belarus is the creation of sorting and dumping complexes and sorting and shifting stations, which allow to separate recyclable waste that accounts for about 15% of the total waste amount. They also make possible to separate the organic waste that is used for field composting from the ballast fraction, which is subsequently dumped. This procedure ensures environmental safety and economic sustainability of the water processing operation. The method of deep industrial sorting, coupled with accelerated bio stabilization and artificial airing of organic waste, is most effective for the disposal of mixed waste. Over the last several years, the separate collection of communal waste has been widely used in the developed countries. This method allows the recycling from 20 to 25% of the waste and early separation of heavy metal waste. The experiment, conducted in Lida in cooperation with Scheffer GmBH, convincingly demonstrated that this method has significant environmental and economic benefits. This new method of waste collection was adopted in other cities throughout Belarus and currently covers about 100,000 city dwellers or 1.4% of the overall city population.

Radioactive wastes: The regulatory framework for the handling of radioactive waste rests upon the separation of responsibilities between three state managerial agencies in accordance with the Government Ordinances outlining their functions and the scope of authority. The Ministry of Emergency of the Republic of Belarus is entrusted with exercising state oversight over nuclear and radiation-dangerous manufacturing sites, as well as radioactive waste-producing and processing equipment. The Ministry also: issues licenses for the transportation, storage, processing and disposal of radioactive waste; maintains state records of nuclear and radioactive materials (waste); and develops and introduces regulations on nuclear and radiation safety. The Ministry of Health executes state sanitary control at all stages of the radioactive waste handling. The Ministry monitors radioactive exposure of the personnel and the population, issues permits for treating radioactive waste, and develops and introduces radiation safety regulations. The Committee for Overcoming the Consequences of the Chernobyl Nuclear Catastrophe: supervises the drafting of legal acts and other documents regulating the handling of deactivation radioactive waste of Chernobyl origin; implements the established disposal procedure; and controls its safety. The Cabinet of Ministers' National Radiation Protection Committee is an expert and consultative

body that exclusively deals with radiation safety. The regulatory framework governing the handling of radioactive waste comprises: laws; Government ordinances; special legal acts; and standards and norms on nuclear and radiation safety. The principal legal acts in these field are as follows: the Law of the Republic of Belarus "On Radiation Safety of the Population", enacted on January 5, 1998; the Law of the Republic of Belarus "On the Legal Regime of the Territories Contaminated as a Result of the Chernobyl Nuclear Catastrophe"; the Mineral Wealth Code of the Republic of Belarus; and the Law of the Republic of Belarus "On the Sanitary and Epidemiological Well-being of the Population". The treatment of radioactive waste is also dealt with in the Criminal Code of the Republic of Belarus. In addition, new Radiation Safety Guidelines were enacted in 2000. Belarus continues to comply with the radiation safety standards of the former USSR, which are as follows:

- Principal Sanitary Guidelines - 72/87;
- Sanitary Guidelines for Handling of Radioactive Waste – 85;
- Collection, Storage, Processing and Disposal of Radioactive Waste. Terms and Definitions. State Standard 17606 -81;
- Radiation Control in the Process of Disposal of Radioactive Waste. State Standard 12.1.048-85; and
- An additional state standard 22.8.02-97 entitled "Disposal of Radioactive Waste of Agro-Industrial Production", introduced on July 1, 1999.

The treatment of radioactive waste of Chernobyl origin is regulated by "The Temporary Sanitary Guidelines for Treating Deactivation Waste Produced in the Process of Battling the Consequences of the Chernobyl Nuclear Catastrophe". Having signed on October 13, 1999, the Uniform Convention on "Safe Handling of Spent Fuel and Radioactive Waste", the Republic of Belarus assumed the obligation to treat radioactive waste in full compliance with international requirements. The Draft Law on the ratification of this convention is presently in the works.

Programmes and Projects:

Hazardous wastes: The transportation of dangerous substances by truck, rail, plane or boat is regulated by the Rules of Carriage for each kind of transport.

Solid wastes: The methods of municipal waste disposal, described above, seek to: increase the efficiency of resource utilization; lower environmental risks; and to expand the share of recycled waste. These objectives formed the basis of the National Program of Municipal Waste Disposal, which was adopted by the Government in 1998. The Program set forth a systematic approach to the solution of the waste disposal problem. It envisioned a wide range of measures from the introduction of separate waste collection to waste recycling. The Housing Departments of the Minsk Regional City Executive Committee and the Minsk City Executive Committee have developed and are presently implementing Regional and City Municipal Waste Disposal Programs. Due to insufficient funding only 9.2% of the activities set forth in the National Program were actually carried out as of January 1, 2002. If the National Program is to be fully implemented, it should be funded by entities that produce waste and attract bank loans and foreign investors.

Radioactive wastes: Enforcement of safe handling of radioactive waste falls within the purview of the state system of the radioactive waste treatment that is part of the overall radiation safety infrastructure. State radiation safety specialists have developed the Strategy for the Treatment of Radioactive waste in the Republic of Belarus that was subsequently approved by the National Radiation Protection Committee and submitted to the Cabinet of Ministers for consideration. The strategy envisions gradual modernization of the components of the radioactive waste treatment system, which will be undertaken in the following principal areas:

- Development of legal acts and a special law and preparation of technical documentation in full compliance with international standards;
- Development and introduction of a financial mechanism for the implementation of all stages of the radioactive waste handling process;

- Creation of a state cadastre, which will contain extensive information regarding all radioactive waste disposal and storage sites, including the locations where deactivation waste of Chernobyl origin is stockpiled;
- Reconstruction of the disposal site run by Ekores Municipal Unitary Enterprise;
- Development of the required technology for the modification of the Ekores' disposal site;
- Construction of a new radioactive waste disposal site;
- Execution of design and construction of new sites for the disposal of deactivation waste of Chernobyl origin and measures to ensure their long-term safety; and
- Development of new technologies for the conditioning, transportation, storage and disposal of radioactive waste and modernization of the enterprises involved in these processes.

Once the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the Strategy, the State Program of the Radioactive Waste Handling will be developed on its basis. The National Academy of Sciences in cooperation with the Ministry of Emergencies developed and submitted to the Cabinet of Ministers a draft program for the selection of the new radioactive waste disposal site.

Status:
Hazardous wastes: No information available.
Solid wastes: No information available.
Radioactive wastes: Belarus presently has a centralized system of the radioactive waste handling. Under this system, only duly licensed enterprises are entrusted with conditioning, transportation and long term storage and disposal of radioactive waste. The Ekores Communal Unitary Enterprise located in the vicinity of Sosny, is authorized to transport and treat the radioactive waste that was produced by industry, medicine, and R&D activities. The Sosny disposal site has been in operation since 1964. In 1999, the Institute for the Radio Ecological Problems of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Belarus assessed the safety of this disposal site in accordance with international standards. The assessment demonstrated that although the current level of contamination fall within the established requirements, there exists a threat of radioactive contamination of drinking water with radio nuclides. The researchers concluded that the current level of radiation safety is not sufficient and measures should be taken to conserve the radioactive waste stored at the site and prevent radio nuclides contamination. A project entitled "Reconstruction of the Sosny Disposal Site," which was launched in 1997 in accordance with the Cabinet of Ministers' Ordinance N265 dated March 28, 1997, seeks to address these concerns. The project aims to bring the site safety system in compliance with modern requirements and create additional storage facilities that will be sufficient for the next ten or twenty years. The project envisions: the strengthening of the site's physical protection; modification of the monitoring system; improvement of the personnel working conditions; and introduction of new technologies. Its primary objective is to create safe conditions for the storage of radioactive waste, including that located in the first generation storage facilities. Although the first stage has been successfully completed, the project has been frozen due to lack of funding. The deactivation of the contaminated areas produced radioactive waste that is mostly stockpiled in open pits, ravines, hollows, and sometimes in specially dug trenches in the depopulated area. About 83 sites are presently known. Under the Program of the Handling of Deactivation Waste Produced in the Course of Liquidation of the Consequences of the Chernobyl Nuclear Disaster, Control and Utilization of the Disposal Sites, adopted June 6, 1993, the radiation safety of these disposal sites were ensured by means of the following measures: the inventory of the sites was duly conducted; the current state of the disposal sites was assessed and the recommendation for their maintenance were developed; and all sites were equipped in accordance with the recommendations of the Polesye Specialized Unitary Enterprise. To execute deactivation, the specialized "Radon and Polesye Republican Unitary Specialized Enterprises" were established under the aegis of the Committee for Overcoming the Consequences of the Chernobyl Nuclear Catastrophe. Deactivation is presently carried out only at the objects that are pivotal for the livelihood of the people, namely children and healthcare institutions and annually produces 30,000 tones of waste, which are stockpiled at eight custom-built storage facilities. Experts of the Institute for the Radio Ecological Problems of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Belarus have been monitoring the storage sites since 1993. The monitoring has made permissible to forecast the radio

nuclides migration from the disposal sites. It was concluded that only radio nuclides, that were accumulated in the sites' vicinity, could sip into the underground water. Consequently, the sites themselves do not represent any serious danger. The annual deactivation of ventilation systems and other equipment of enterprises located in the Gomel region produces up to 20 tones of liquid and from 10 to 20 tones of solid waste. To process this waste, in 2000 Polesye Enterprise launched a facility for the treatment of liquid and immobilization of solid radioactive waste. It allowed reducing the radiation exposure of the employees and improving the quality of concrete compounds that are the result of conditioning. The utilization of local fuel at contaminated territories annually produces about 13,500 tones of ash whose contamination level ranges from 9,7 to 500 kilo becquerels per kilogram. More than 30,000 m^3 of sewage sludge with the contamination level (Cs-137) from 27 to 60 kilo Becquerels per kilogram are accumulated at sewage disposal plants of cities located in the contaminated areas. The techniques for the treatment of this waste have not been developed yet due to insufficient funding.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:
Hazardous wastes: No information available.
Solid wastes: No information available.
Radioactive wastes: Presently, there are no training programs for radioactive waste handling specialists. However, a group of Belarussian experts has been trained within the framework of the projects of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Publications dealing with safe handling of radioactive waste have been carried by a number of news outlets in a bid to raise public awareness of radiation safety issues.

Information:
Hazardous wastes: No information available.
Solid wastes: No information available.
Radioactive wastes: Full scope of information about the safe handling of radioactive waste will be available at: http://www-newmdb.iaea.org, once the site has been constructed.

Research and Technologies:
Hazardous wastes: No information available.
Solid wastes: No information available.
Radioactive wastes: The technology of containerless waste fuel burial in closed wells is presently being developed. The feature that sets apart the new wells from the previously used ones is that the waste tank can be extracted if the circumstances warrant its removal. Under the reconstruction project, the experts of the National Academy of Sciences are presently developing a technology that will allow extracting the waste from the existing storage facilities for subsequent sorting and repacking to ensure safer storage and transportation. Pressing to reduce the volume and cementing to facilitate conditioning will be used to dispose of the waste.

Financing:
Hazardous wastes: No information available.
Solid wastes: No information available.
Radioactive wastes: The enterprise that generates radioactive waste reimburses the Ecores Communal Unitary Enterprise for the cost of waste transportation and burial in accordance with the rates adopted by the Pricing Department of the Minsk City Executive Committee. The waste producing enterprises are not obliged to pay for mothballing or modernization of old disposal and storage sites or for the construction of new ones. The funds required for these undertakings are to be allocated from the state budget. The handling of Chernobyl-related deactivation waste is financed by the state budget under the State Program for the Liquidation of the Consequences of the Chernobyl Nuclear Accident.

Cooperation:
Hazardous wastes: In the field of transportation of dangerous waste and other cargo, the Republic of Belarus has acceded to the following international agreements:

- Motor transport is regulated by the European Agreement on the Organization of Road Transportation of Dangerous Cargos, which was signed by Belarus in May 1993;
- Rail transport is regulated by the Agreement On Cargo Transportation, ratified by Belarus in October 1993;
- Air transport falls into the purview of the International Convention on International Civil Aviation (Annex 18 "Safe Transportation of Dangerous Cargo by Air"). Belarus has not acceded to this convention; and
- Water (river) transport falls within the scope of the European Agreement on International Transportation of Dangerous Cargo by Internal Waterways. Belarus has not ratified this agreement.

Solid wastes: No information available.
Radioactive wastes: The International Atomic Energy Agency implemented two technical assistance projects in Belarus, namely: a Model Project for the Modification of the National Infrastructure of Radiation Safety and Safe Waste Disposal (RER/9/056), which ran from 1996 to 2000, and a Project for the Reconstruction of Radioactive Waste Disposal Site of the Ecores Communal Unitary Enterprise (ÂÓÅ/4002), which was executed from 1997 to 2000. As a result, a group of radioactive waste treatment specialists received training and improved their professional qualifications. A new control and recording system, along with modern pressing, cementing, and dosimetric gauging equipment, were mounted at the Ecores' disposal and storage. To further boost the site's safety, a special television camera to monitor the radioactive waste in the storage facilities and a manipulator for handling the waste were installed. A total of US$ 300,000 was invested in the site modernization. Within the framework of the Protocol on Cooperation in the Fields of Radiation Safety and Waste Disposal concluded by Belarus and Sweden in December 1994, expert assessment of the legislation dealing with safe handling of waste was conducted. In addition, the potential risks posed by the deactivation waste disposal sites were also evaluated.

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CHAPTERS 24 TO 32: STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF MAJOR GROUPS

Women: No information available.

Children and youth: No information available.

Indigenous people: No information available.

Non-governmental organizations: No information available.

Local authorities: No information available.

Workers and trade unions: No information available.

Business and industry: No information available.

Scientific and technological community: No information available.

Farmers: No information available.

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CHAPTER 33: FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND MECHANISMS

Decision-Making: No information available.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 35: SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Decision-Making: The current legislation covers most aspects of R&D and innovation activities. Although Belarus has a considerable R&D potential, it is unable to carry out research in some key areas. The implementation of the recently-adopted Sustainable Development Concept that envisions modernization of the national economy will require tens of thousands specialists in new spheres of science, technology, industry and agriculture. It is forecasted, that the university curriculums in the post-industrial society, will be almost fully changed by 2010. To increase the share of science-intensive products to 50%, 60,000 innovative employees will be required in industry and R&D institutions. This calls for an urgent creation of a staff training and re-training system to enable employees to use and create modern technologies.
The required changes in the state system were executed from 1992 to 1994 when the Committee for Science and Technology was established. In 1997, it was transformed into the State Committee for Science and Technology and the State Patent Committee. The State Committee for Standardization, Metrology and Certification and the State Highest Examination Committee in cooperation with other state agencies are entrusted with shaping and implementing the state policy in the field of science and technology. In 1997, the Presidential Decree transformed the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Belarus into the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Belarus and conferred the status of the highest state research agency to the new entity. The Academy's primary task is the coordination of fundamental research throughout the country. Over the same period of time the legal framework for the development of science and innovation and the protection of intellectual property was put into place. The priority areas of R&D activities for the period from 1996 to 2000 were also singled out. The system of research funding and the procedure for the formulation and implementation of the state research and development projections were reconsidered. The state system for the support of research and innovation activities and the facilitating infrastructure are being actively developed. The national certification scheme for research fellows and teaching staff has been enacted and the legal framework outlining contractual relations has been enacted. The cooperation of Belarussian research institutions with foreign counterparts is on the rise.

The year 2001 saw the inception of another reform effort to increase the efficiency of the state agencies supervising R&D activities and the National Academy of Science. Presidential Decree N25 "On Increasing the Role of Science and Reforming the Belarussain National Academy of Science", dated October 17, 2001, stipulated that the reformation of the Belarussain National Academy of Science should be accorded the priority status. The reformation should be aimed at boosting the Academy's role in: the development and coordination of the Belarussian science; promotion of technological progress; effective solution of the objectives set before the national economy; and advancement of the Belarussian culture. Science and innovation are the driving forces of the socio-economic progress. The state scientific and innovation policy is designed to further the country's development and to reflect the present-day realities. However, as R&D activities are severely constrained by a lack of funds and resources, R&D efforts are focused on the modification of existing technologies rather than the development of new know-how. The insufficiently developed marketing of inventions and scientific forecasting further exacerbates the situation. In addition,
there exists limited demand for modern technologies on the part of industry that in turn makes the commercialization of inventions difficult. To turn the R&D sector into the driving force of the economic development, the rate of science intensity of the GDP should be increased to 1.8% as set forth in the 2001 – 2005 Program for Socio-Economic Development. This will allow alleviating financial problems presently encountered at the final stages of innovation projects as well as to develop and implement a set of measures aimed at reformation of the R&D organizational structure. The following measures seek to boost the effectiveness of fundamental and applied research projects: systematic assessment of the efficiency of research institutions and redirection of funding from the inefficient research units to the more productive ones; creation of conditions for the introduction of new themes of the fundamental and applied research to reflect the priorities set forth in the state science and technology programs, which in

turn will make the research results more easily marketable; and formation and implementation of the policy of the Belarussain National Academy of Science as a primary research and coordination center with active participation of the interested state agencies and the scientific community. The efficiency of scientific and innovation activities will be boosted by the following means:

- development and implementation of measures aimed at modernization of the Belarussian industry using local R&D attainments;
- modification of measures of direct and indirect state support of R&D and innovation activities;
- improvement of the legal regulation of relations arising between a researcher and an employer regarding the rights to the research results to account for the interests of both parties;
- creation of conditions for the emergence of knowledge-based entrepreneurship; and
- development of the most effective forms of international cooperation in the field of R&D.

Programmes and Projects: The year 2000 saw the completion of 38 state programs in the field of fundamental research, which involved 125 research organizations and higher education institutions. Under these research programs, a total of: 517 monographs; 23,861 articles and preprints; 10,651 reports; 172 handbooks and methodological manuals; and 318 compilations and brochures were prepared. The researchers, involved: earned 201 doctorate degrees and 571 PhDs; obtained 317 patents; and submitted 239 patent applications. The results attained are of significant scientific and practical value, a fact confirmed by their utilization in the process of execution of international research projects and the interest expressed by local and foreign companies.
In 2000, a total of 40 state research programs and 120 innovation projects were fully or partially executed. In addition, assistance was provided in the implementation of a number presidential and state programs and seven sectoral and five regional research programs were also completed. In 2000, a total of BRB 55,3 billion was allocated for R&D. Of this, 25% (BRB 13,9 billion) was allotted from the state budget. The R&D budget included funds for the commercialization of the R&D findings. At the pre-production stage In 2000 were: 504 new kinds of machines, equipment and instruments; 327 new materials and substances; 424 new technological processes; 46 sorts and hybrids of plants; two breeds; and 26 medicines. A total of 114 types of microelectronic, machine and instrument building equipment and agricultural goods entered production. An estimated 39% of the inventions were introduced for serial production and a further 40% are at the pre-production stage, which is a fairly high commercialization rate if ubiquitous financial shortages are taken into account.

Status: The following priorities are set forth in the 2001-2005 Program of Social and Economic Development of the Republic of Belarus: creation of an effective healthcare system; boosting of investment and innovation activities; increase in the volume of export of goods and services; further development of the housing construction sector; and development of the industrial-industrial complex and related industries. In his speech at the Second All-Belarussian Convention conducted on May 18, 2001, President Lukashenko described science as a key tool for the implementation of the above-listed priorities and stated that the R&D activities should be rendered more efficient to enable the industry to master progressive technologies. He also stated that a single complex for the development of software and other computer-related products should be established; and the innovation activity to improve the competitiveness of Belarussian-made goods should be given a boost. The President pledged to create an enabling environment for researchers to improve their efficiency and stem the brain drain.
Over the last five years, the GDP scientific intensity was maintained at 0.8% to 0.9%. The highest scientific intensity rate, registered among the member states of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, ranges from 2.55% to – 3%. The 2001 -2005 Program of Social and Economic Development of the Republic of Belarus envisions to elevate the scientific intensity rate to 1,8% by 2005. A total of 307 institutions are presently involved in R&D activities. 42 ministries and state agencies supervise them. The majority of research cadres and financial resources (74.3% of research institutions, 82.5% of researchers, 85.9% of funds) are controlled by: the Belarussain National Academy of Science; the ministries of Industry, Education, Healthcare and Agriculture; state powder metallurgy

concerns; and Belneftehim State Oil and Chemicals Concern. The Academy of Science and research institution supervised by the ministries execute 88% of all fundamental research projects.
The survey of 176 industrial enterprises of nine sectors of the national economy, conducted in 2000, revealed that: 39% of the innovation projects are implemented by the enterprises themselves; 38% in cooperation with higher education and research institutions; and 22% in conjunction with other legal entities. Leasing accounted for a meager percentage of the technological equipment acquired (ten out of 2,530 instances). Most respondents identified the following factors that hinder innovation activities: prohibitive implementation costs; economic risks; lack of funds; and absence of state assistance. Research institutions also suffer from the dire lack of modern equipment as the depreciation of the active portion of their fixed assets has reached 80%. Although only from 7% to 10% of the funds budgeted for R&D were allocated for the refurbishment of the fixed assets, it was sufficient for the acquisition of some expensive instruments and equipment. To a great extent, the State Program "Instruments for Research" alleviates the current situation. In 2000, more than 20 unique installations, gauging complexes and instruments for physical-chemical research of the composition and structure of substances and solution of medical and biological problems, were created.
Accessibility and availability of scientific information are one the prerequisites of R&D development and commercialization of inventions. A program for the creation of scientific informational system has been implemented since 2000. The first stage of this system was launched the same year. Computer networks of the Ministry of Education and the Academy of Science along with other 25 research and educational institutions have been linked up by means of a fiber-optic cable. Library automation software has also been developed for: the National Library of the Republic of Belarus; the Republican Scientific Library; and the Belarussian State University's Fundamental Library.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: In 2000, the number of R&D workers decreased from 33,588 to 32,926, largely due to the staff turnover, which over the last four years has averaged out at 40%. While the number of researchers holding doctoral degrees registered an increase of 11%, the number of PhD holders went down by 6.5%. The percentage of specialists in the 30-40 age group, which is considered the most productive one, decreased from 62.6% to 49.4%. The share of the researchers in the 60 and older age group nearly doubled and reached 10.8% in 2000. The Ministry of Agriculture employs the largest percentage of doctors of science (68,7%). The average age of people seeking to take out a doctoral degree or a PhD has remained unchanged over the last five years and currently stands at 50 for doctors of science and 35 for holders of PhDs. In 2000, the average age of researchers with science degrees equaled 53, which is higher than in the developed countries, which average out at 44. The share of researchers falling in the 29 and younger age group has registered an increase from 13.5% to 16.8%. To reverse the negative trends in the training of researchers, the Belarussain National Academy of Science prepared a draft state program entitled "Research Cadres" and submitted it to the Council of Ministers for consideration.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: In 2000, the R&D spending equaled BRB 65955.3 million. The state budget provided BRB 29353.5 million or 44.5% of this sum. The state budget is the most stable investor in R&D, as only 5% of the funds committed to R&D by the sectoral innovation funds were actually disbursed. The percentage of actually allocated funds for the refurbishment of production assets was markedly higher and stood at 88%. Individual enterprises are by far the largest investors in R&D projects with 64.1% of the overall funds invested, followed by foreign inventors with 17%. About 17% of the R&D projects were paid for with loans. Only 0.7% of the bank loans were extended at discount rates. The sources of funding mentioned above are likely to retain their leading role in the foreseeable future. In 2001, the activities of the Belarussain National Academy of Science were financed by the state budget and income earned through execution of commercial contracts and international research projects. In accordance with the Cabinet of

Ministers' Ordinance N40 "On Limitation of Funding to Finance R&D and Innovation Activities", dated January 1, 2001, the National Academy of Science received BRB 18451317.5 thousand.

Cooperation: Belarus is actively involved in international scientific cooperation through implementation of joint R&D projects, and participation in seminars, conferences, exhibitions and exchange programs. To date, Belarus has concluded more than 30 bilateral agreements on cooperation in the field of R&D. Particular emphasis is placed on cooperation with: Russia, CIS countries, China, Germany and the Middle East. In 2000, a total of US$ 5 million was invested by foreign partners in the implementation of joint R&D projects, which generated US$ 53 million in revenues. The Belarussain National Academy of Science is also expanding its network of international contacts. In 2001, it signed cooperation agreements with the Academies of Science of Austria, Lithuania and Hei Lutsyan Province of China and a memorandum of understanding with Austria's International Institute of Applied Systems Analysis. To date, the Belarussain National Academy of Science has concluded a total of 33 agreements and implemented more than 200 international projects with partners from 60 countries. The development of closer ties with the Academies of Science and other research institutions of the CIS countries and Russia in particular under the auspices of the International Association of Academies of Science has remained a priority. The Belarussain National Academy of Sciences has been involved in the majority of projects jointly executed by Russia and Belarus. The Belarussain National Academy of Sciences is also extensively engaged in international research programs of UNESCO, IAEA, and Europe's INTAS (International Association for the promotion of cooperation with scientists from the New Independent States of the Former Soviet Union) and INCO-Copernicus (International Cooperation Programme in the Field of Research and Technological Development between the EU and the Countries of Central and Eastern Europe). Some R&D projects have been commissioned by Germany, the USA, India, Korea, the Netherlands, and Yugoslavia.

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CHAPTER 36: PROMOTING EDUCATION, PUBLIC AWARENESS AND TRAINING

Decision-Making: No information available.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 37: NATIONAL MECHANISMS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR CAPACITY-BUILDING IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

This issue has been covered under the heading **Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising** in the various chapters of this Profile.

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CHAPTER 38: INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

This issue deals mainly with activities undertaken by the UN System

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CHAPTER 39: INTERNATIONAL LEGAL INSTRUMENTS AND MECHANISMS

Decision-Making: No information available.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 40: INFORMATION FOR DECISION-MAKING

Decision-Making: No information available.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER: INDUSTRY

Decision-Making: No information available.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER: SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

Decision-Making: The Ministry of Sport and Tourism is a principal state agency that supervises sustainable tourism. The Law of the Republic of Belarus "On Tourism" dated November 25, 1999, sets forth the guidelines for the utilization of tourist resources. The 2001-2005 National Tourism Development Program, adopted by the Government's Ordinance, outlines a roadmap for the development of the tourism industry.

Programmes and Projects: Belarus has adopted the following programs spanning different spheres of economic endeavor and environment protection to create the conditions for the sustainable development of the tourism industry:

- National Sustainable Tourism Strategy;
- Regional strategy for the promotion of sustainable tourism development under a TACIS-funded project entitled "Regional Development and Environment Protection in the Neman Region";
- "Public Health" National Program;
- Territorial Organization Scheme of the Republic of Belarus;
- Project called "Long-term Program for the Regeneration of Historical Cities of the Republic of Belarus for a Period from 2002 to 2005";
- 1997-2005 Roads of Belarus State Program; and
- State Policy Concept for the Protection of Environment for a Period of up to 2015.

Status: The introduction of the sustainable development principles in the tourism industry is demand-driven. As the level of public environmental awareness is high, the ecological safety largely shapes the choice of destination and forms of holiday-making. This factor also feeds the growth of alternative kinds of tourism, namely ecological tourism.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: The problems of sustainable development of the tourism industry have been embodied in the curriculums of higher educational institutions, including the High School of Tourism run by the Belarussian State Economic University.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: The 2002-2005 Research Program adopted at the Belarussian State Economic University's High School of Tourism envisions the development of conceptual approaches to the formation of the national sustainable development model for the tourism industry.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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