

**BELARUS**

Address by

His Excellency Sergei Martynov**Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belarus**

to the high-level meeting of the General Assembly
'Africa's development needs: state of
implementation of various commitments,
challenges and the way forward'

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**Response to the Africa's
development needs is
a critical maturity test
for the whole of humankind**

Africa is a definitive point of reference for the development of humankind. Humankind was born in Africa. Through the trials and sacrifice of Africa the world recovered from the plague of world-wide colonialism. Fighting the global challenges in Africa might be crucial for the future of humankind as the challenges Africa faces represent the most acute, win-or-die situations which the human race has never faced before. This is why a response to the Africa's development needs is **a critical maturity test** for all of us.

Belarus believes that **the whole of international community should invest in Africa**, especially the nations which have undertaken such commitments. This pledge of assistance includes Belarus as well. Despite its non-donor status, Belarus is willing to explore the innovative ways of investment in Africa – through **education, trade, cooperation in technology, through our extensive experience in agriculture.**

Belarus regards itself as a long-standing partner and reliable friend of Africa. The most recent example of our practical engagement to help meet Africa's needs was the Ministerial Conference on Developmental Co-Operation with Middle Income Countries (Namibia, August 2008). We are honoured to be an active participant of this process for the sake of Africa and for the sake of the world's needy.

In order to make Africa more secure and sustainable – economically, socially, politically – the international community should not only assist with financing Africa's development needs but also **accord a much more profound and sincere trust in the African peoples' ages-long wisdom, desire to live and ability to manage their own affairs.** Strengthening of the capacity of the African Union to maintain regional peace and stability is a topic we are all very much interested in. The United Nations Security Council should find the practical ways to encourage the enhancement of the role of the African Union as well as support the Peace and Security Council of the African Union with its authority and universal legitimacy.

A joint **Africa-UN Strategy** may contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by all African countries and would be a useful overarching long-term framework for the Africa-UN cooperation. The first action plan under the strategy could chart some concrete elements for a specified term, similarly to the new Africa-EU strategic partnership. The strategy could be worked out on the basis of the lessons and achievements of NEPAD.