



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
21 September 2013
English
Original: Russian

Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

List of issues in relation to the combined fourth, fifth and sixth periodic reports of Belarus (E/C.12/BLR/4-6), adopted by the pre-sessional working group at its fifty-first session (21–24 May 2013)

Addendum

Replies of Belarus to the list of issues*

[10 September 2013]

* In accordance with the information transmitted to States parties regarding the processing of their reports, the present document has not been formally edited.

Contents

	<i>Paragraphs</i>	<i>Page</i>
I. General information	1–8	3
II. Issues relating to the general provisions of the Covenant	9–29	4
Article 2. Non-discrimination	9–21	4
Article 3. Equal rights of men and women.....	22–23	5
III. Issues relating to the specific provisions of the Covenant	24–195	6
Article 6. The right to work	24–43	6
Article 7. The right to just and favourable conditions of work	44–54	9
Article 8. Trade union rights	55–72	10
Article 9. The right to social security	73–87	11
Article 10. Protection of the family, mothers and children	88–123	13
Article 11. The right to an adequate standard of living.....	124–136	17
Article 12. The right to physical and mental health	137–169	18
Articles 13 and 14. The right to education	170–184	23
Article 15. Cultural rights	185–195	25
Annexes		27

I. General information

Reply to questions raised in paragraph 1 of the list of issues (E/C.12/WG/BLR/Q/4-6)

1. The provisions of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and other international instruments to which Belarus is a party are incorporated in its domestic legislation, as stipulated in its International Treaties Act. Accordingly, when disputes arise that cannot be resolved under domestic law, the courts may invoke international agreements and treaties. From 2010, to the present, the Covenant has not been cited by the courts.
2. Under the Act on Appeals by Citizens and Legal Persons, citizens and legal persons, foreign nationals and stateless persons, corporate entities, individual entrepreneurs and representatives of foreign organizations who are present in the territory of Belarus have the right to file complaints with the appropriate institutions in writing, electronic form or by oral statement taken during a personal interview. Complaints are dealt with in a period of 15 to 30 days, the latter if the complaint requires supplementary study or verification. Where the complaint raises issues beyond the competence of the institution with which it has been filed, the complainant is notified within no more than five days. At the same time, the complaint is either forwarded to the competent authority and the complainant informed thereof, or else the complainant is referred to the appropriate authority and informed of the steps to be taken to resolve the issues raised in the complaint.
3. Under the Code of Civil Procedure, persons who believe that any of their rights under the Covenant have been violated are entitled to file complaints with their local (city or district) courts and appeal court decisions to a higher institution, such as the regional courts, Minsk City Court and the Supreme Court.
4. Moreover, persons whose rights or interests that are protected under the law have been infringed through a court decision have the right to request a supervisory review within three years of the entry into force of the decision. Civil cases may thus be taken away from a court with a view to supervisory review by a higher institution or procuratorial supervision of judicial proceedings. Recourse to procuratorial supervision is the final step towards exhaustion of all available domestic remedies.
5. Persons who, having exhausted all such remedies, consider that any of their rights have been violated may address themselves to the Human Rights Committee or the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

Reply to questions raised in paragraph 2 of the list of issues

6. Belarus is studying the experiences of other States with the establishment and operation of national human rights institutions, bearing in mind the provisions of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action that proclaim the right of each State to choose the framework which is best suited to its particular needs at the national level.
7. Any such institution must not duplicate the work of the human rights mechanisms already in place. In Belarus, these are: the National Commission on the Rights of the Child (with branch offices in all regional centres), the National Council on Gender Policy, the Inter-Ethnic Advisory Council, the Inter-Faith Advisory Council, the National Council on Labour and Social Questions, the Interdepartmental Council on the Problems of the Disabled, the Interdepartmental Commission on Older Persons, Veterans and Victims of War, the Council on the Updating of Social and Labour Legislation and the Community Coordinating Council on the Mass Media.

8. In April 2013, a national seminar on fundamental mechanisms for the defence and protection of human rights was conducted in Brest under the auspices of a civil society association, the Belarusian section of the International Society for Human Rights, and the Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme in Belarus. The seminar was attended by representatives of ministries and departments, the scientific community, NGOs and international organizations, including the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

II. Issues relating to the general provisions of the Covenant (arts. 1–5)

Article 2, paragraph 2 Non-discrimination

Reply to questions raised in paragraph 3 of the list of issues

9. Under article 22 of the Constitution, all are equal before the law and have the right, without discrimination, to equal protection of their rights and lawful interests.

10. The principle of equality or equal of rights of citizens is enshrined in the provisions of sector-specific legislation and is implemented effectively.

11. Article 190 of the Criminal Code states that the intentional direct or indirect violation or restriction of rights and freedoms and the establishment of direct or indirect advantages on the basis of gender, race, ethnicity, language, origin, financial or official status, place of residence, attitude towards religion, belief or membership of public associations, where such actions result in substantial harm to an individual's rights, freedoms and lawful interests, shall be punishable by a fine, up to two years of reduced pay for labour, restriction of liberty for the same period or deprivation of liberty for up to two years, with or without deprivation of the right to hold certain posts or engage in certain activities.

Reply to questions raised in paragraph 4 of the list of issues

Legislative measures

12. Under article 22 of the Constitution, all are equal before the law and have the right, without discrimination, to equal protection of their rights and lawful interests. Persons living with HIV/AIDS enjoy the same rights as other citizens.

13. The right to affordable health services under the Health Care Act is implemented through the provision of free health care, the option of being treated in public and non-State-run institutions or, at one's own expense, by private practitioners, the availability of affordable medicines and measures to promote public health.

14. Article 14 of the Labour Code prohibits discrimination in the workplace. Persons living with HIV/AIDS and members of their families may not be dismissed from work, refused a job, denied treatment in health care institutions or, in the case of children, refused admission to children's establishments; their housing and other rights may not be infringed, nor may their lawful interests be restricted.

15. The Education Code guarantees the right of all to education, provides for equal access to education, and stipulates that a basic general level of education is obligatory for all citizens of Belarus, without exception or discrimination. In addition, foreign nationals

and stateless persons permanently resident in Belarus and stateless persons with refugee status are guaranteed the same right to education as nationals of Belarus.

16. The Minimum Social Standards Act sets minimum Government benchmarks, equally applicable to persons living with HIV/AIDS, in the areas of pay, pensions, education, health care, culture, housing and municipal services, social support and social services.

17. The Family Allowances for Children Act provides for the payment of benefits for children living with HIV/AIDS up to the age of 18. Parents who are off work to care for such children have the time counted as part of their years of service.

Practical steps

18. The fourth State programme on HIV prevention for 2011–2015 is currently under way, aimed at containing the spread of HIV infection in Belarus and reducing the level of AIDS-related mortality. It focuses on, among other things, medical diagnosis and treatment and psychosocial therapy; prevention; efforts to improve the national HIV/AIDS surveillance system; and measures to address the spread of HIV infection. Specific steps have been developed to ensure that people living with HIV/AIDS have access to treatment and care and to provide physical, mental and social rehabilitation for drug users.

19. Efforts to prevent stigmatization of and discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS are undertaken in close cooperation with NGOs and international organizations such as the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), including as part of international technical assistance projects.

20. In 2009, a project was implemented with a view to making reproductive health information and services more accessible to people living with HIV/AIDS, in the course of which the competencies and attitudes of sexual and reproductive health specialists with regard to persons living with HIV/AIDS were studied.

21. Concurrently, a large-scale "Stigma Index" survey was conducted in Belarus for the first time from 10 August to 30 November 2009, with a view to acquiring an understanding of the extent to which persons living with HIV/AIDS face stigmatization and discrimination, seeing how this is manifested and assessing how the principle of involving persons living with HIV/AIDS in decision-making is being upheld. Belarus was the first country in the region to conduct the survey, the results of which were used in planning for the fourth State programme on HIV prevention.

Article 3

Equal rights of men and women

Reply to questions raised in paragraph 5 of the list of issues

22. Under the National Plan of Action for Gender Equality for 2011–2015, the following initial results have been achieved:

- An outline plan on implementing gender equality, including indicators and specific objectives aimed at creating the conditions for equitable representation of women and men in management and decision-making positions, has been drafted;
- The regulations governing the National Council on Gender Policy, attached to the Council of Ministers, have been ratified. This is a permanent body for the coordination of matters related to public policy on gender equality and the monitoring of implementation of the provisions of the Convention on the

Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol. The members of the National Council include representatives of Parliament, the President's Office and the Supreme Court; heads of Government agencies, local authorities and administrative bodies; representatives of NGOs; and scientists dealing with gender equality issues;

- Working groups of experts on the implementation of gender policy have been set up in the regional and Minsk city executive committees. They include representatives of the legislative, executive and judicial branches and of NGOs;
- Emulating initiatives in Sweden and the Russian Federation, "Papa schools" have been established in the Leninsky, Sovietsky, Pervomaisky and Partizansky districts of Minsk, where weekly classes are held for young fathers on the basics of responsible parenthood, the part fathers play in child-raising and family relations. Online, young fathers can share experiences and seek psychologists' advice on bringing up their children at www.papaschool.org and groups in social networks;
- In May 2011, a round-table discussion on implementing gender policy in Belarus was held, attended by representatives of 16 civil society associations and international organizations. In November 2011, an international seminar on trends in the family and family policy took place with the involvement of international advisers to parliamentarians, representatives of State and local authorities and international and local NGOs;
- In 2012, a nationwide "Family of the year" contest, aimed at reinforcing the spiritual and moral foundations of the family and renewing and raising awareness of family values and traditions, was held for the first time;
- In December 2012, a national conference on the theme "The young family – yesterday, today and tomorrow", with a workshop on gender equality as a contributing factor to family stability, was organized with the support of UNFPA;
- Justice and court officials regularly conduct activities to increase the legal literacy of the public, including young students, in the area of family law, the promotion of family values and responsible parenthood. In 2012, 61,929 events were staged, and in 2011, 58,381 were held.

23. In addition, international technical assistance projects are conducted in conjunction with international organizations and NGOs with a view to promoting gender equality by tackling domestic violence (detailed information is provided under paragraph 16 of the list of issues).

III. Issues relating to the specific provisions of the Covenant (arts. 6–15)

Article 6

The right to work

Reply to questions raised in paragraph 6 of the list of issues

24. The current system of job placement services and social supports specifically intended for the unemployed most in need of assistance make up the toolkit used to facilitate the employment of young people, women, people living in rural areas and the unemployed, giving them guarantees of extra help from the Government in finding jobs.

25. In 2013, the following have received help in their search for work:
- 1,100 persons with disabilities (2,300 in 2012 and 2,400 in 2009);
 - 25,100 young persons (50,800 in 2012 and 53,800 in 2009);
 - 19,100 women (40,900 in 2012 and 41,500 in 2009);
 - 14,300 persons living in rural areas (28,900 in 2012 and 26,900 in 2009).
26. Statistics on employment, unemployment and measures to promote employment are by law not disaggregated on the basis of ethnic background.
27. Pursuant to a 2008 Presidential decree on the issuance of identity papers, the ethnic origin of citizens is never specified, either directly or indirectly, in such documents. The purpose is to prevent discrimination in job placement, access to education and other areas where one is required to produce identification. Nevertheless, individuals may request that their ethnic origin be mentioned in their passport.
28. Article 10 of the Employment Act also stipulates that the Government's employment promotion policy shall be aimed at: the provision of equal opportunities for all, irrespective of sex, race, ethnic background, language, religious or political convictions, membership in trade unions or other civil society associations, financial or professional status, age, place of residence, physical or mental disabilities that do not hinder the performance of work duties, other criteria unrelated to the requisite professional skills, the specific workplace functions or the position to be occupied; the fulfilment of the right to work, meaning the right to choose one's profession, type of occupation or job in accordance with one's vocation, capabilities, education and training, taking into account the needs of society; and the fulfilment of the right to enjoy healthy and safe working conditions.
29. Nevertheless, according to the 2009 census, only 68.61 per cent (67.54 per cent of men and 69.95 per cent of women) of Roma above the age of 15 years was employed, mainly in the private sector, making the unemployment rate in this group 31.39 per cent (32.46 per cent of men and 30.05 per cent of women respectively).
30. A Government employment promotion programme for 2013 aims to use labour resources more effectively and make workers more competitive on the labour market.
31. Statistics regarding the effectiveness of public employment policy appear in annexes 1 and 2.

Reply to questions raised in paragraph 7 of the list of issues

32. Over the past three years, the shadow economy in Belarus has fluctuated from 8 to 10 per cent of gross domestic product annually. Statistics on employment by sector of the economy appear in annex 3.
33. The principal tax-related offences that make up the greater part of the shadow economy in Belarus include wilful concealment of income, unlawful claims for value added tax (VAT) deductions, failure to register business activities and payment of wages "under the table".
34. In order to curb the informal economy, the tax authorities concentrate their attention first and foremost on sectors and activities in which tax evasion is most likely to flourish. More often than not, activity in the informal economy involves "fly-by-night" private companies, so called because they are set up to operate for one or two years: by law, the tax authorities may not conduct inspections of businesses in the first two years of their existence.

35. Employees who agree to being paid part or all of their wages under the table lose the social security benefits to which they would have been entitled had they been officially employed – primarily their pensions, which are calculated on the basis of the amount of declared wages. An employee who has never officially declared a wage income can count on receiving only social welfare benefits. Employees in the informal economy generally take a loss of earnings for holidays and sick leave. They encounter difficulties in purchasing goods on credit, because only the minimum wage is listed in statements of their earnings. On the other hand, their unofficial pay is generally much higher than the average monthly wage nationwide and the average official wage in the relevant sector.

Reply to questions raised in paragraph 8 of the list of issues

36. The use of short-term employment contracts in Belarus is governed by a Presidential decree of 1999 on measures to improve labour relations and strengthen workplace discipline.

37. A short-term contract is an employment contract concluded in writing and valid for a specified period of time. It may be concluded only if the employer and employee agree on all of the terms. An employment contract of unlimited duration may be switched to a short-term contract only in the event of significant changes in workplace conditions, which may arise for production, organizational or economic reasons, the existence of which the employee may dispute in the courts. Short-term contracts may range in length from one to five years.

38. Given that short-term contracts are simply a form of fixed-term employment agreement for people working on a contractual basis, all the requisite guarantees under the labour legislation remain in force. In addition, under paragraph 2.5 of the Decree, workers must be provided with the incentives that undoubtedly constitute the attraction of short-term contracts: extra paid leave of up to five calendar days and a wage increment of up to 50 per cent of base pay, unless a greater sum is stipulated under the law.

39. Short-term contract workers are also entitled under the law to increased rates of compensation for breaches by employers of the terms of the contract. In the event of early termination of a short-term contract due to failure of the employer to comply or to properly comply with its conditions, the employee is entitled to compensation in an amount equivalent to at least three months' average earnings, whereas breaches of other types of employment contracts trigger severance payments equivalent to only two weeks' average earnings.

40. Under the law, certain categories of worker enjoy the protection of special measures with regard to short-term contracts. They include pregnant women, workers with children under 5 or disabled children under 18 years of age and employees nearing retirement age, from the age of 53 or 58 for women and men, respectively.

41. Early termination of the employment relationship is an option envisaged solely for the employee. Thus, article 40 of the Labour Code states that the employee has the right to terminate an employment contract of unlimited duration by providing the employer with written notice at least one month in advance.

42. The law does not invest employers with the same right, and the grounds on which employers may terminate an employment contract are strictly regulated.

43. In Belarus, as in legal systems elsewhere, ending employment at the expiration of a fixed-term employment contract is not deemed to be termination at the employer's discretion. The law therefore obliges neither the employer nor the employee to justify the decision not to renew an expired contract: the contract's expiration constitutes sufficient grounds for its termination.

Article 7

The right to just and favourable conditions of work

Reply to questions raised in paragraph 9 of the list of issues

44. On 1 January 2013, the monthly minimum wage was set at Rbl 1,395,000 (around US\$ 155). The ratio of the monthly minimum wage to the per capita minimum consumption budget for a family of four as at the start of 2013 was 100.2 per cent; the ratio to average wages from January to December 2012 was 37.9 per cent.

45. Throughout the year, the minimum wage is adjusted for inflation in accordance with the legislation.

Reply to questions raised in paragraph 10 of the list of issues

46. According to the Constitution, women and men, adults and minors, have the right to equal remuneration for work of equal value.

47. Article 14 of the Labour Code prohibits discrimination in labour relations, namely the restriction of employment rights or the provision of advantages on the basis of gender, race, ethnic origin, language, religious or political outlook, membership of trade unions or other civil society associations, financial or official status or physical or mental disabilities that do not impede the performance of the requisite work duties.

48. Persons who believe they have been subjected to discrimination in the workplace are entitled to apply to the courts for measures to put an end to the discrimination.

49. These provisions are fully reflected in government regulations on wages. The level of earnings is not affected by the employee's gender or age.

50. Where they have the same educational level as men and all other things are equal, women are entitled to receive the same pay as men for equal work. Women with a higher educational level than men are entitled to occupy higher-level posts, and receive correspondingly higher salaries.

51. Women's wages averaged 74.5 per cent of men's in all sectors of the economy according to statistics as at December 2012, while women constituted 53.8 per cent of the total workforce.

52. The lower level of women's wages is attributable to a number of objective factors. Women themselves choose less strenuous jobs with convenient working hours, and as a rule, these tend to be in the services sector or in sectors such as education, culture, social work, textiles and clothing manufacture, retail trades and public catering.

53. Detailed statistics are furnished in annex 4.

Reply to questions raised in paragraph 11 of the list of issues

54. Under article 170, paragraph 1, of the Criminal Code, it is a criminal offence to compel a person to engage in sexual relations, sodomy, lesbianism or other activities of a sexual nature by means of blackmail, threats to destroy, damage or remove property or by taking advantage of the victim's professional, material or other dependence. This offence is punishable by restrictions on freedom of movement for up to three years or by detention for the same length of time.

Article 8

Trade union rights

Reply to questions raised in paragraph 12 (a) of the list of issues

55. The law defines a trade union as a voluntary social organization whose members, including students at technical institutes, specialized secondary schools and higher educational institutions, are united by common goals of defending their labour, social and economic rights and interests based on type of employment, whether in productive or non-productive sectors.

56. The mandatory conditions governing the formation of trade unions depend on the type of trade union:

- National trade unions require at least 500 founding members from a majority of provinces;
- Regional trade unions require at least 500 founding members from a majority of administrative districts in the region;
- Sectoral trade unions require at least 10 per cent of the workforce or student body, and in all cases no fewer than 10 persons.

57. In order to register a trade union, the following documents must be submitted to the authorities within one month of the date of the decision to set up the trade union: application, statutes, record of the constituent meeting, bank certification that State registration fees have been paid, list of founding members, certification of registered address, accreditation of at least three members by the trade union's governing body to represent the trade union in the registration process or in the courts, logo (graphic design), lists of members of electoral bodies, certification of prepaid State registration announcement in the official gazette ("*Respublika*") or in the official publications of the provinces and the City of Minsk, and a publication contract.

58. Citizens of Belarus may both set up trade unions and join existing ones. Foreign nationals and stateless persons may only join existing trade unions.

Reply to questions raised in paragraph 12 (b) of the list of issues

59. The right to organize through trade unions is accorded to all citizens, including students at technical institutes, specialized secondary schools and higher educational institutions.

60. No restrictions of any labour, social, economic, political or personal rights and freedoms guaranteed by the law follow from membership of trade unions.

61. By law, judges, procuratorial officials, police officers, members of the State Audit Committee, security agents and military personnel may not be members of political parties or civil society organizations that pursue political aims. It follows that there are no restrictions on the formation of trade unions, provided that their activities are limited to the defence of employment, social and economic rights.

Reply to questions raised in paragraph 13 of the list of issues

62. Under article 11 of the Labour Code, one of the fundamental rights of workers is the right to strike.

63. According to the legislation, a strike is a temporary, deliberate refusal by workers to perform all or part of their work duties with the aim of resolving a collective dispute.

64. A strike may be called not later than three months after the rejection of proposals by a conciliation commission or, where the parties have had recourse to a mediator or labour tribunal, after the rejection of proposals by the former or dispute of the decision of the latter, except in cases where the parties are legally bound by such decisions.

65. The provision of material aid to strikers by political parties, movements or other civil society organizations that pursue political goals, or by foreign nationals or corporate entities, is prohibited.

66. Under the Trade Unions Act, political demands may not be advanced when strikes are called by trade unions.

67. The right to strike is subject to certain restrictions in the interests of national security, public order, public health and the rights and freedoms of others.

68. By law, the following categories of workers may not strike:

- Civil aviation personnel (pilots and flight controllers);
- Members of the emergency services;
- Military personnel;
- Civil servants.

69. Workers or the bodies that represent their interests must provide written notice to the employer, sufficiently (at least two weeks) in advance of the date, of their intention to strike. The notice must indicate the grounds for holding a strike and specify the points of disagreement between the parties, the date and time the strike is to begin, its duration, the number of participants and the minimum services that the workers are willing to perform during the strike.

70. A strike that is being held or has been held, or a decision to strike that has been adopted, in violation of the Labour Code or other legislation, may be declared unlawful by the Minsk City Court or the provincial court concerned.

71. Participants in a strike declared unlawful by the courts may be subject to such disciplinary or other penalties as are prescribed by law (article 397 of the Labour Code).

72. The coercion of an individual into striking or refusing to strike through violence or the threat of violence is a criminal offence.

Article 9

The right to social security

Reply to questions raised in paragraph 14 of the list of issues

73. According to the Principles of State Social Insurance Act, State social insurance is a system of pensions, benefits and other payments using State extrabudgetary social insurance funds.

74. Entitlements to social insurance benefits are based on the contributions paid to the State social insurance scheme for the appropriate insurance categories.

75. Entitlements to employment pensions are based on the contributions paid to the State social insurance scheme. Persons who have paid such insurance contributions for less than the requisite period (at present, five years for old-age pensions) are entitled only to social welfare benefits.

Reply to questions raised in paragraph 14 (a) of the list of issues

76. Self-employed persons who are not eligible for mandatory State social insurance may pay voluntary contributions into the State social insurance scheme.

Reply to questions raised in paragraph 14 (b) of the list of issues

77. There are no special social assistance schemes for persons working in the informal economy.

Social support for asylum seekers and refugees

Reply to questions raised in paragraph 14 (c) of the list of issues

78. Article 19 of the Act on the granting of refugee status and interim measures of protection to foreign nationals and stateless persons stipulates that foreign nationals and stateless persons who are accorded refugee status enjoy the same rights as foreign nationals permanently resident in Belarus.

79. Foreign nationals and stateless persons who have been granted interim protection and persons applying for refugee status or interim protection in Belarus have the same economic and social rights as foreign nationals and stateless persons temporarily resident in Belarus and have the same right to work as foreign nationals who are permanently resident in Belarus.

80. Foreign nationals and stateless persons, including asylum seekers and refugees, who are employed in Belarus may make voluntary contributions to the State social insurance scheme.

Provision of income support

81. The system of State social assistance focuses on helping the impoverished. Aid is provided continuously in the form of a monthly social stipend (for one to six months in a calendar year). The stipend is granted on condition of proof that per capita income for the preceding 12 months amounted to less than the minimum subsistence level per capita.

Income support for older persons and persons with disabilities

82. Owing to their failing health and loss of mobility, some older persons require constant specialized care and outside assistance. To meet this need, 79 residential care facilities are currently home to more than 18,000 persons.

83. Residents of such facilities for the elderly and persons with disabilities are provided with accommodation, a varied and wholesome diet, clothing, footwear, toiletries and the necessary household services (room cleaning, washing and ironing, changes of underwear and bedlinen, hairdressing). All the necessary medical assistance, physical therapy and dental services are provided. The rooms are cosy and comfortable.

84. A plan to renovate residential care facilities, as part of the comprehensive programme for the development of social services for 2011–2015 was launched in 2011 with the following basic objectives:

- To upgrade the residential care institutions and thereby to provide living conditions for older persons and persons with disabilities more in keeping with their age and state of health;
- To create suitable conditions for carrying out various forms of occupational and work therapy for persons with disabilities;

- To build more comfortable residential facilities with a view to the provision of fee-based social services;
- To introduce the latest techniques for the care of older persons and persons with disabilities who are confined to bed (acquisition of special equipment, technical rehabilitation aids, etc.).

85. The revised version of the Social Services Act that entered into force in January 2013 is intended to improve the methodology of social support by introducing new services in residential care facilities, such as assisted living, to help persons with disabilities prepare to live on their own and to facilitate the monitoring of their subsequent progress, and by offering temporary care for children with disabilities, thereby granting family members a respite for certain periods and enabling them to regroup and deal with domestic matters.

Support to veterans of war and labour and persons with disabilities

86. Supplementary support is received by war and labour veterans and persons with disabilities in the form of free stays in health resorts and treatment centres. Four facilities with a capacity of 778 provide such services. They are in high demand and always fully booked. Every year, more than 17,000 citizens with various ailments undergo treatment in these facilities, which are located in pleasant natural settings and equipped with modern medical equipment and up-to-date diagnostic devices for the care of veterans and persons with disabilities.

Reply to questions raised in paragraph 15 of the list of issues

87. Foreign nationals and stateless persons who are permanently resident in Belarus, including asylum seekers and refugees, are covered by State social welfare benefits and non-contributory schemes for income support.

Article 10

Protection of the family, mothers and children

Reply to questions raised in paragraph 16 of the list of issues

Legislative measures

88. Under the Rights of the Child Act, the Government upholds the right of every child to protection from all forms of exploitation and violence, including sexual exploitation and physical or psychological violence; cruel, rough, humiliating or degrading treatment; sexual harassment, including by parents (guardians) and relatives; coercion into engaging in prostitution; begging; acts connected with the creation of pornographic material or items; and involvement in work that might prove harmful to the child's physical, mental or moral development.

89. The Marriage and Family Code stipulates that where parents or legal guardians partly or wholly fail in their duty to bring up and support the child, abuse the child's rights, exert an adverse influence on the child's conduct or subject the child to harsh treatment, the child has the right to appeal to the Commission for Minors, guardianship bodies, the Procurator's Office and, upon reaching the age of 14, the courts, in order to defend their rights and lawful interests. Parents and legal guardians are liable to penalties, including criminal penalties, for infringing the rights and lawful interests of the child, including through ill-treatment that might be a threat to his or her life or health.

90. Under the Criminal Code, it is an offence to drive a person to suicide or attempted suicide through ill-treatment or systematic humiliation (art. 145); to intentionally inflict

harm leading to short-term health impairment or grievous bodily harm, to inflict acts of violence, to make death threats or to destroy property (art. 153); and to treat adopted children or children entrusted to one's care with cruelty (art. 176).

91. The amendments to the Code of Administrative Offences that entered into force on 28 August 2013 have supplemented article 9, paragraph 1, on intentional infliction of bodily harm and other violent acts, with a new paragraph 2, according to which, where they do not constitute a criminal offence, acts of battery that do not cause bodily harm and the intentional infliction of pain, physical or psychological suffering upon a close relation or family member are subject to administrative penalties in the form of fines of up to 10 base units or arrest.

92. A new version of the Act on fundamental measures to prevent unlawful acts has been adopted by the lower house of Parliament on first reading. This version calls for the provision of psychological, medical and counselling services, material aid and temporary shelter, including food and lodging, to victims of domestic violence. The draft legislation also includes provisions on the issuance of restraining orders against persons who commit domestic violence even after receiving an official warning, prohibiting them from searching for, following, visiting and/or contacting their victims.

93. The Social Services Act, which entered into force in January 2013 calls for the institution of a State social procurement system and State funding for civil society organizations that assist persons in difficulty, including victims of domestic violence, by providing access to social services and rehabilitation.

Practical steps

94. Under the National Plan of Action for Gender Equality 2011–2015 and the National Plan of Action for Child Welfare and Safeguarding Children's Rights 2011–2016, work is being done, inter alia, to update the legislation and take practical steps to tackle domestic violence, the root causes of family dysfunction and violence against children.

95. In the event of mistreatment by parents or guardians, the child is entitled to appeal to the National Commission on the Rights of the Child, which monitors implementation of the rights of the child in Belarus. Law enforcement officials work closely with NGOs, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to prevent acts of domestic violence, particularly against women and children, by repeat offenders.

96. Two international technical assistance projects on the prevention of domestic violence are being carried out.

97. A national capacity-building project to combat domestic violence while achieving gender equality aims to prevent such violence through information campaigns, the establishment of a hotline and crisis centres for victims and the development of models for working with male aggressors.

98. Various measures are being undertaken as part of a project supported by UNFPA, including a seminar held in May 2013 on legal aspects and international experience regarding gender equality and combating domestic violence; a training seminar held in June 2013 on work with aggressors and provision of support to victims of domestic violence using power and control models; and a seminar in the same month on highlighting gender (in)equality and domestic violence issues in the media.

99. A national capacity-building project to combat domestic violence in Belarus provides for the creation and introduction of national models for interministerial coordination of efforts to curb domestic violence. Under this project, a network of non-

profit organizations linking 19 NGOs working to prevent domestic violence, help victims and lobby for improved legislation on the issue has been operating since August 2012. In only a year, specialists from the network have provided legal, psychological and social support to 164 victims (155 women and 9 men) and telephone counselling in 470 cases, 209 of them by lawyers, 173 by social workers and 88 by psychologists.

100. Early detection of dysfunctional families and intensified provision of social, psychological and counselling services to victims of domestic violence are ongoing processes.

101. Educational institutions work to find and rehabilitate children suffering ill-treatment in the home (physical, psychological or sexual violence).

102. In regional centres, telephone hotlines, including a 24-hour line for reporting cases of family disturbances and violence against children, provide emergency social and psychological assistance.

103. In the social rehabilitation departments of regional social services centres, crisis units are being set up in order to provide social support to victims of domestic violence. These units numbered 53 as at 1 July 2013, and a total of 85 people have benefited from the service since the beginning of 2013.

104. Preventive measures and information campaigns aimed at averting serious crimes that threaten human lives and health, including in the domestic context, are regularly carried out. They have included several nationwide preventive campaigns and special events on family life without violence.

105. The statistics show that the vast majority of “domestic” crime in Belarus is carried out by men, with women, children and older persons being the usual victims. In 2013, 942 incidents of domestic violence were reported as having been committed by men, representing 87.5 per cent of the total; there were 537 incidents of domestic violence committed by persons neither employed nor enrolled in school (49.9 per cent). Three “domestic” crimes were committed by minors.

106. The statistics on reported incidents of domestic violence since 2009 are contained in annex 5.

Reply to questions raised in paragraph 17 of the list of issues

Legislative measures

107. Belarus is a party to all the international conventions of the United Nations on combating trafficking in persons. In 2013, it signed the Council of Europe’s Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings and participated in drafting the model laws of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) on counteracting trafficking in persons and the provision of assistance to victims of human trafficking. Its domestic legislation is based on these international agreements.

108. The Act against trafficking in persons, which takes into account all of the recommendations made by the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, in her report on her visit to Belarus in 2009, was passed in 2012. The priority outlined in the Act is support to victims. The legislation defines the victim of human trafficking and identifies measures for the protection and rehabilitation of victims which are furnished free of charge, irrespective of whether the victim is a foreign national, a citizen of Belarus or a stateless person and whether or not the victim cooperates with investigators. During the investigation, the victim may use his or her mother tongue or an interpreter’s services, which are provided by the Government free of charge.

109. The legislation also mandates free legal aid, psychological and medical assistance, help with finding a job and the right to compensation for harm suffered for the victim.

110. The Social Services Act, which entered into force in January 2013, calls for the institution of a State social procurement system and State funding for civil society organizations that assist persons in difficulty, including victims of domestic violence, by providing access to social services and rehabilitation.

111. Under the Criminal Code, trafficking in persons and related acts correspond to six separate offences, covering all types and forms of this crime (arts. 171, 171-1, 181, 181-1, 182 and 187). The maximum sentence is up to 15 years' imprisonment and confiscation of property.

112. In 2013, draft legislation on amendments to the Criminal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure, the Criminal Sentence Enforcement Code, the Code of Administrative Offences and the Code of Administrative Procedure and Enforcement was submitted to Parliament; this bill envisages a new text for article 181 of the Criminal Code, on trafficking in persons, and tightens the rules under which acts relating to trafficking in persons and child pornography constitute a criminal offence.

Practical steps

113. A national plan of action to combat trafficking in persons is being carried out through Government programmes. The measures in the third Government programme, for 2011–2013, on combating trafficking in persons, illegal migration and related unlawful acts are now being carried out. Whereas the first two programmes were essentially aimed at criminal prosecution of traffickers, the third emphasizes prevention of trafficking in persons and protection and rehabilitation of victims. The programme for combating crime and corruption, 2013–2015, the third component of which is combating trafficking in persons, has been ongoing since 2013. The programmes are being carried out with the active involvement of NGOs and IOM.

114. Government agencies also interact and coordinate with NGOs in the context of international technical assistance projects.

115. A number of NGOs run a hotline for informing the public about trafficking in persons.

116. With a view to rehabilitating victims over 18 years of age, 50 crisis units have been set up in social services centres; for victims aged 3 to 18, 128 shelters operate in special rehabilitation facilities, and for children less than 3 years of age, rehabilitation is carried out in 10 children's homes. Cases of trafficking in such young children have not, however, been recorded in Belarus.

117. Since 2005, the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs has been training specialists in combating human trafficking for the criminal militia. Since 2007, the International Centre for Training on Migration and Action against Human Trafficking has worked as the core educational institution for specialized training in combating human trafficking in the member countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States. Over a thousand members of law enforcement agencies and social services from 16 States have been trained at the Centre since it opened.

118. Sexual exploitation is the most widespread form of trafficking in persons in Belarus. Of the 4,923 victims of trafficking reported from 2002 to 2013, 4,339 were subjected to sexual exploitation, 581 were cases of forced labour and 3 suffered forcible removal of organs. Detailed statistics are provided in annexes 6 and 7.

119. Belarus is primarily a country of origin of “live goods”. Traffickers generally send persons for sexual exploitation purposes to countries of the European Union, the Middle East and some regions of Russia. Some cases of forced labour of Belarusian citizens in Turkey and Poland have been recorded.

120. In some isolated instances, Belarus has been a receiving country. From 2006 to 2010, there were reports of trafficking in persons from Russia, Ukraine and Moldova.

121. Cases of exploitation of Belarusian citizens in the territory of Belarus have also been reported, with cases of sexual exploitation again outnumbering forced labour.

122. Since 2002, the Belarusian law enforcement agencies have disbanded 22 criminal organizations, 21 of them transnational, and 83 organized bands. Convictions for trafficking in persons and related acts numbered 2,001, including 737 prison sentences.

123. The steps taken have substantially reduced the scale of human trafficking in Belarus.

Article 11

The right to an adequate standard of living

Reply to questions raised in paragraph 18 of the list of issues

124. The financial and economic crisis hit Belarus particularly hard in 2011. In order to maintain adequate social cover for the population in the crisis conditions that prevailed in 2011, an unscheduled recalculation of pensions was carried out, supplements to the minimum employment pension were increased as of 1 May and social welfare benefits for children with disabilities, other persons with disabilities and children having suffered the loss of the breadwinner rose from 1 August. Non-working pensioners received supplementary payments twice, in May and September.

125. In order to maintain their level and purchasing power, pensions were raised on four occasions in 2012. Minimum pensions and social welfare benefits were also raised in line with increases in the minimum subsistence level. Since 1 January 2012, non-working pensioners over 75 years of age who receive their pensions from labour, employment and social security agencies have been getting monthly pension supplements.

126. Statistics regarding the impact of the crisis of 2011 on the standard of living and the efficacy of State social policy in the following years appear in annex 8.

127. Improving living standards is a priority issue for the Government and will be achieved primarily by increasing wages, the principal source of income for the population.

128. Average nominal monthly wages rose by 45.8 per cent from January to June 2013 over the corresponding period in 2012, totalling 4,770,900 roubles (around US\$ 530), while average public sector pay rose by 28.8 per cent, to stand at Rbl 3,560,100 (US\$ 395.60).

129. From January to June 2013, real wages increased by 20.5 per cent over the corresponding period in the previous year, while in 2012, the figure was 21.5 per cent.

130. The purchasing power of wages amounted to 325.2 per cent of the minimum consumer price index in December 2012, and 323.3 per cent in June 2013.

131. Guarantees provided by the Government in respect of minimum remuneration for work play a substantial role in protecting the interests of low-income workers. Among these guarantees are the minimum wage, which at the beginning of 2013 was equivalent to the minimum consumer price index – Rbl 1,395,000 (US\$ 155). The minimum wage is indexed to the inflation rate over the course of the year, as established by law.

Reply to questions raised in paragraph 19 of the list of issues

132. A proven benefits and welfare system operates for families and children in Belarus. It encompasses allowances paid for the birth and upbringing of children, free food products for children in their first two years, State targeted social assistance, lump-sum payments for the birth of second and subsequent children and built-in legal safeguards in the areas of pensions, labour, taxes and housing.

133. In all, 350,000 children, or 20.2 per cent of the national total, are covered by the State social welfare system.

134. A childcare allowance is paid until for each child up to the age of 3, irrespective of the parents' employment situation and income, thus covering virtually all families and 97.3 per cent of children under 3.

135. The payment of a minimum pension is guaranteed by law. Provision is also made for readjustment of the pension on the basis of increases in the average wage and the minimum subsistence level.

Reply to questions raised in paragraph 20 of the list of issues

136. An international technical assistance project on the integration of refugees in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine (phase 1) run in conjunction with the European Union and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees since 2009 is intended to open up opportunities for the integration into Belarusian society of foreign nationals with refugee status, boost their self-sufficiency and reduce their dependence on external assistance. In 2010, the Minsk City Council used project funds to renovate three uninhabited buildings, rendering them fit for occupation and making them available as permanent housing for refugees. Three families (17 people) selected from among the most vulnerable in this group were moved into the apartments.

Article 12

The right to physical and mental health

Reply to questions raised in paragraph 21 of the list of issues

137. The sexual and reproductive health-care system that has been set up in Belarus is of proven efficacy.

138. The national demographic support programme, 2011–2015, provides for a broad range of initiatives designed to raise the standard of sexual and reproductive health care and ensure the protection of mothers and children. The initiatives are carried out in close cooperation with NGOs and international organizations and in the framework of international technical assistance projects.

139. In 2011, the Government also launched a healthy lifestyles policy under which, with the support of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), more than 40 drop-in and health centres for adolescents have been set up in paediatric clinics. They are run by specialists trained to work with adolescents, including paediatricians, obstetricians, gynaecologists, psychologists, drug and alcohol treatment specialists and specialists in the treatment of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and skin diseases. Young people are provided with fully confidential advice, free of charge, on sexual and reproductive health issues.

140. Several projects have been carried out with UNFPA and UNICEF with a view to providing the population, especially young adults and adolescents, with access to sexual and reproductive health-care services. These projects cover the provision of services and

information on reproductive health for adolescents, young adults and persons living with AIDS and the promotion of adolescent health.

141. A joint UNFPA-UNICEF peer education project aims, inter alia, to provide sexual and reproductive health education to teenage girls and boys.

142. Sexual and reproductive health issues are handled by general practitioners, obstetricians, gynaecologists, STI and skin disease specialists and urologists. The existing network of health-care centres provides sexual and reproductive health counselling and the requisite medical care.

143. Particular emphasis is placed on prevention. Mandatory annual health checks are provided free of charge to children and young people up to the age of 18, as well as to adults. Mandatory screening and gynaecological examinations for patients in antenatal clinics enable detection of gynaecological conditions, including sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), and cancer of the reproductive system.

144. Family planning and counselling centres known as “Marriage and Families” provide medical assistance to married couples with impaired reproductive function, including those caused by STIs. The Mother and Child National Research Centre operates a family planning unit and is equipped with assisted reproductive technology. Hospitals in Belarus use assisted reproductive techniques to treat infertility.

145. Among the principal reproductive health problems in Belarus are diseases of the reproductive system, STDs, including HIV/AIDS, and malignant neoplasms.

146. Preventative action, greater public awareness and improved medical services have contributed to a drop in the incidence of STIs, which in 2012 had fallen to 317.3 cases per 100,000 population from 501 in 2000. Among children and young people up to the age of 17, the rate of infection in 2012 was 29.4 per 100,000, down from 98.6 in 2000. The drop in STI infection rates is illustrated in annex 9.

147. The most widespread STDs are: chlamydia (35 per cent), trichomoniasis (34 per cent), gonorrhoea (11 per cent), anogenital warts (11 per cent), urogenital herpes (6 per cent) and syphilis (3 per cent).

148. By 2012, the incidence of syphilis had been cut to a tenth of the 2000 level, dropping from 105.2 cases per 100,000 population to 10.3. The incidence of gonorrhoea in the same period decreased by more than two thirds, from 98.8 cases per 100,000 to 35.6. The fall in the rate of infection applies to all age groups.

149. The State programme on HIV prevention and AIDS mortality reduction, 2011–2015, has the following objectives: to provide HIV-infected persons with continuous and equitable access to treatment, care and support; to create conditions conducive to improving sexual and reproductive health and thereby better the chances of having healthy children for of HIV-infected women and families affected by HIV/AIDS; to prevent HIV infection in hospitals and among high-risk groups; to improve the national system of HIV/AIDS surveillance and the quality of measures taken to curb the spread of HIV infection; to make HIV preventative services more accessible; and to build human capacity in the area of HIV prevention.

150. Implementation of the programme in 2012 made it possible:

- To ensure access to antiretroviral drugs for pregnant women and children and thereby reduce the risk of vertical transmission of HIV, with coverage reaching 95.2 per cent of pregnant women and newborn babies. All children born of HIV-infected mothers receive processed milk formula free of charge;

- To broaden access of HIV-infected persons to antiretroviral therapy. At the end of 2012, 4,274 persons, including 154 children and 339 persons serving prison sentences, were on the treatment programme. In 2011, the number stood at 3,223, of which 143 were children and 308, prison inmates;
- To ensure that donated blood is tested for HIV using modern methods;
- To reduce AIDS mortality, which decreased from 3 per 100,000 population in 2011 to 2.8 in 2012;
- To stabilize the rate of AIDS infection: 6.3 cases per 100,000 population were recorded in 2012, compared with 6.2 in 2011;
- To expand the coverage of prevention programmes, currently at 68 per cent of injecting drug users, 76.8 per cent of men who have sex with men, 85.8 per cent of female sex-trade workers and 100 per cent of persons serving prison sentences;
- To stabilize the indicators of HIV infection in the 15–24 age group, the rate of which rose to 11.9 per 100,000 population in 2012 from 11.6 in the previous year.

Reply to questions raised in paragraph 22 of the list of issues*Legislative measures*

151. On 3 January 2013, a new version of the Advertising Act was passed. It limits the display time for advertisements for beer and low-alcohol drinks and makes it mandatory to include a warning against the harmfulness of alcohol abuse covering not less than one tenth of the advertisement's total area.

152. On 18 June 2013, a new version of the Act on State regulation of the manufacture and sale of alcoholic beverages, industrial spirits and ethyl alcohol was passed. Along with other measures, it accords local authorities the right to restrict the opening hours in their jurisdiction for the sale of alcoholic beverages on the evenings of graduation ceremonies in secondary schools and contains initiatives to promote healthy lifestyles and to prevent and combat alcohol abuse and alcoholism.

153. A bill on shielding the public from the ill effects of active and passive smoking has been drafted and is before parliament. It contains a ban on smoking in virtually all enclosed spaces, including in restaurants, cafés and bars, educational, cultural, sports and health establishments, railway stations and public transport and in the workplace.

*Practical measures***Reply to questions raised in paragraph 22 (a) of the list of issues**

154. Implementation of the national programme of action to prevent alcohol abuse and alcoholism for 2006–2010 had produced the following results as at 1 January 2011:

- At the regional level, awareness-raising programmes were conducted in educational institutions in order to help students develop a healthy attitude to life and prevent alcoholism. They included initiatives to heighten awareness of the problems associated with alcohol abuse and alcoholism;
- Courses on the theory and practice of helping children and adolescents to kick harmful habits, counselling work with the family as a first step towards family therapy and the methodology of instruction in the fundamentals of a healthy lifestyle and prevention of addiction in educational establishments were included in training and refresher programmes for teachers, social workers, psychologists and the staff of special secondary schools, technical institutes and institutions of higher education;

- Large-scale sports and health-oriented events and competitions for children and young people, including the national student games entitled “A Healthy Me for a Healthy Country”, have been staged annually since 2007;
- The number of alcoholics, first-time sufferers of alcohol-related psychosis, underage alcoholics and underage alcohol abusers fell by 0.8 per cent, 11.4 per cent, 37.8 per cent and 2.2 per cent respectively;
- The sale of strong alcoholic drinks fell by 1.2 per cent.

155. The third national programme of action to prevent alcohol abuse and alcoholism, which was launched in 2011 and will run until 2015, was conceived to detect, prevent and reduce the impact of the causes and conditions that are conducive to the consumption of alcohol and the harmful consequences thereof, including alcohol abuse and alcoholism. The programme includes initiatives to counteract the social predisposition towards drinking, to stop alcoholics and alcohol abusers from consuming alcohol and, above all, to prevent alcohol abuse among children and young people.

156. In addition, an array of measures was adopted in 2012 with a view to curbing alcohol and drug abuse around the country and reducing mortality induced by controllable causes. In that framework, three nationwide awareness-raising and prevention campaigns were undertaken.

157. A telephone helpline was established to inform the public of opportunities available for the treatment of alcoholism and drug addiction as well as for rehabilitation.

Reply to questions raised in paragraph 22 (b) of the list of issues

158. Implementation of the comprehensive tobacco control programme for 2008–2010 produced the following results:

- Regional tobacco control plans were drafted in all provinces and are being put into practice by local health authorities in conjunction with educational, cultural, fitness and sporting establishments, law enforcement bodies, the media and NGOs;
- A broad awareness-raising campaign on tobacco addiction, its prevention, modern treatments and the health, social and economic consequences of tobacco consumption was carried out in the print and audiovisual media, cinemas and children’s health camps and through the public-address systems of industrial enterprises, health-care establishments, major shops, markets and railway stations;
- The public was invited to discuss healthy lifestyles and the avoidance of tobacco consumption and related medical conditions in individual counselling sessions, discussion groups and telephone helplines and hotlines;
- The National Centre for Hygiene, Epidemiology and Public Health set up an electronic database on staying healthy, including material on the prevention of tobacco dependence;
- Courses on subjects such as the fundamentals of a healthy lifestyle, lifestyles and health and dangerous habits were included in school curricula in order to raise pupils’ awareness of the dangers linked to tobacco, alcohol and drugs;
- Press conferences and seminars on the problem of smoking and how to combat it were held with the participation of physicians, psychologists, social workers, representatives of local government and law enforcement bodies, the clergy, the media and NGOs;

- Various institutions and public meeting places such as parks, squares, recreation centres, hotels, cafés, restaurants and public transport stops have been designated smoke-free areas;
- Large-scale national sports and fitness events were organized for various groups of people and conducted under slogans such as: “Say Yes to Sport and No to Smoking!”, “Tobacco-free Sport”, “Towards Healthy Lifestyles” and “Quit Smoking and Live”.

159. In 2011, a comprehensive tobacco control programme for 2011–2015 was launched. Anti-smoking initiatives are also contained in the national demographic support programme for the same period.

160. Since 2005, activities have been conducted with a view to implementing the provisions of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control developed by the World Health Organization (WHO):

- Tobacco advertising and the free distribution of tobacco products have been prohibited;
- Requirements for the packaging and labelling of tobacco products have been introduced in compliance with international standards;
- The sale of tobacco products to persons under 18 years of age and in children’s educational and recreational facilities and health-care, cultural, educational and fitness centres has been prohibited;
- Smoking has been prohibited (except in specifically designated areas) in health-care, cultural, educational and sporting establishments, shopping and service centres, on the premises of State and local executive and administrative bodies and other organizations, at railway stations and in airports, underground passageways, metro stations and all types of public transport, among other locations.

161. From 2001 to 2012, these efforts resulted in a drop in the number of smokers aged 16 and above from 41.6 per cent of the population to 30.5 per cent. A decline in the number of women smokers has been observed since 2009: 16.2 per cent of the female population smoked in 2012. More than half of smokers would like to quit.

Reply to questions raised in paragraph 22 (c) of the list of issues

162. The programme of comprehensive measures to address drug abuse, drug trafficking and related offences for 2009–2013 has so far produced the following results:

- A series of laws has been passed in order to tighten control over the use of narcotic drugs. They include the Act on Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and their Precursors and Analogues, which is designed to prevent the use of such substances, and a long list of decisions by the Council of Ministers, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Internal Affairs designed to toughen control of narcotic drug use and prevent illicit trade in narcotics;
- Awareness-raising campaigns, seminars and training courses involving parents and teachers have been conducted in educational institutions with a view to facilitating the early detection of narcotic drug and psychotropic substance use and the provision of psychological and medical support;
- In 2012, a pilot project was run to assess the extent of alcohol and drug use in schools through anonymous testing;
- The number of patients hospitalized for illnesses related to the non-medical use of narcotics has increased from 1,261 persons in 2010 to 2,097 in 2012;

- The number of newly revealed cases of drug addiction has increased by 23.4 per cent;
- A rising trend in drug abuse among minors has been halted in the past two years;
- The number of medical examinations carried out to detect narcotic substances has increased by 2.3 per cent;
- Detoxification treatments have become more readily available to users of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;
- The proportion of drug addicts receiving hospital treatment has risen to 7.9 per cent;
- The number of drug dens has been nearly halved in the face of tough measures to combat the illicit poppy seed trade.

163. In the course of efforts to combat illicit drug trafficking, law enforcement bodies recorded 2,171 crimes in the first 6 months of 2013, 2,057 of them directly linked to trafficking, and shut down 28 drug dens. Eighteen routes for channelling drugs into Belarus from abroad were detected, along with the means for their transportation. Police charged 1,291 persons with criminal offences, including 1,273 who were arrested for drug trafficking. Around 64 kg of narcotic substances were seized.

Reply to questions raised in paragraph 23 of the list of issues

164. The Government tuberculosis programme for 2010–2014 aims to safeguard the right to health by curbing the spread of tuberculosis and improving the epidemiological situation. The programme is being implemented in close cooperation with international organizations and NGOs.

165. A three-year plan to prevent and combat multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) was launched in 2012 with support from WHO. As part of the plan, 12 legislative initiatives were drafted and approved with a view to optimizing treatment for tuberculosis and preventing the spread of the MDR variant.

166. Throughout the country, tools that yield rapid results in the diagnosis of tuberculosis and its MDR forms (GeneXpert, Hain-test) have been introduced.

167. Supplies of anti-tuberculosis drugs for immediate use and storage in reserve are procured on a regular basis; uninterrupted supply is thus assured.

168. Social support for MDR-TB patients is provided with the financial backing of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

169. On 1 January 2013, a laboratory module for a State tuberculosis register began operations. Epidemiological control plans have been devised in all the agencies working to combat tuberculosis.

Articles 13 and 14

The right to education

Reply to questions raised in paragraph 24 of the list of issues

170. According to the Education Code, everyone has the right to education. The State ensures the accessibility of and equitable access on an equal basis to education. Primary school education (nine years) is universal and compulsory.

171. Students may not be divided into differing educational levels based on poor performance, state of health or other criteria. Upon completing nine years of primary

school, pupils are entitled to two more years of study in general secondary, technical secondary or specialized secondary schools.

172. Statistics show that 96 per cent of pupils who complete the compulsory nine years of schooling go on to further education, 64 per cent in general secondary schools, 16 per cent in technical secondary schools and 16 per cent in specialized secondary schools. Instruction is free of charge at general, technical and specialized secondary schools.

173. The Government's policies are aimed at effecting the transition to compulsory secondary school education.

174. Minors who are foreign nationals or stateless persons residing in Belarus have the right to preschool, general secondary and specialized secondary school education free of charge and on the same basis as Belarusian minors, irrespective of whether they have been granted refugee status or interim protection.

175. The Government is making major efforts to eliminate the indirect costs of education by gradually reducing them.

176. Pupils in the first to eleventh grades pay about half the actual cost of textbooks. In 2013, textbooks cost from US\$ 2.20 to 8.10. The price is reduced or textbook use permitted free of charge for certain categories of pupils. For example, for parents with three or more children of preschool or school age, the price of textbooks is halved again, dropping to US\$ 1.10 to 4.00. Textbooks are free for parents with children studying in special educational institutions and curative treatment centres and parents with children who are in either separate or integrated classes for children with developmental difficulties. Orphans, children deprived of parental care and children under 18 years of age with disabilities receive textbooks free of charge.

177. All pupils receive one meal a day in all educational institutions, two meals if studies last more than six hours a day and three if they continue for more than nine hours a day. The cost of meals varies, but in 2012 it was less than US\$ 6.00 a week. Pupils with developmental difficulties from families with over three children and from impoverished families and children with disabilities are exempted from payment for meals. Pupils in the lower grades, children of parents with category 1 and category 2 disabilities, pupils from disadvantaged families and children of military personnel are partially exempted from payment for meals.

178. The transport of preschoolers and primary school pupils to and from the educational institution is entirely free of charge and takes place in school buses (66 per cent), trams (21.1 per cent) and other forms of transport.

179. There is no required uniform for attendance at Belarusian schools; however, appropriate attire is obligatory.

180. At the start of the school year, large families (three and more children) are given a lump sum allowance for back-to-school supplies.

Reply to questions raised in paragraph 25 of the list of issues

181. According to the Education Code, the main languages of instruction are the State languages, Belarusian and Russian, to be chosen by the pupil. This also applies to higher educational institutions.

182. As a rule, instruction at the higher educational institutions is in Russian. However, at all educational institutions, certain courses such as those on the history of Belarus, the Belarusian language and the history of Belarusian culture are given in Belarusian. Textbooks in Russian are provided to students not fluent in Belarusian, including foreign students.

183. In a number of higher educational institutions — the State Universities of Brest, Viciebsk and Hrodna, the Belarusian State Technical University in Minsk and the Belarusian State Cultural University, for example — more than 100 subjects are taught in Belarusian.

184. Students may take their entire course of studies in Belarusian at all the higher educational institutions in the country. A minimum of 20 students is necessary to organize such studies: this has been done, for example, for law students and students of journalism at the Belarusian State University.

Article 15

Cultural rights

Reply to questions raised in paragraph 26 of the list of issues

Legislative measures

185. Belarus is a party to numerous multilateral and bilateral agreements on protection of the rights of ethnic minorities and promotion of cultural diversity. In addition to the major international human rights treaties of the United Nations, Belarus has signed the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, the Commonwealth of Independent States Convention concerning the Rights of Persons Belonging to National Minorities, the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the European Cultural Convention of the Council of Europe.

186. In accordance with the International Treaties Act, the provisions of international treaties to which Belarus is a party are incorporated into domestic legislation.

187. Article 15 of the Belarusian Constitution makes the State responsible for preserving the historical, cultural and spiritual heritage of Belarus and the free cultural expression of all ethnic minorities in Belarus.

188. The principle of free cultural expression for all ethnic minorities is upheld by the Culture Act and is incorporated into the draft Code on Culture, which is currently in the process of public consultation.

189. Belarus has signed intergovernmental and interministerial cooperation agreements with Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Russia and Ukraine. The Ministry of Culture has signed agreements on cultural cooperation with more than 46 countries, including Egypt, Lebanon, Iran, Turkey, Qatar, Syria, the United Arab Emirates, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Sri Lanka, the Republic of Korea, France and Italy.

Practical steps

190. Currently under way are a State programme on Belarusian culture, 2011–2015, and the second programme of support for religious faiths and expansion of inter-ethnic relations, including cooperation with religious communities abroad, 2011–2015. Both programmes are aimed, inter alia, at providing support for the cultural and other activities of the civil societies of ethnic minorities and the preservation of their cultural traditions.

191. The preservation of the rights of ethnic minorities falls within the competence of the Office of the Commissioner for Religious and Ethnic Affairs, a body with ministerial status. In addition to the Office's own headquarters in Minsk, the Commissioner has representatives in all the regions of the country. The Office of the Commissioner has a branch, the Inter-Ethnic Advisory Council, which works to develop recommendations on

Government policy in support of ethnic minorities. The Council's members include 25 leaders of the civil societies of ethnic minorities.

192. Under the Ministry of Culture is the National Centre for Ethnic Culture, which provides advisory assistance, financial aid and publicity for the work of ethnic cultural groups in Belarus, of which there are over a hundred. The Centre also coordinates efforts to promote the revival, preservation and development of the culture of ethnic minorities.

193. The National Festival of Ethnic Culture is held every two years in Hrodna, bringing together all the ethnic groups of Belarus. In terms of its format, the Festival has no equal anywhere in the world. There is likewise an ethnic cultural festival for children, held in Minsk.

194. Every year, Belarusian cultural days are held abroad — in Latvia, Estonia, Azerbaijan, Russia and Turkey in 2013 — and cultural days devoted to foreign countries are held in Belarus — Armenia, Israel, Qatar and China in 2013.

195. The World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development (21 May) and the International Day for Tolerance (16 November) are celebrated every year in Belarus.

Annexes

Annex 1

Implementation of employment policy measures

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	First six months 2013
Number of persons who requested job search help from the labour, employment and social protection agencies (thousands)	231.7	299.8	271.4	308.5	284.2	299.1	307.5	332.1	321.2	289.0	297.7	309.3	327.8	322.3	335.2	328.7	313.3	290.3	198.5
Total registered as unemployed	191.6	256	206.5	214.8	214.9	211.8	216.1	237.2	241.8	208.4	206.4	202.5	200.5	200.0	212.6	205.8	188.4	179.6	120.6
Total hired (thousands)	118.8	150.4	207.7	241.1	223.1	224.1	221.8	213	208.2	191.9	187.1	187.9	201.4	199.0	196.2	204.1	200.8	195.2	116.2
Total hired of those originally unemployed	81.5	110.8	147.2	159.4	160.9	147.6	139.4	128.6	139.8	151.9	144.4	134.3	130.1	131.0	129.9	135.6	130.5	129.4	73.2
Total who received vocational training, retraining, skills upgrading, training courses (thousands)	15.6	20.6	26.8	27.1	28.8	27.5	27.6	28.8	29.6	28.2	27.7	26.5	23.8	22.9	25.0	25.0	20.4	15.4	5.0
Number of unemployed persons who received business start-up assistance	211	332	1 226	1 575	761	1 572	1 793	1 861	1 907	2 247	2 446	2 823	2 837	2 685	2 736	3 050	2 931	3 064	1647
Total directed to remunerated community-service work (thousands)	57.7	74.6	132	148.4	125.4	120.8	116.5	122.9	131.3	123.4	112.9	110.4	101.1	97.5	94.8	96.1	96.7	80.7	33.3

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	First six months 2013
Number of unemployed families resettled (thousands)	38	103	182	283	277	279	287	248	187	248	318	380	332	346	408	386	363	345	199
Tightness of the labour market (number of unemployed per job vacancy)	11.6	11.6	4.3	3.5	2.5	2.9	3.2	5.3	4.3	2.4	1.9	1.2	0.9	0.7	1.2	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.3
Percentage of economically active population unemployed	2.9	4.0	2.8	2.3	2.1	2.1	2.3	3.0	3.1	1.9	1.5	1.2	1.0	0.8	0.9	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.5

Annex 2

Number of unemployed persons registered with the labour, employment and social protection authorities, by sex and age group

	<i>Total</i>	<i>By age group</i>								
		<i>16–17</i>	<i>18–19</i>	<i>20–24</i>	<i>25–29</i>	<i>30–34</i>	<i>35–39</i>	<i>40–44</i>	<i>45–49</i>	<i>50 and above</i>
Total unemployed										
2005	67 918	3 242	9 325	12 444	8 107	6 834	6 345	6 544	6 700	8 377
2006	52 024	1 207	4 768	9 086	6 616	5 875	5 350	5 482	5 833	7 807
2007	44 078	695	3 325	7 858	5 652	5 087	4 648	4 661	5 090	7 062
2008	37 305	522	2 446	6 850	5 147	4 503	3 897	3 629	4 152	6 159
2009	40 316	941	2 518	7 528	5 589	4 549	4 162	4 032	4 389	6 608
2010	33 105	678	1 626	5 690	4 606	3 888	3 618	3 459	3 627	5 913
2011	28 192	531	1 426	4 825	4 053	3 349	2 941	2 887	2 991	5 189
2012	24 944	371	1 028	4 304	3 712	3 128	2 746	2 605	2 490	4 560
2013	22 590	418	777	3 311	3 150	2 770	2 626	2 443	2 429	4 666
Men										
2005	21 134	1 624	3 130	3 890	2 153	1 836	1 838	1 922	1 667	3 074
2006	17 703	543	1 485	2 684	1 968	1 932	1 864	1 882	1 898	3 447
2007	15 141	266	970	2 395	1 673	1 713	1 650	1 656	1 717	3 101
2008	14 660	186	782	2 337	1 817	1 779	1 558	1 512	1 691	2 998
2009	17 318	324	873	2 717	2 134	1 876	1 852	1 876	2 055	3 611
2010	15 704	284	548	2 281	1 917	1 772	1 802	1 754	1 832	3 514
2011	12 945	213	471	1 872	1 602	1 501	1 388	1 374	1 498	3 026
2012	12 971	136	398	2 011	1 801	1 534	1 447	1 427	1 370	2 847
2013	13 467	189	390	1 889	1 764	1 558	1 569	1 471	1 457	3 180
Women										
2005	46 784	1 618	6 195	8 554	5 954	4 998	4 507	4 622	5 033	5 303
2006	34 321	664	3 283	6 402	4 648	3 943	3 486	3 600	3 935	4 360
2007	28 937	429	2 355	5 463	3 979	3 374	2 998	3 005	3 373	3 961
2008	22 645	336	1 664	4 513	3 330	2 724	2 339	2 117	2 461	3 161

	<i>Total</i>	<i>By age group</i>								
		<i>16–17</i>	<i>18–19</i>	<i>20–24</i>	<i>25–29</i>	<i>30–34</i>	<i>35–39</i>	<i>40–44</i>	<i>45–49</i>	<i>50 and above</i>
2009	22 998	617	1 645	4 811	3 455	2 673	2 310	2 156	2 334	2 997
2010	17 401	394	1 078	3 409	2 689	2 116	1 816	1 705	1 795	2 399
2011	15 247	318	955	2 953	2 451	1 848	1 553	1 513	1 493	2 163
2012	11 973	235	630	2 293	1 911	1 594	1 299	1 178	1 120	1 713
2013	9 123	229	387	1 422	1 386	1 212	1 057	972	972	1 486

Number of unemployed persons registered with the labour, employment and social protection agencies by place of residence

	<i>2005</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>2013</i>
Total unemployed	67 918	52 024	44 078	37 305	40 316	33 105	28 192	24 944	22 590
In rural areas	12 000	9 789	9 143	8 029	8 145	7 249	5 864	5 369	5 151
In cities and towns	55 918	42 235	34 935	29 276	32 171	25 856	22 328	19 575	17 439

Number of unemployed persons and persons with disabilities in the 16–29 age group registered with the labour, employment and social protection agencies, disaggregated by sex

	<i>2005</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>2013</i>
Total unemployed	67 918	52 024	44 078	37 305	40 316	33 105	28 192	24 944	22 590
Men	21 134	17 703	15 141	14 660	17 318	15 704	12 945	12 971	13 467
Women	46 784	34 321	28 937	22 645	22 998	17 401	15 247	11 973	9 123
People aged 16–29	33 118	21 677	17 530	14 965	16 576	12 600	10 835	9 415	8 232
Men	10 797	6 680	5 304	5 122	6 048	5 030	4 158	4 346	4 548
Women	22 321	14 997	12 226	9 843	10 528	7 570	6 677	5 069	3 684
With disabilities	1 313	1 274	1 326	1 282	1 272	1 064	1 124	1 236	1 291
Men	721	713	735	699	735	597	669	751	821
Women	592	561	591	583	537	467	455	485	470

Annex 3

Total employment in Belarus by form of ownership (thousands)

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Form of ownership</i>			
		<i>State-owned</i>	<i>Private</i>	<i>With foreign participation</i>	<i>Foreign-owned</i>
2005	4 414.1	2 285.3	2 072.6	113.1	56.2
2006	4 470.2	2 289.2	2 120.1	120.7	60.9
2007	4 518.3	2 290.1	2 159.8	128.6	68.4
2008	4 610.5	2 298.5	2 238.1	148.0	73.9
2009	4 643.9	2 198.6	2 372.5	147.3	72.8
2010	4 665.9	2 063.4	2 520.1	184.7	82.4
2011	4 654.5	2 019.0	2 536.9	249.7	98.6
2012	4 577.1	1 930.0	2 538.5	278.9	108.6

Annex 4

Average nominal wage for workers as at December 2010, disaggregated by sex and sector of the economy

	Average nominal wage for workers, in thousands of roubles			Women's wages relative to men's, as a percentage
	Total	Women	Men	
Total	1 570.3	1 373.1	1 792.1	76.6
Industry	1 729.8	1 387.2	2 002.8	69.3
Agriculture	993.8	926.6	1 042.3	88.9
Agricultural production	977.9	910.3	1 026.9	88.6
Agricultural services sector	1 227.3	1 195.9	1 247.9	95.8
Forestry	1 468.0	1 299.8	1 498.6	86.7
Transportation	1 751.4	1 533.5	1 843.2	83.2
Railway	1 921.1	1 715.4	2 035.1	84.3
Road transport	1 511.9	1 211.4	1 612.3	75.1
Motor fleet	1 440.7	1 103.7	1 554.9	71.0
Communications	1 785.8	1 560.1	2 127.7	73.3
Construction	1 984.9	1 939.2	1 996.5	97.1
Construction and installation contractors	1 896.2	1 668.3	1 942.4	85.9
Trade and public catering	1 336.7	1 246.3	1 594.6	78.2
Trade	1 360.5	1 268.7	1 613.2	78.6
Retail	1 242.6	1 204.8	1 382.8	87.1
Wholesale	1 835.5	1 685.7	1 983.8	85.0
Public catering	1 036.3	997.3	1 226.9	81.3
Procurement and sales	2 024.8	1 760.0	2 203.2	79.9
Real estate	1 728.2	1 657.1	1 828.5	90.6
Commercial exchange activities	2 592.7	2 194.4	2 995.6	73.3
Geology and mineral prospecting land-surveying and hydro-meteorological services	2 292.0	2 061.2	2 515.1	82.0
Other production activities	1 853.8	1 775.4	2 011.9	88.2
Housing and utilities	1 416.5	1 201.7	1 533.5	78.4
Non-manufactured consumer services	1 074.9	943.8	1 416.8	66.6
Health care, fitness and wellness industries	1 461.9	1 357.2	1 947.3	69.7
Health care	1 447.6	1 385.8	1 815.2	76.3
Fitness activities and sport	1 969.3	1 288.4	2 557.8	50.4
Wellness	1 144.3	1 131.1	1 222.0	92.6
Education	1 292.0	1 233.2	1 550.5	79.5
Culture and the arts	1 300.5	1 217.5	1 521.3	80.0
Culture	1 262.7	1 191.9	1 473.7	80.9
The arts	1 530.3	1 413.5	1 700.5	83.1

	<i>Average nominal wage for workers, in thousands of roubles</i>			<i>Women's wages relative to men's, as a percentage</i>
	<i>Total</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Men</i>	
Science and scientific support services	2 383.5	2 154.6	2 606.2	82.7
Finance, credit and insurance	3 018.8	2 855.8	3 439.6	83.0
Management	1 961.9	1 758.1	2 343.3	75.0

Average nominal wage for workers as at October 2011, disaggregated by sex and occupation (data from sample surveys)

	<i>Average wage, thousands of roubles</i>			<i>Women's wages relative to men's, as a percentage</i>
	<i>Total</i>	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	
Total	2 494.1	2 743.6	2 020.9	73.7
Directors of commercial and non-commercial organizations and subdivisional heads	3 447.2	3 715.0	2 847.2	76.6
Specialists and professionals	2 975.4	3 288.5	2 713.3	82.5
Specialists and professionals in the natural sciences, engineering and technology	3 101.3	3 342.7	2 761.2	82.6
Specialists and professionals in biology, agricultural science and the health care sectors	2 418.1	2 889.5	1 872.4	64.8
Education specialists and professionals	2 520.9	2 391.6	2 724.6	113.9
Other specialists and professionals	2 723.6	3 104.6	2 669.2	86.0
Specialists	2 551.6	2 619.4	2 522.9	96.3
Engineering, technology, architecture and construction specialists	2 767.9	2 973.7	2 683.6	90.2
Natural sciences and health-care specialists	2 374.1	1 447.5	2 497.7	172.6
Mid-level specialists in the education system and training experts	1 450.3	3 690.0	1 433.2	38.8
Other specialists	2 428.6	2 371.0	2 455.6	103.6
Data processors, accountants and consumer service providers	1 638.7	1 914.5	1 606.6	83.9
Data processors and accountants	1 660.5	1 934.1	1 624.0	84.0
Consumer service providers	1 513.0	1 425.4	1 515.5	106.3
Employees in the services sector, trade and related activities	1 567.4	1 562.4	1 571.5	100.6
Individual service providers and private security firms	1 551.9	1 562.4	1 540.8	98.6
Skilled workers in the farming, forestry, fishing and fish farming sectors	1 931.4	2 067.1	1 838.4	88.9
Market experts in the farming, fishing and fish farming sectors	1 931.4	2 067.1	1 838.4	88.9
Skilled factory and construction workers and related professions	2 611.1	2 750.1	2 072.0	75.3
Mining and construction workers	2 606.8	2 668.7	2 290.1	85.8

	Average wage, thousands of roubles			Women's wages relative to men's, as a percentage
	Total	Men	Women	
Mechanical engineers, metal workers and related professions	2 742.1	2 825.6	2 000.3	70.8
Makers of precision instruments, craftspeople, printers and related professions	2 337.9	2 685.6	2 186.9	81.4
Other skilled industrial workers and related professions	2 083.4	2 308.3	1 983.5	85.9
Engine and machine operators and drivers, fitters	2 497.5	2 685.6	2 009.9	74.8
Industrial machinery operators	2 834.2	3 157.4	2 258.8	71.5
Stationary industrial equipment operators, and fitters	2 236.3	2 842.5	1 908.3	67.1
Mobile machinery and engine drivers	2 540.7	2 549.6	2 286.9	89.7
Unskilled workers	1 639.2	2 010.2	1 374.2	68.4
Unskilled employees in the trade and services sectors	1 258.3	1 253.6	1 258.6	100.4
Unskilled workers in the mining construction and manufacturing industries, and the transport sector	2 047.3	2 055.9	2 009.9	97.8

Average nominal wage for workers as at December 2011, disaggregated by sex and sector of the economy

	Average nominal wages for employees, in thousands of roubles			Women's wages relative to men's, as a percentage
	Total	Women	Men	
Total	2 829.4	2 428.2	3 292.8	73.7
Agriculture, hunting and forestry	1 845.7	1 711.9	1 931.4	88.6
Agriculture, hunting and related activities	1 778.6	1 693.4	1 839.7	92.1
Forestry and related activities	2 420.7	2 127.4	2 476.3	85.9
Fishing and fish farming	2 509.4	2 387.5	2 557.3	93.4
Industry	3 394.8	2 783.4	3 851.3	72.3
Mining industry	4 545.0	3 524.9	4 888.3	72.1
Fossil fuel mining	5 538.4	4 246.4	5 890.6	72.1
Mining, excluding fossil fuels	3 223.7	2 843.8	3 387.9	83.9
Manufacturing industry	3 504.3	2 830.5	4 073.5	69.5
Manufacture of food products, including beverages and tobacco	3 204.1	2 970.5	3 494.7	85.0
Textile and garment manufacturing	2 409.8	2 254.8	2 888.3	78.1
Production of leather, leather goods and footwear	2 346.6	2 109.3	3 130.9	67.4
Timber processing and manufacture of wood products	2 664.2	2 300.1	2 864.9	80.3
Pulp and paper production, publishing	3 122.8	2 801.9	3 465.8	80.8

	Average nominal wages for employees, in thousands of roubles			Women's wages relative to men's, as a percentage
	Total	Women	Men	
Production of fuel coke, petroleum goods and nuclear materials	7 029.8	6 222.7	7 375.6	84.4
Chemical manufacturing	6 162.3	4 369.8	7 458.9	58.6
Manufacture of rubber and plastic goods	3 867.4	3 336.5	4 232.8	78.8
Manufacture of other non-metallic mineral goods	2 984.2	2 550.3	3 207.6	79.5
Metallurgy and manufacture of finished metal goods	4 466.6	3 410.9	4 927.4	69.2
Manufacture of machinery and equipment	3 289.2	2 643.2	3 628.9	72.8
Manufacture of electrical, electronic and optical equipment	2 854.3	2 302.9	3 435.5	67.0
Manufacture of motor vehicles and equipment	3 694.2	2 868.5	4 135.9	69.4
Other sectors of industry	3 108.8	2 608.8	3 437.6	75.9
Production and distribution of electricity, gas and water	2 687.2	2 306.4	2 837.6	81.3
Construction	2 992.5	2 480.0	3 109.8	79.8
Commerce in and repair of motor cars, household wares and goods for personal use	2 793.2	2 555.3	3 428.4	74.5
Motor car and motorcycle sales, maintenance and repair	4 123.7	3 669.9	4 402.5	83.4
Wholesale commerce and trade through agents, except in the case of motor cars and motorcycles	3 938.8	3 352.3	4 590.9	73.0
Retail trade, except in the case of motor cars and motorcycles; repair of household wares and goods for personal use	2 432.8	2 395.1	2 581.8	92.8
Hospitality and catering industry	2 354.1	2 275.9	2 642.0	86.1
Transport and communications	3 262.7	2 805.5	3 534.6	79.4
Land transport	3 195.0	2 711.0	3 414.2	79.4
Railways	3 478.6	3 062.6	3 702.0	82.7
Other types of land transport	2 713.4	2 169.3	2 931.9	74.0
Pipeline transportation	5 515.4	4 886.2	5 661.9	86.3
Air transport	5 234.1	3 292.3	6 399.1	51.4
Support and auxiliary transport activities	3 366.5	3 239.3	3 417.7	94.8
Communications	3 279.6	2 816.4	3 974.4	70.9
Financial activities	6 258.9	5 831.5	7 362.4	79.2
Financial broking	6 683.5	6 261.0	7 755.4	80.7
Insurance	3 340.4	3 136.5	3 968.3	79.0
Real estate, leasing and consumer services	3 758.1	3 169.0	4 462.1	71.0
Real estate	2 150.4	1 970.8	2 377.8	82.9
Computer technology	8 275.5	5 989.4	9 807.0	61.1

	<i>Average nominal wages for employees, in thousands of roubles</i>			<i>Women's wages relative to men's, as a percentage</i>
	<i>Total</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Men</i>	
Scientific research and development	4 608.1	3 886.9	5 383.8	72.2
Public administration	2 570.7	2 322.9	2 867.9	81.0
Education	1 985.6	1 910.6	2 316.8	82.5
Health care and social services	2 135.6	2 070.7	2 504.1	82.7
Health-care services	2 181.6	2 109.3	2 616.8	80.6
Social services	1 780.8	1 768.2	1 855.2	95.3
Municipal, social and personal services	2 516.8	1 987.9	3 343.6	59.5
Leisure, entertainment, culture and sports	2 525.8	1 932.7	3 580.8	54.0

Average nominal wage for workers as at December 2012, disaggregated by sex and sector of the economy

	<i>Average wages for employees, in roubles</i>			<i>Women's wages relative to men's, as a percentage</i>
	<i>Total</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Men</i>	
Total	4 656.7	4 019.9	5 397.6	74.5
Agriculture, hunting and forestry	3 418.5	3 218.2	3 546.6	90.7
Agriculture, hunting and related services	3 353.3	3 201.6	3 461.8	92.5
Forestry and related services	3 978.1	3 592.3	4 050.9	88.7
Fishing and fish farming	3 790.3	3 197.6	4 044.3	79.1
Industry	5 200.0	4 339.0	5 830.6	74.4
Mining industry	6 130.3	5 057.4	6 583.3	76.8
Fossil fuel mining	6 176.9	5 221.9	6 551.8	79.7
Mining, excluding fossil fuels	6 091.2	4 931.7	6 610.7	74.6
Manufacturing industry	5 349.2	4 407.2	6 119.4	72.0
Manufacture of food products, including beverages and tobacco	5 278.1	4 935.3	5 696.9	86.6
Textile and garment manufacturing	3 708.6	3 496.1	4 355.5	80.3
Production of leather, leather goods and footwear	4 002.5	3 770.0	4 671.8	80.7
Timber processing and manufacture of wood products	4 076.0	3 612.3	4 321.4	83.6
Pulp and paper production, publishing	4 767.8	4 363.1	5 201.7	83.9
Production of fuel coke, petroleum goods and nuclear materials	9 471.1	8 448.0	9 905.9	85.3
Chemical manufacturing	6 887.5	5 457.2	7 930.5	68.8
Manufacture of rubber and plastic goods	6 860.6	5 778.9	7 578.1	76.3
Manufacture of other non-metallic mineral goods	5 128.9	4 298.1	5 536.6	77.6
Metallurgy and manufacture of finished metal goods	6 190.5	4 805.9	6 751.5	71.2
Manufacture of machinery and equipment	5 355.9	4 066.7	6 013.8	67.6

	Average wages for employees, in roubles			Women's wages relative to men's, as a percentage
	Total	Women	Men	
Manufacture of electrical, electronic and optical equipment	4 505.1	3 604.6	5 441.9	66.2
Manufacture of motor vehicles and equipment	5 801.1	4 535.8	6 443.6	70.4
Other sectors of industry	4 790.1	4 059.2	5 260.4	77.2
Production and distribution of electricity, gas and water	4 342.5	3 728.1	4 595.2	81.1
Construction	5 493.2	4 577.2	5 703.7	80.2
Commerce in and repair of motor cars, household wares and goods for personal use	4 588.2	4 320.9	5 272.1	82.0
Motor car and motorcycle sales, maintenance and repair	5 812.7	5 356.4	6 078.4	88.1
Wholesale commerce and trade through agents, except in the case of motor cars and motorcycles	5 889.9	5 332.6	6 496.3	82.1
Retail trade, except in the case of motor cars and motorcycles; repair of household wares and goods for personal use	4 201.1	4 132.4	4 458.3	92.7
Hospitality and catering industry	3 965.9	3 664.5	4 964.4	73.8
Transport and communications	5 435.8	4 679.6	5 881.9	79.6
Land transport	5 573.5	4 746.1	5 938.2	79.9
Railways	5 871.8	5 127.2	6 259.3	81.9
Other types of land transport	4 706.5	3 925.2	5 012.2	78.3
Pipeline transportation	12 256.1	11 310.3	12 469.0	90.7
Air transport	6 946.6	4 343.2	8 484.7	51.2
Support and auxiliary transport activities	5 415.1	5 150.3	5 528.3	93.2
Communications	4 944.7	4 493.6	5 647.3	79.6
Financial activities	9 681.5	8 921.8	11 658.7	76.5
Financial broking	10 333.8	9 582.4	12 249.0	78.2
Insurance	5 215.6	4 792.7	6 548.8	73.2
Real estate, leasing and consumer services	6 550.2	5 416.2	7 883.7	68.7
Real estate	3 984.9	3 700.5	4 354.1	85.0
Computer technology	13 916.2	9 698.2	16 477.3	58.9
Scientific research and development	7 022.8	6 046.8	8 087.7	74.8
Public administration	5 060.6	4 637.3	5 577.1	83.2
Education	3 190.4	3 076.8	3 712.4	82.9
Health care and social services	3 627.8	3 520.9	4 234.7	83.1
Health-care services	3 728.1	3 607.0	4 455.2	81.0
Social services	2 790.9	2 793.4	2 776.4	100.6
Municipal, social and personal services	3 974.4	3 282.2	5 060.9	64.9
Leisure, entertainment, culture and sports	3 716.3	3 121.7	4 818.0	64.8

Annex 5

Domestic crime statistics for 2009–2012 and the first seven months of 2013

<i>Domestic crimes committed</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Total registered</i>
	2009	2 980
	2010	3 111
	2011	2 602
	2012	1 790
	2013	1 273
Type of offence		
Murder/attempted murder, art. 139 of the Criminal Code	2009	174
	2010	140
	2011	105
	2012	110
	2013	53
Causing grievous bodily harm, art. 147 of the Criminal Code	2009	395
	2010	351
	2011	289
	2012	273
	2013	176
Causing actual bodily harm, art. 149 of the Criminal Code	2009	153
	2010	127
	2011	82
	2012	83
	2013	59
Causing actual bodily harm with intent, art. 153 of the Criminal Code	2009	390
	2010	419
	2011	452
	2012	367
	2013	284
Torture, art. 154 of the Criminal Code	2009	521
	2010	526
	2011	476
	2012	265
	2013	189

<i>Domestic crimes committed</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Total registered</i>
Threat of murder, causing grievous bodily harm or destruction of property, art. 186 of the Criminal Code	2009	1 310
	2010	1 493
	2011	1 145
	2012	643
	2013	479
Marital rape, art. 166 of the Criminal Code	2009	19
	2010	5
	2011	10
	2012	8
	2013	15

Annex 6

Statistics (Combating human trafficking and related offences)

1. Number of human-trafficking offences uncovered by law enforcement agencies from 2000 to 1 July 2013

<i>Recorded offences</i>	<i>2000</i>	<i>2001</i>	<i>2002</i>	<i>2003</i>	<i>2004</i>	<i>2005</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>2013</i>
Human trafficking offences, including under:	0	7	22	35	92	159	95	84	69	61	39	9	8	4
• Article 181 of the Criminal Code, on human trafficking	0	0	2	3	19	75	64	71	63	47	30	4	2	1
• Article 187 of the Criminal Code (as amended in 1999) on recruitment of people for exploitation purposes	0	7	20	32	73	84	31	13	6	14	9	5	6	3
Use of slave labour (art. 181-1 of the Criminal Code)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	0	1	0
Kidnapping (art. 182, para. 4 (2) of the Criminal Code)	0	0	2	7	4	10	7	8	6	7	5	2	0	0
Unlawful activities aimed at the employment of foreign nationals (art. 187 of the Code as amended in 2005)	-	-	-	-	-	6	16	4	14	4	0	1	0	0
Exploitation of prostitution, including under:	149	186	342	347	331	150	115	115	87	107	123	116	76	28
• Article 171 of the Criminal Code (as amended in 1999) on brothel-keeping, procuring and pimping	149	186	342	347	331	107	25	16	10	25	22	13	13	5
• Article 171 of the Criminal Code (as amended in 2005) on the exploitation of prostitution or the creation of conditions for exploiting prostitution	-	-	-	-	-	43	90	99	77	82	101	103	63	23

<i>Recorded offences</i>	<i>2000</i>	<i>2001</i>	<i>2002</i>	<i>2003</i>	<i>2004</i>	<i>2005</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>2013</i>
Incitement to prostitution, ¹ including under:	0	0	47	99	128	44	61	57	34	39	49	41	35	7
• Article 173 of the Criminal Code (as amended in 1999) on incitement of minors to antisocial conduct	0	0	47	99	128	36	11	4	0	-	-	-	1	-
• Article 171-1 of the Criminal Code (as amended in 2005) on incitement to prostitution or coercion to continue to engage in prostitution	-	-	-	-	-	8	50	53	34	39	49	41	34	7
Total	149	193	413	488	555	369	294	268	210	219	217	169	120	39
Related to sexual exploitation:	149	193	413	488	555	352	277	242	157	209	212	167	119	39
Related to labour exploitation:	-	-	-	-	-	17	17	26	53	10	4	2	1	0
Related to organ removal:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	0	0	0

¹ In the figures on Article 173 of the Criminal Code, only offences entailing the incitement to prostitution of minors are included. The incitement of minors to participate in other antisocial conduct (pornography, begging and drunkenness) is not reflected in this table.

2. The number of victims of human trafficking (offences under articles 171, 171-1, 181, 181-1, 187, paragraph 4 (2) of article 182, and paragraphs 2 and 3 of article 343-1 of the Criminal Code of Belarus), as established by law enforcement agencies for the period from 2000 to 1 July 2013

		2002	2003	2004	2005	2006 ²	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012 ³	2013 ⁴
Total figures					625	1 107	418	591	398	362	295	209	68
minors only		100	350	400	61	222	23	103	35	26	22	45	6
Type of exploitation	Sexual, involving minors	100	350	400	365 59	1 011 218	378 22	458 103	369 35	345 26	287 22	208 45	68 6
	Forced labour, involving minors	0	0	0	260 2	96 4	40 1	133 0	29 0	14 0	8 0	1 0	0
	Removal of organs, involving minors	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3 0	0	0	0
Place of exploitation	Abroad	-	-	-	-	998	338	345	291	182	142	85	30
	In Belarus	-	-	-	-	109	80	246	107	180	153	124	38
Persons affected solely by offences as provided for under article 181 of the Criminal Code (and art. 187 of the Code as amended in 1999)		36	85	180	424	837	203	236	147	64	14	12	4

² In 2006 there were 1,107 cases of human trafficking, broken down as follows:

- 587, including 156 minors, were identified in the course of criminal inquiries in a highly publicized case involving the modelling business, which lasted nearly two years. All of the victims had been sexually exploited and the great majority of minors involved was aged 17 or 18;
- 520, including 66 minors, were identified in the course of an investigation into offences committed in 2006, in which 424 persons, including 62 minors, were sexually exploited, and 96, including 4 minors, were exploited as forced labour.

³ In 2012, 33 minors (including 8 very young children) subjected to offences under article 343-1, paragraphs 2 and 3, of the Criminal Code (as a result of their involvement in the making of pornographic films) are considered to have suffered sexual exploitation: Brest province – 12 underage girls and 1 very young girl; Viciebsk province – 8 underage girls and 1 very young boy; Homiel province – 1 underage boy and 1 underage girl; Minsk province – 2 underage girls and 1 underage boy; Minsk – 6 very young girls.

⁴ In 2013, 4 minors (including 3 very young children) subjected to offences under article 343-1, paragraphs 2 and 3, of the Criminal Code (as a result of their involvement in the making of pornographic films) are considered to have suffered sexual exploitation: Homiel province – 1 very young girl; the Minsk area – 1 very young girl, Minsk – 2 very young girls.

3. The number of offences related to the production and distribution of pornography identified by law enforcement agencies for the period from 2000 to 1 July 2013

Until 2005, the production and distribution of pornographic material was an administrative offence. An offence could only be considered criminal where there was an administrative *res judicata* (i.e., when the offence was committed again by a person already convicted of the same offence in the space of a year). The production and distribution of pornographic material became a criminal offence in May 2005.

<i>Recorded offences</i>	<i>2000</i>	<i>2001</i>	<i>2002</i>	<i>2003</i>	<i>2004</i>	<i>2005</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>2013</i>
Production and distribution of pornographic materials (art. 343 of the Criminal Code)	37	4	30	47	28	209	203	132	98	157	207	238	213	147 ⁵
Production and distribution of child pornography (art. 343-1 of the Criminal Code)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	11	36	40	16
Number of police reports on administrative offences (art. 164 of the Code of Administrative Offences)	37	182	204	195	201	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

⁵ In 2013, the law enforcement authorities uncovered 147 offences related to the production and distribution of pornography, 114 of them on the Internet. In addition, 16 offences related to the production and distribution of child pornography, 10 of them on the Internet, were uncovered. The following material containing pornographic images was seized: 111 hard drives (desktop units), 99 DVDs, 16 mobile phones, 12 flash cards and 16 photographs.

Annex 7

Information regarding criminal prosecutions (convictions, persons with diminished mental capacity sentenced to criminal restraint and treatment, cases dismissed, acquittals)

Year	Art. 171 of the Criminal Code		Art. 171-1 of the Criminal Code			Art. 181 of the Criminal Code		Art. 182 of the Criminal Code			Art. 187 of the Criminal Code		Art. 343-1 of the Criminal Code (introduced under Act No. 451-3 of 11 October 2008)			
	Convictions	Cases dismissed	Convictions	Cases dismissed	Acquittals	Convictions	Cases dismissed	Convictions	Cases dismissed	Acquittals	Convictions	Cases dismissed	Convictions	Cases dismissed	Criminal restraint and treatment	Acquittals
2005	78	4	4	-	-	18	-	14	2	-	22	-	-	-	-	-
2006	73	1	11	-	-	20	-	11	-	-	16	-	-	-	-	-
2007	43	-	9	-	-	26	-	21	1	-	15	-	-	-	-	-
2008	66	-	12	-	-	17	-	25	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	-
2009	41	2	6	1	-	19	-	22	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-
2010	71	1	4	1	1	12	-	10	-	-	5	-	3	-	1	-
2011	36	1	9	-	-	6	-	10	1	1	-	-	13	-	-	-
2012	20	1	9	-	-	-	-	6	1	1	2	1	18	-	-	2
First half of 2013	13	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-

Annex 8

Main standard of living indicators

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	First quarter of 2013	First half of 2013
Percentage rates for real disposable income in comparison with the corresponding period of the previous year	118.1	115.9	113.1	111.8	103.7	114.8	98.9	121.5	121.4	119.8
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	First quarter of 2013	
Percentage rates of poverty,	12.7	11.1	7.7	6.1	5.4	5.2	7.3	6.3	5.8	
broken down by:										
Cities and towns	10.9	9.1	5.6	4.4	4.0	3.8	5.8	5.2	4.7	
Rural areas	16.7	15.5	12.4	9.7	9.5	8.9	11.5	9.4	9.0	
Proportion of households with per capita disposable resources below the minimum subsistence level (total),	9.3	8.4	5.6	4.2	3.7	3.4	5.8	4.6	4.3	
subdivided by category of household (as a percentage of the total number of households of the corresponding category):										
Single-person households	3.8	3.5	2.1	0.9	0.8	0.6	3.3	2.1	1.8	
Childless households	6.1	6.2	3.8	2.2	2.0	1.8	3.9	2.6	2.4	
Households with children under the age of 18 years:	16.1	13.7	9.7	8.6	7.5	7.2	10.3	9.2	8.7	
One child	11.2	8.7	6.1	4.9	4.6	4.4	6.4	6.3	5.7	
Two children	19.6	18.9	13.0	11.2	9.0	8.8	15.0	12.2	12.4	
Three or more children	55.7	49.0	32.5	32.8	34.3	30.1	32.2	27.8	25.1	
One adult household member	13.6	17.3	12.2	10.4	9.9	10.0	14.9	12.1	12.4	

Annex 9

The incidence of sexually transmitted diseases among the population of Belarus

(100,000s of people)

