



CIVICUS House 24 Gwigwi Mrwebi Street
(former Pim) corner Quinn St
Newtown 2001 Johannesburg South Africa
tel +27 11 833-5858
fax +27 11 833-7987
email info@civicus.org

1420 K Street NW Suite 900 Washington
DC 20005 USA
tel +202 331-8518
fax +202 331-8774

WWW.CIVICUS.ORG

Item 6

UPR outcome report of **Belarus**
23 September 2010

CIVICUS members and partners of the Belarusian civil society welcome with enthusiasm the participation of the Belarusian government in the Universal Periodic Review process. For the first time in many years, due to this mechanism, the situation of human rights in Belarus has not only become the subject of one-sided criticism from internal and external observers, but it has turned into the subject of a comprehensive dialogue with the Government on a wide range of problems. The interaction between the State and national human rights organizations, including those which are not officially registered during the preparatory process had no precedents in modern Belarus before and has created much hope for the future.

However, we regret to note that the position of the Belarusian delegation during the interactive dialogue had mostly formal and non-constructive character. And we regret even more that what we now learned through the (last minute Addendum) Belarus has rejected most of the recommendations made by other governments and which reflect our most urgent requests. These are:

- Abolition or at least moratorium of the **death penalty**
- Guaranteeing **Freedom of association**
- **Simplifying the registration procedure of associations, political parties and other forms of non-governmental organizations. *de jure*, and *de facto*:**
- **The ban on activities of unregistered non-governmental organizations should be abolished and criminal responsibility for such activities should be excluded from the Criminal Code of Belarus. Article 193-1 of the Criminal Code of Belarus is incompatible with the norms of freedom of association.**
- We hope that the review of a **new Law on non-commercial organizations planned for next year** will improve the situation of civil society. We call on the Belarusian government to involve international experts into the development of this new Law.
- **Implementing the decisions/recommendations of the UN Human Rights Committee and submitting overdue reports**

However, civil society of Belarus believes that **for our country, the points, set out in the report, will be the scale by which it will be possible to measure progress in the development of situation with human rights in the coming years.**

I thank