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Agenda item 3

**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Letter dated 26 May 2011 from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Belarus to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva addressed to the President of the Human Rights Council

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Belarus to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the secretariat of the Human Rights Council and has the honour to enclose herewith the joint letter of a group of countries united against human trafficking, with a kind request to the President to circulate the present letter* as a document of the seventeenth session of the Council.

* Reproduced in the annex, as received and in the language of submission only.

Annex

We have the honour to draw your kind attention to the recent establishment in Geneva of the Group of Friends United against Human Trafficking.

This Group of Friends together with groups alike in New York and Vienna is aimed at strengthening global counter-trafficking activities under the auspices of the United Nations.

Geneva Group of Friends (GGF) is an informal, voluntary and *open-ended* association of like-minded Member States created to assist to the relevant international organizations and their bodies located in Geneva to effectively implement within their respective mandates the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons (A/RES/64/293) and, in a more general sense, to reinforce and consolidate their counter-trafficking activities.

From this perspective we believe that the Human Rights Council has a large potential to effectively address human trafficking through result-oriented human rights based approach. In this context our Group stands ready to constructively cooperate with the Council's relevant thematic special procedures, Member States as well as NGOs that are not indifferent to the alarming worldwide spread of modern slavery.

GGF also seeks close cooperation with other international stakeholders, including the International Organization for Migration, the Office of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Labour Organization, the World Health organization.

To facilitate the work of the Group of Friends the Belarusian Mission is currently exercising functions of the GGF coordinator.

We would be grateful if you could kindly circulate the present letter as an official document of the seventeenth session of the Human Rights Council.

(signed) Md. Abdul Hannan
Permanent Representative of Bangladesh

(signed) Mikhail Khvostov
Permanent Representative of Belarus

(signed) Angélica C. Navarro Llanos
Permanent Representative of Bolivia

(signed) Mauricio Montalvo
Permanent Representative of Ecuador

(signed) Hisham Badr
Permanent Representative of Egypt

(signed) Gopinathan Achamkulangare
Permanent Representative of India

(signed) Mukhtar Tileuberdi
Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan

(signed) Gulnara Iskakova
Permanent Representative of the Kyrgyz Republic

(signed) Evan P. Garcia
Permanent Representative of the Philippines

(signed) Abdulla Falah Abdulla Al-Dosari
Permanent Representative of Qatar

- (signed) Valery Loshchinin
Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation
- (signed) Tan Yee Woan
Permanent Representative of Singapore
- (signed) Salohiddin Nasriddinov
Permanent Representative of Tajikistan
- (signed) Esen Aydogdyev
Permanent Representative of Turkmenistan
- (signed) Obaid Salem Saeed Al Zaabi
Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates
- (signed) Germán Mundaraín Hernández
Permanent Representative of Venezuela
- (signed) Goulmira Karimova
Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan
- (signed) Muna Abbas Radhi
Deputy Permanent Representative of Bahrain
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
- (signed) Néstor Cruz Toruño
Deputy Permanent Representative of Nicaragua
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
- (signed) Charles Nduka Onianwa
Deputy Permanent Representative of Nigeria
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
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