

*STATEMENT by H.E.
President of the Republic of Belarus
Alexander Lukashenko
at the World Climate Summit
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Mr. President!
Distinguished participants!

I would like to extend the words of appreciation to the leadership of the United Arab Emirates for the hospitality and the excellent organization of the conference.

Today, we, the leaders of the world, are engaged in a conversation about the future of our planet Earth – our common home. We talk about the future of our children and grandchildren. We talk about the future of all those coming into this world after us.

We represent different cultures, different value systems, different civilizations. But we are all united against the global challenge that nature itself has thrown at us.

Climate has been changing. Scientists come up with direst predictions.

What is truly progressive is that we hear them and react. Yet confronting the threat effectively requires us to state its root causes in an honest and open manner.

First and foremost, it is the lacking sense of proportion in the quest for geopolitical, including military, superiority on the part of those forces that provoke and flare up hotspots of war in various parts of the globe.

It is the thirst for enrichment, which turns natural resources into personal capital and pilfers from future generations.

It is the attempt to put aside from their path all those countries that work against the undertaking to subdue and destroy the whole world by depriving the earth of its vital energy.

More often than not, these policies have been pursued with sustainable development allegedly in mind.

The Republic of Belarus fully implements its obligations under the Paris Agreement and goes even beyond them.

We provide invaluable “ecosystem” services to our continent by preserving a unique source of oxygen – natural swamps and forests, the lungs of Europe.

We have been developing green and nuclear energy thereby minimizing the risks of climate change.

What we receive in response, paradoxically, is new economic sanctions, along with barriers to international trade, and restricted access to technology.

It is high time to face the truth: the green agenda is meaningless when confrontation prevails. The agenda requires respect for countries’ sovereignty and unreserved justice!

One cannot trample political opponents with sanctions while demanding from them decisions that entail costs for their own national economies. That is, the decisions that determine the purity of the entire atmosphere, of all groundwater and of the world's oceans.

Another point: how can one expect expensive and effective climate conservation measures to be embraced by countries and peoples that have not recovered from colonial oppression yet?

With this in mind, Belarus urges all those obliged to assume the burden of historical responsibility:

to make a proportionate contribution to addressing climate security issues for all the centuries of thoughtless treatment of nature;

to scale up assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

to stop voicing “concerns” and start acting for the sake of saving life on Earth.

We have no moral right to live only for ourselves. We must look beyond the horizon, we must respect the laws of nature and we must lay the foundation for the preservation of the human race here, on our planet.

We have no other home and never will do!

Thank you for your kind attention.