



Committee: Economic and Social Council

Topic: Forum on Forests

Country: The Republic of Belarus

Delegate:

School:

In 1992, the United Nations adopted a *Non-legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests*, their goal is to combat deforestation. Deforestation can cause climate change, desertification, soil erosion, crop loss, flooding, and increased greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. The United Nations adopted an action plan in April 2007, to set a standard in forest management. This was made to have national action to reduce deforestation, prevent forest degradation, promote sustainable livelihoods and reduce poverty for all forest-dependent peoples. Belarus has agreed to the United Nations 2030 Agenda. Belarus first started its activities in 2015 when the Government approved the national strategy for sustainable socioeconomic development, which set out the main milestones to be achieved by 2030. Belarus takes pride in following the SDG 15, life on land.

Belarus's forests known as, "The Lungs of Europe" cover 40% of the country's land. Belarus is home to the Białowieża Forest, known for being the oldest forest in Europe, along with being the last remaining primeval forest in lowland Europe. Because of this, the forest is said to be an "ancient relic", dating back ten centuries. The forest provides shelter for some of Belarus's prized animals, such as the European bison. However, since the rise of climate change, and the lifting of the ban on logging, Belarus's forests have started to decline. Logging has significantly made the forests reduce in size; However, logging is essential to the prevention of a bark beetle outbreak. In 1990, Belarus's ecosystem has warmed by an annual temperature of 1.3C°. This change has affected the forests tremendously, making its sub-taiga and taiga biomes reduce tremendously. This effect on Belarus's climate is due to global warming. Global warming is an issue in which the climate is warming rapidly, this affects the ecosystems most humans rely on for their basic human needs.

The United Nations is aware of the damage the warming has done to the planet, because of their proactive attitude towards this topic, they have created a group, the IPCC which deals with all issues stemmed from climate change or global warming. The



IPCC have taken many measures to ensure the forestry is being restored in Belarus and other countries. This year the IPCC has chosen Belarus to host their panel meeting, this is because they have recognized the considerable amount of reduction in deforestation that Belarus has achieved in the past years. Andrei Kovkhuto has said “Minsk has been chosen the host of the event thanks, among other things, to a significant contribution of Belarusian experts to the work of the IPCC. For example, they have prepared the materials on the impact of the marshes and organic soils on the climate change. Belarus is doing a lot to preserve the environment and reduce the impact of manufacturing on climate,”

Belarussian Government Officials are aware of the crisis known as climate change and have taken action to prevent any worsening of their climate. In 2005, The UN Member States adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, this contributes to protecting their waters and forestry. Belarus has signed many treaties, ranging from the Paris Agreement to United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals into national development planning that they have integrated into their national action plans to combat the climate change in Belarus; Another key factor to their success towards climate change is, they are eager to work alongside the UN, for example, On November 19, 2019, the Permanent representative of the Republic of Belarus, United Nations Valentin Rybakov, met with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. Ivan Narkevich has said “We are currently working on Belarus’ low-carbon development strategy and we have already drafted it. We plan to use more renewable resources – wind, water, heat. They are the future,”, This was his response to the demand for climate action. Along with backing the Paris Agreement, Belarus joined the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 2005.

The Belarussian government has recently announced climate action plans for all key sectors of their economy, such as agriculture and forestry. Belarus signed the Paris agreement and cut its emissions by 28%. The Republic of Belarus has forged an action plan to reduce greenhouse gas. The following could be applied on a global level to help save the forests of the earth. They are as follows:

1. Starting to electrify trains
2. Focus on investing time in promoting Energy Efficiency, this can help, because it will restore the earth’s climate to the equivalent of their pre-climate change ecosystem.
3. Introducing decentralized solar energy systems, such as Belarus, but this is not a widely used system yet, but this system is very effective, because it is when the



energy that is generated off the main grid, such as micro-renewables, heating and cooling. This new system can be used in single buildings or a being built out across entire cities. Belarus's dedication to helping deforestation and its climate has helped raise awareness to other neighboring countries. For example, since Belarus has increased their forest cover by over 518000 in the years following 1990, other countries have started to attempt to reforest their woodlands.

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