

Priority Concerns and Recommendations

Treaty Obligations

Belarus denounced the Optional Protocol to the ICCPR, depriving citizens of access to the HRC, and withdrew from the Aarhus and Bern Conventions. In anti-corruption, it denounced the Council of Europe Criminal Law Convention on Corruption and the Additional Protocol, and the Civil Law Convention on Corruption and ceased to be a member of GRECO as of 1 May, 2024.

Reaccede:

- the ICCPR Optional Protocol, the Aarhus and Bern Conventions, the Council of Europe Civil Law and Criminal Law Conventions on Corruption with the Additional Protocol, and resume membership in GRECO

Ratify:

- the Convention on Enforced Disappearance and the Convention on Migrant Workers, 1954 & 1961 Statelessness Conventions, the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR and other core human rights treaties

International Cooperation

Since 2020, Belarus' cooperation with international human rights mechanisms has sharply declined. It ignores treaty body recommendations, rejects HRC views and interim measures. Belarus refuses to engage with UN mandates investigating post-2020 violations and with the Special Rapporteur on Belarus, and selectively uses thematic procedures while withholding key information.

For over 20 years Belarus has failed to implement ILO Commission of Inquiry recommendations, leading to the application of Article 33 of the ILO Constitution in 2023, and continues to refuse follow-up measures. It has also rejected the OSCE Moscow Mechanisms (2020, 2023) and Vienna Mechanisms (2021, 2024) as politically biased.

Cooperate / Engage:

- UN Special Procedures, HRC investigative bodies, treaty bodies, and the ILO — implement recommendations in good faith.
- OSCE mechanisms (Moscow, Vienna) and other independent international assessments.

Death Penalty

Contrary to international obligations, the authorities expanded the death penalty beyond the “most serious crimes” — introducing it in 2022 for attempted terrorist acts and in 2023 extending it to officials and military personnel for high treason. Between 2020 and 2024, six death sentences were issued. Despite HRC communications, the authorities ignored requests to suspend executions; the HRC has recognized previous executions as human rights violations.

Moratorium / Cooperation:

- Establish a moratorium as a step toward abolition.
- Until a moratorium, ensure transparency (timely notice to convicts and families) and cooperate with UN mechanisms on fair trial concerns.