

creditors have to cancel or cut the debts they are owed. The international community also has a vital contribution to make through aid. Even with donor assistance, however, it is argued that the eradication of poverty cannot rely on the efforts of central governments alone.

Human poverty is the result of the whole set of intersecting inequalities – social, political, and economic. One of the most important of these involves gender.

The international community, including the UN system, can help fully establish poverty eradication as a priority. And the UNDP is striving to play an important role, following the impetus provided by the ongoing UN reforms, to enable the UN system to address poverty in a more coherent and effective way.

В данной работе освещается деятельность Программы развития ООН, направленная на преодоление бедности в странах с переходной экономикой. Исследуются причины появления бедности, критерии ее оценки, а также реальные действия правительств этих стран и помощь мировых сообществ, направленные на решение данной проблемы.

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Интеграция Беларуси и Европейского союза **Integration of Belarus and European Union**

The current tendency of European integration is one of the major questions on the global scope, especially taking into consideration the burning issue of the EU membership of the post-socialistic countries.

At the current stage the foreign policy of Belarus is clearly oriented to the integration with Russia and to some extent with other CIS countries. At the same time it seems reluctant to the integration processes taking place in Western and even Central and Eastern Europe. Such "one-vector" policy can lead to the future isolation of the republic from the global economic processes. On the one hand, Belarus is a small country and its economy can't be self-sufficient, on the other hand the republic is situated in the center of Europe and its territory is ideal for transit and distribution of goods and services. Thus the participation in the international span of labor and global economic system is inevitable for the prosperous future of the country.

Nowadays, although some efforts for integration have been taken, many difficulties and problems exist. The international agreements in

economic and trade co-operation with European countries are mostly dated to the middle of 90s. In the following years the foreign trade with the countries of EU decreased and the participation of Belarus in international exchange of capital, information and technology is minimal. Belarus received the least amount of foreign investments from all the countries with transition economy. This can be explained by the low level of quality of Belarusian goods and services, tense competition at the foreign markets as well as unfavorable economic climate and the lack of free-market transformation in the country.

Belarus has been an important and integral part of the former USSR, thus its relations with the former republics are still very strong. It shouldn't stop the integration processes with Russia and CIS as it was historically determined that they are its major trade partners. But though the benefits are considerable, there are many negative consequences. Total dependence of the country on the Russian policy and economy, that was proved by the economic crisis in 1998. This vector of integration doesn't lead to the quick success in economic reforms because of the poor results of our CIS partners in this sphere. Besides too deep integration with CIS can slow down the cooperation with new economic partner of the EU. It is evident that cooperation of Belarus and EU is essential for the successful development of its economy. But there should be considerable changes in legislation, tax policy and other aspects of political and economic life. Belarus should be more active in participation in international trade organizations (such as WTO etc), reformation and liberalization of the economy should become more intensive, multi-vector economic relations should be developed.

Современная тенденция европейской интеграции является одним из важнейших вопросов в мировой политике и экономике. В настоящее время внешняя политика Беларуси направлена на углубленную интеграцию с Россией и республиками СНГ. Одновременно наблюдается постепенная изоляция страны от процессов, происходящих в Европе. Хотя некоторые попытки развития отношений с европейскими странами были предприняты, в последнее время они не приносят результатов, что связано с низким качеством отечественных товаров и услуг, неблагоприятным экономическим и политическим климатом, слабым развитием рыночных реформ. Беларусь не должна останавливать интеграцию с СНГ, но ей нужно проводить многовекторную интеграционную политику. Слишком глубокая интеграция со странами СНГ может замедлить формирование новых экономических отношений со странами ЕС. Беларусь должна более активно участвовать в международных торговых организациях (например, ВТО), либерализация и реформирование экономики должны идти более интенсивно.

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