Country: The Republic of Belarus

Committee: UNICEF

Topic: Combating child poverty and social exclusion

 The Republic of Belarus is a Slav and landlocked country in Eastern Europe. It is bordered by Russia to the northeast, Ukraine to the south, Poland to the west, Latvia and Lithuania to the northwest. It is a former Soviet country that declared its independency at 1991 after The Soviet Union has broken up. The Republic of Belarus has been a member of UNICEF since 1953. UNICEF Office in Minsk was opened in 1997. The Basic Cooperation Agreement between the Republic of Belarus and UNICEF was signed in New York in December 2007. More than once, Belarus has been a member of the governing body of UNICEF’s Executive Board.

 Belarus works really hard about children. It is such a developing country about child care that the increase of the ‘orphans and children left without parental care’ has been stopped and decrease in number has been ensured. The reduction rate reached 25% since 2007.

 Belarusian children used to have iodine deficiency, therefore we started a campaign to promote the consumption of iodised salt. Due to our campaign, we have contributed to the reduction of iodine deficiency among Belarusian children.

 Belarus is not only care about orphans and children health but also care about stigma and discrimination against children with disabilities. We established an effective system for early identification and early intervention for children with disabilities and special needs. We promote inclusion in schools for all children and we celebrate differences, support learning and respond individual needs. We also teach those morals in schools to reduce the discrimination in our country.

 The Republic of Belarus believes that these discriminations end exclusions must stop. We also want to solve the problem of child poverty. These are not only Belarus’s problem, these are global problems that everyone must be aware of.

 We think that we should deal with the uncontrolled birth problem first to solve the problem of child poverty. Statistics say that poor families make more children than rich ones. Then, we should financially help families who can’t afford the basic needs of their child/children. This way we can decrease the proportion of child poverty.

 Belarus take exclusion problem seriously. We believe that law is not the only way to stop this. We must teach celebrating differences, being respectful to others not only to children but also to parents neatly. Because education starts from family and if we can’t teach families how to be a good individual, they won’t be able to teach their kids these morals.