First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly
Sixty-third session

Introduction of the draft resolution “Prohibition of the
development and manufacture of new types of weapons
of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons:
report of the Conference on Disarmament”

17 October 2008

Statement
by Mr. Igor Ugorich
Acting Head,
Department of International Security and Arms Control,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus

The delegation of Belarus has the honour to introduce the draft resolution entitled
“Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass

The draft resolution is sponsored by Armenia, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Kazakhstan,
Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine,
Uzbekistan and Venezuela. Belarus highly appreciates the support for the document on
the part of current and future sponsors.

The issue of the prohibition of the new weapons of mass destruction has been discussed
by the General Assembly for more than 30 years. In its current form, the draft resolution
has existed since 1996. Since 1990 it has been accepted on triennial basis. Compared to
General Assembly resolution 60/46, the current draft contains only technical updates in
the second preambular paragraph and in operative paragraphs 4 and 6.

The purpose of the draft resolution is to establish an agreed international procedure that
would make possible continuous monitoring of the situation regarding the development
and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction by the Conference on
Disarmament and would provide for recommendations on undertaking specific
negotiations on identified types of such weapons, when necessary.

The draft resolution is neither hampering research and development programmes nor
overburdening existing disarmament machinery. It specifically notes that the Conference
on Disarmament should keep the issue under review without prejudice to further
overview of its agenda and requests to include the results of any consideration of the
issue in the annual reports of the CD.

Belarus believes that preventive measures are the best way of dealing with potential
threats to the international peace and security. Nature and boldness of these preventive
measures, however, largely depend on the political will of States. Lack of proved
evidence of existence or development of specific types of new WMD can not serve as an
excuse for losing sight of this important issue.

Therefore Belarus appeals to all Member States to reaffirm their political commitment to
the prevention of new WMD emergence by supporting the proposed draft resolution. We
call for its consensus adoption.