



# Convention on Biological Diversity

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REGIONAL WORKSHOP FOR CENTRAL AND EASTERN  
EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA ON THE PREPARATION OF THE  
FIFTH NATIONAL REPORT  
Minsk, Belarus, 20 – 24 January 2014

## Information Note for Participants

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## 1. Opening

The Regional Workshop for Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia on the Preparation of the Fifth National Report will be held in Minsk, Belarus from Monday, 20 January to Friday, 24 January 2014.

The workshop will start at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, 20 January and registration will take place from 8:30 a.m. at the workshop venue.

## 2. Venue

The workshop will be held at:

### **IBB Johannes Rau International Centre for Education and Exchange**

Prospect Gazety Pravda, 11

220116 Minsk

Belarus

Tel: + 375-17-270-5959

Web site: <http://ibb.by/en/>

## 3. Working language of the workshop

The workshop will be held in Russian with interpretation into English.

## 4. Documents

Participants are kindly reminded to bring their own copies of the pre-session documents for the workshop as there will be no extra copies made available on site during the workshop. Pre-session documents will be available on the Secretariat's web site at:



<http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=RW5NR-CEECASI-01>

## 5. General information on access to Minsk, Belarus



Minsk is serviced by the Minsk National/International Airport (Minsk-2) which is approximately 42 km outside the city centre. Taxis are available at the airport at an approximate cost of US \$25-40 and the journey takes about 30-40 minutes. There are buses available to the city centre (Central bus station and Moskovski bus station) about every hour during the day and every 2 hours during night hours, the cost is about BYR 24,000 and the journey takes approximately 50 minutes.

## 6. Visa information



Participants from most countries require a visa for Belarus and are strongly advised to contact the nearest Belarusian diplomatic or consular mission **as soon as possible** in order to secure the required entry visa in a timely manner, prior to departure.

A list of relevant Belarusian diplomatic/consular missions abroad, is available on the web site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus at:

[http://www.belembassy.org/index\\_eng.html](http://www.belembassy.org/index_eng.html). A list is also available in Russian at: <http://www.belembassy.org/index.html>.

Information on visa procedures for Belarus can be found on the web site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at following link: <http://mfa.gov.by/en/visa/> (in English) and <http://www.mfa.gov.by/visa> (in Russian). A Visa application form for Belarus can be found at the following link: [http://belembassy.org/visa/visa\\_en\\_e.html](http://belembassy.org/visa/visa_en_e.html).

The following documentation is required to complete the visa application.

1. Application form duly completed
2. One recent passport-sized photo affixed to the form
3. Original passport with 2 blank pages
4. Visa support documents (i.e. invitation)

### **Countries that do not require a visa to enter Belarus:**

A **Visa-Free regime** is provided for the citizens of: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Cuba (for a term not exceeding 30 days), Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Macedonia (provided that there is a private invitation or tourist voucher), Moldova, Mongolia (provided that there is a private invitation or tourist document), Montenegro (for a term not exceeding 30 days provided that there is a private invitation or tourist voucher), Qatar (for a term not exceeding 30 days), Russia, Serbia (for a term not exceeding 30 days), Tajikistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (for a term not exceeding 90 days).

### **Countries that require a visa to enter Belarus:**

Albania  
Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Bulgaria  
Croatia  
Czech Republic  
Estonia  
Hungary  
Latvia  
Lithuania  
Poland  
Romania  
Slovakia  
Slovenia

All foreign nationals (except British foreign nationals) visiting Belarus must hold medical insurance. All foreign nationals must register their passports at the local police station within three days of their arrival; if staying at a hotel, reception will do this automatically.

To facilitate the issuance of visas, the Secretariat will issue invitation letters to be attached to the visa applications.

## 7. Hotel information



Participants are kindly reminded that **they have to make their own hotel reservations as soon as possible**. Below is an indicative list of hotels (**annex A**) located in the vicinity of the meeting venue. Please reserve rooms as early as possible as there are many other events taking place in the city at that time.

Further information on hotels in Minsk can be found on the web site of the link Belarus National Agency of Tourism at the following link: <http://eng.belarustourism.by/>

## 8. Payment of the Daily Subsistence Allowances (DSA)

Sponsored participants will receive their DSA on the first day of the workshop.

## 9. Official languages in Belarus

The official languages in Belarus are Belarusian and Russian. English is understood in some hotels and restaurants.

## 10. Weather and time zone information



In January, temperatures in Minsk, Belarus range between a maximum of  $-4^{\circ}\text{C}$  in the daytime and a minimum of  $-9^{\circ}\text{C}$  at night. Please bring warm clothing. Current weather conditions can be found at: <http://www.worldweather.org/106/c00205.htm>.

The standard time zone is GMT/ UTC +3 hours.

## 11. Electricity

The electrical currents in Belarus are 220 Volts, 50 Hertz, the plugs are as shown in the illustration below.



## 12. Currency



The currency in Belarus is the Belarusian Ruble (BYR). The current exchange rate as at 19 November 2013 is US \$1 = 9,290.50 BYR and € 1 = 12,490.49 BYR.

## 13. Disclaimer

The CBD Secretariat disclaims all responsibilities for medical, accident and travel insurances, for compensation for death or disability compensation, for loss of or damage to personal property and for any other losses that may be incurred during travel time or the period of participation. In this context, it is strongly recommended that participants will secure international medical, accident and travel insurances for the period of participation prior to departure.

## Annex A

### List of hotels in the vicinity of the meeting venue

HOTELS	Remarks
<p><b>1. Zvezda Hotel</b>            Avenue gazeti "Zvyazda", 47            220116, Minsk            Belarus            Reservations: Tel/fax. +375 17 272 85 42            E-mail: <a href="mailto:hotelzvezda@tut.by">hotelzvezda@tut.by</a>            Web site: <a href="http://hotelzvezda.com/contacts_eng.php">http://hotelzvezda.com/contacts_eng.php</a></p>	<p>Hotel is approximately 3 km from the meeting venue</p>
<p><b>2. Hotel Orbita</b>            Pushkin Avenue 39            220092 Belarus, Minsk            Reservations: Tel.: + 375 17 206 77 81/83            E-mail: <a href="mailto:info@orbita-hotel.com">info@orbita-hotel.com</a>;  <a href="mailto:reservation@orbita-hotel.com">reservation@orbita-hotel.com</a>            Web site: <a href="http://www.orbita-hotel.com/eng/hotel/ourcity/">http://www.orbita-hotel.com/eng/hotel/ourcity/</a></p>	<p>Hotel is approximately 6 km from the meeting venue</p>
<p><b>3. Yubileiny Hotel</b>            19 Pobediteley Ave.            Minsk, 220004            Belarus            Reservations: Tel.: +375 (17) 226-90-37            Web site: <a href="http://www.yhotel.by/en/contacts/">http://www.yhotel.by/en/contacts/</a></p>	<p>Hotel is approximately 9 km from the meeting venue</p>
<p><b>4. Minsk Hotel</b>            Nezavisimosti Ave 11            220030, Minsk            Belarus            Reservations: Tel.: +375(17)209-90-62/75/78/80  <a href="mailto:reservation@hotelminsk.by">reservation@hotelminsk.by</a>            Web site: <a href="http://www.hotelminsk.by/contact_en.html">http://www.hotelminsk.by/contact_en.html</a></p>	<p>Hotel is approximately 7 km from the meeting venue</p>
<p><b>5. Victoria Hotel</b>            59 Pobediteley Avenue            220035, Minsk            Belarus            Reservations: Tel. +375 (17) 239 77 44, 204 88 44            Web site: <a href="http://eng.hotel-victoria.by/#contacts/">http://eng.hotel-victoria.by/#contacts/</a></p>	<p>Hotel is approximately 7 km from the meeting venue</p>
<p><b>6. IBB Hotel</b>            Prospect Gazety Pravda            220116 Minsk            Belarus            Tel: + 375-17-270-7004 / 3994            E-mail: <a href="mailto:hotel@ibb.by">hotel@ibb.by</a>            Web site <a href="http://ibb.by/en/hotel">http://ibb.by/en/hotel</a></p>	<p>Hotel is located at or just beside the meeting venue</p>

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