

**The speech by the Minister of Justice of the Republic of Belarus
Mr Oleg Slizhevsky on the Roundtable of High-Level
Representatives within the framework of signature of Singapore
Convention on Mediation**

Dear Presiding Minister, dear Heads of Governmental Delegations,
colleagues!

Let me congratulate Singapore with signature of the Convention, which is named after your country. Doubtless that is recognition of Singaporean contribution into international trade development and development of the system of international disputes resolution.

Dear colleagues, let me congratulate all of you with signature of the Convention, as due to common will of countries, represented by us, the new page in history of international dispute resolution is opened.

The Republic of Belarus as the state, which signed the Convention among original signatories, with optimism looks forward on future of mediation for resolution of international commercial disputes.

Signature of the Convention fully corresponds to the spirit of the policy pursued by Belarus at the international arena, which consists in its full readiness to promote peaceful settlement of disputes: to be intermediary and platform for assistance to other states.

The basis of this policy is laid, *inter alia*, on the position that international law is the one and only language of civilized communication between states. We deeply convinced that rule of international law is the guarantor of provision of sustainable development of all states, and, respectively, all nations.

Special role in development of international relations belongs to international trade, as the level of income and human well-being is mainly dependent on the level of its development. In this relation one of the most important goals for states is formation of effective rules, connected to all aspects of international trade. The Convention, which was signed today, is the example of establishment of conditions for realization of rights and interests of business entities in international commercial relations.

The stage of dispute settlement is inalienable and one of the most important parts of trade relations. Current rapid development of legal relations demands for formation of new mechanisms of dispute resolution for business. Mediation as a mean of dispute resolution has already earned the trust in national legal systems. Along with positive future of mediation we see potential of the Convention in influence on whole system of international dispute resolution.

That is pleasant to notice that the Convention is prepared and adopted within the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law. This fact evidences leading role of the United Nations as the subject, having a unique mandate and created for the full development of cooperation between states.

Signature of the Convention by the Republic of Belarus among original signatories is balanced and consistent step of the state, creating legal conditions for attracting investment and expanding trade with the Belarusian side. Belarus takes a comprehensive approach to formation of an international treaty base, aimed at creating a favorable working environment in Belarus and with Belarusian business. Treaties on visa-free regime, bilateral investment treaties, treaties on abolition of double taxation, on mutual legal assistance in civil and criminal matters form the base of most important treaties for safe work. Signed by Belarus Convention is another indicator of adherence of the state to values and goals of the World Trade Organization and readiness to be active player in world trade system.

Dear colleagues, today's event deserves special mark on history. In this relation Belarusian side suggests Singaporean side to consider the issue on initiation of establishment of International Day of Mediation by the United Nations, which will be celebrated annually on the 7th of August.

Thank you for your attention!