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Dear colleagues! Dear friends!

I am delighted to convey my greetings to all the participants of the 9th Session of the Russia-Belarus InterAcademy Council on the Issues of Development of the Union State and members of the International Research-to-Practice Conference “Integration within the Union State as the main tool for the implementation of Russia and Belarus security strategy”.

The historic treaty on the creation of a Union State of Russia and Belarus was signed nearly fourteen years ago. Over all these years, despite the difficult political and economic situation, the relations between our countries have always been strengthening, while remaining truly brotherly. The academic community contributes significantly to the cooperation; the academic science is integrated in the socio-economic complex of the states and plays an important social role. The similarity of the priority directions of the scientific and technological development of our countries offers great opportunities for integration. The Russian Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus actively conduct joint fundamental and applied research, implement specific innovation projects. The work is carried out in the energy and energy saving areas, in the sphere of creating new materials and nanosystems, in biology and medicine, information and telecommunication systems, environmental management, etc. Intellectual resources are unified for resolving the most important socio-economic tasks, such as the improvement of the security and competitiveness of our countries.

The relations between specific regions and main scientific organizations have been sustainably developing.

Successful interaction between Belarusian, Russian scientists and specialists is strongly exemplified by the developments of space technologies (programmes ‘Kosmos-BR’, ‘Kosmos-SG’, ‘Kosmos-NT’), nanotechnologies (Nanotechnologies-SG), development and production of supercomputer models with a wide productivity range (programmes ‘SKIF’, ‘SKIF-GRID’, implemented with the participation of the Programme Systems Institute of RAS named after A.K. Ailamazyan).

The cooperation experience between the scientists and specialists with regard to genetic engineering and biotechnology issues (projects and programmes ‘BelRosTransgen’, ‘BelRosTransgen-2’) is extremely important, as it enabled us to obtain a number of new scientific results, including the organization of the manufacture of highly effective and biologically safe new generation medicines and food products based on human lactoferrin, purified from milk produced by animals. On the basis of the survey results, we plan to launch a new joint programme ‘BelRosFarm’ for the purpose of industrial production of medicines, using human lactoferrin.

The accomplished developments are in many ways unique and highly assessed at the international level.

Separate agreements between the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and RAS branches, in particular the Siberian branch of RAS, are being developed. The projects on the catalytic systems for isomerization of products after wood chemical processing and clean solid fuel burning, the projects on new materials, and on a number of other promising directions are being implemented here.

The InterAcademy Council on the Issues of Development of the Union State (IAC) successfully acts as a coordinator and expert of the scientific programmes. On the whole, it is important to emphasize that it is the State academies of sciences – the Russian Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus with high intellectual potential, the established system of scientific organizations, that are the driving forces of the implementation of state innovation development programmes. They are responsible not only for fundamental and applied research, but also for the interaction with the state scientific funds, development institutions, business, state structures.

It is important to note the successful examples of cooperation at separate levels of innovation system: collaboration and competition of the scientific projects of the Belarusian Republican Foundation for Fundamental Research and the Russian Foundation for Basic Research (BRFFR – RFBR) that have executed about 1000 of projects during its lifetime. The Russian Foundation ‘Skolkovo’ is gradually taking the road of success in the Union State.

The Russian experience in creating technology platforms (communication platforms for business, scientific and educational institutions, state and society communication platforms) for the purpose of supporting the scientific and technological activities, forming new partnerships in the innovation sphere and enhancing scientific and production cooperation is considered for application in the Union State.

First of all, at present Russia and Belarus are to face the pressing issue of introducing scientific developments into production, accelerating the development of high- tech industries. We are to focus our efforts in this very field. It is necessary to create not only joint research centres and laboratories, but production sites, engineering centres, centres of shared equipment, as well; to increase the number of small innovation companies, integrated research and production companies.

The training of scientific staff, attraction of the youth into science is another acute issue, requiring an urgent solution. We need to expand contacts between schoolchildren and students, to develop internship and exchange practice. The Agreement between the Council of Young Scientists of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and the Council of Young Scientists of the Russian Academy of Sciences has a high development potential.

I am confident that our joint research activities, the existing successful experience in implementing scientific and technological programmes will boost national economies, enhance the security and competitiveness of our countries.

I wish all the participants of the Session and Research-to-Practice Conference interesting and productive work, success and new achievements for the benefit of the Union of Russia and Belarus!