

**КАНФЕРЭНЦЫЯ
НОВАЯ
БЕЛАРУСЬ**

**Protocol for Cooperation Between National
Leader Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya,
the Coordination Council of Belarus,
the United Transitional Cabinet of Belarus,
and the Office of Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya**

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Recognizing that National Leader Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, the Coordination Council of Belarus (CC), the United Transitional Cabinet of Belarus (UTC), and the Office of Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya (OST) are key political institutions of the Belarusian democratic movement, each playing its unique role in the struggle for a democratic change in the country (hereinafter referred to as the Parties),

Confirming that the strategic goal of all Parties is to preserve the independence and sovereignty of the Republic of Belarus and ensure the transition to a democratic form of governance in the country,

Aiming to distribute powers and functions among the Parties and establish mandatory common rules and procedures for their interaction,

Acknowledging the need to adopt mechanisms and procedures for resolving potential disagreements among the Parties,

The Parties have agreed to this Protocol for Cooperation.

1. Definitions

1.1. *National Leader Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya* is the winner of the 2020 presidential election, who has received the trust of the people of Belarus to represent and protect their interests and play a leading role in organizing the joint activities of democratic forces.

1.2. The *Coordination Council of Belarus* is a collective representative body of the democratic part of Belarusian society, which coordinates the interaction of the democratic forces at the level of developing and/or agreeing on strategic decisions.

1.3. The *United Transitional Cabinet of Belarus* is a joint executive body that coordinates the activities of the democratic forces of Belarus in implementing decisions, strategies, and policies in the areas determined by the UTC regulations.

1.4. The *Office of Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya* is the organization that supports the activities of the National Leader.

1.5. The *democratic forces of Belarus* are a community of political and social organizations, movements, initiatives, and activists advocating for the establishment and development of a democratic governance system in the Republic of Belarus, united by common values and goals such as the protection of human rights and freedoms, the rule of law, fair and free elections, and opposition to authoritarianism and repression.

2. Basic Principles of Cooperation Among the Parties

2.1. Principle of Equality: Each Party recognizes and respects the contributions of the others to the common cause, maintaining an atmosphere of mutual respect.

2.2. Principle of Coordinated Actions: The Parties ensure coordination and consistency in their actions aimed at achieving the common strategic goal.

2.3. Principle of Consensus: The Parties strive to achieve a common agreement when making strategically significant decisions.

2.4. Principle of Constructive Conflict Resolution: The Parties commit to making all necessary efforts to resolve potential disagreements through dialogue and seeking compromises, avoiding escalation of issues.

2.5. Principle of Transparency and Mutual Information: The Parties regularly prepare public reports on their activities and strive to promptly and accurately inform each other about their plans and initiatives, using secure methods of information exchange.

3. Areas of Competence of the Parties

3.1. The Coordination Council of Belarus:

3.1.1. Initiating, developing, and approving policies and strategies aimed at achieving a democratic change in the country;

3.1.2. Discussing socially significant issues, including organizing and conducting public hearings;

3.1.3. Discussing and summarizing various reform proposals aimed at building a democratic state in Belarus governed by the rule of law;

3.1.4. Exercising civil control over the activities of the democratic forces' institutions by monitoring and analyzing the results of their activities, as well as hearing public reports on the performance of their functions;

3.1.5. Participating in international inter-parliamentary cooperation.

3.2. The United Transitional Cabinet of Belarus:

3.2.1. Initiating, developing, and approving policies and strategies aimed at achieving a democratic change in the country;

3.2.2. Making decisions on the implementation of policies and strategies of the democratic forces, developing and ensuring the implementation of specific programs and projects in areas defined by the UTC regulations; ensuring the coordination of the activities of the democratic forces of Belarus for these purposes;

3.2.3. Conducting consultations with international partners to mobilize support for the democratic forces, as well as humanitarian assistance to Belarusians in need.

3.3. The Office of Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya:

3.3.1. Initiating, developing, and approving policies and strategies aimed at achieving democratic changes in the country;

3.3.2. Providing legal, consultative, informational, expert, analytical, personnel, and other support to the activities of the National Leader, aimed at protecting the rights and interests of Belarusians, as well as representing the national interests of Belarus on the international stage;

3.3.3. Ensuring the interaction of the National Leader with the CC, UTC, political parties, civil society organizations, and citizens to unite and motivate Belarusians to achieve the common strategic goal of the democratic forces;

3.3.4. Conducting informational and communication activities aimed at informing Belarusians and the international community about the activities of the National Leader, promoting the goals of the democratic movement, and mobilizing support for it.

4. Order of Formation of the Parties

4.1. Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya won the 2020 presidential election and will serve as the National Leader until a free and fair election is held in Belarus or until she decides to cease her activities as the National Leader.

4.2. The CC is formed based on democratic elections using a proportional electoral system. Elections to the CC are held at least once every two years.

4.3. Members of the UTC are appointed and dismissed by the National Leader, taking into account the recommendations of the CC, which presents its position on the appointment within 15 days of receiving the request. The CC may propose to the National Leader candidates for positions in the UTC who, in its opinion, possess the appropriate competencies and qualities, as well as recommendations regarding the inadequacy of current UTC representatives for their positions. The National Leader decides on the CC's proposed candidates and recommendations regarding the inadequacy of UTC representatives within 15 days of receiving the proposal.

4.4. The Office of Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya is established by the National Leader, and its staff is recruited based on internal procedures.

5. Procedure for Developing Common Policies and Strategies

5.1. Any Party may initiate the process of developing a common policy or

strategy for the democratic forces focusing on a specific area or issue by submitting a proposal with its rationale to the other Parties.

5.2. Each Party, within 5 working days, shall respond to the proposal for developing a common policy or strategy, and, if positive, shall propose the nomination of its authorized representatives for discussing the matter.

5.3. To ensure a comprehensive and thorough discussion of the task, an authorized working group (AWG) is established with interested representatives from the Parties. The AWG is considered established when each Party has appointed at least one of its representatives to it. The work of the AWG is organized based on its own regulations, which define the procedural rules, timelines, and decision-making process. If necessary, experts and representatives of other organizations and initiatives may participate in the AWG's work upon its invitation.

5.4. The AWG develops a draft policy or strategy, which is sent to the Parties for approval in two readings.

5.5. In the first reading, each Party has 15 days to respond whether the draft is accepted as a framework and to provide comments, amendments, and additions to the draft.

5.6. The draft is considered accepted in the first reading as a framework if all Parties have agreed to it. The AWG revises the draft based on the received comments and proposals and sends it to the Parties for approval.

5.7. In the second reading, each Party has 10 days to approve the revised draft in its entirety. At this stage, changes to the draft text are not allowed.

5.8. If in the second reading, the CC or UTC does not approve the draft document, the AWG that developed it is dissolved. The interested Party may re-initiate the process of developing the policy or strategy.

5.9. A document on the common policy or strategy for the democratic forces is considered adopted if it is approved without changes by the CC and the UTC and signed by the National Leader.

5.10. The approved document on the common policy or strategy of the democratic forces is forwarded by the UTC Secretariat to the relevant executors for guidance in their work and is also published as a recommended common policy and/or strategy for the democratic forces.

5.11. The implementation of the approved policies and strategies and the actions of the responsible executors and co-executors are subject to monitoring and analysis by all Parties, who may make proposals for enhancing the effectiveness of decision-making in implementing the common policies and

strategies.

5.12. To execute the approved policies and strategies, the Parties independently make decisions for their implementation, ensuring alignment with the objectives and tasks of the common documents, as well as the necessary level of coordination of implementation plans, programs, and projects.

5.13. Amendments or additions to the general policy or strategy are made in accordance with the procedure set out in this section.

6. Order of Formation of the Parties

6.1. To ensure effective interaction, the Parties shall designate contact persons within themselves who will be responsible for the ongoing exchange of information about current activities, negotiating plans and formats for joint events, and addressing other issues related to the coordination of actions.

6.2. The Parties shall establish mandatory rules for the secure exchange of information to prevent data leaks or unauthorized access.

6.3. The Parties shall prepare public annual reports on their activities.

6.4. Each Party has the right to submit a request for clarification and/or interpretation of decisions to the other Party, which is obligated to provide a reasoned response within 7 days.

6.5. Any Party may raise an issue of functional duplication that requires coordination.

6.6. To address such claims, the Parties shall establish a special commission and delegate one representative (considering the area of activity) from each Party to it. The commission will analyze decisions and actions that create functional duplication and develop appropriate recommendations.

6.7. The commission's recommendations shall be promptly reviewed by the governing bodies of the interested Parties, who shall make decisions that eliminate or minimize duplication and enhance coordination and effectiveness of actions.

6.8. The UTC shall present information (a report) on its activities and strategic priorities annually at the plenary session of the CC and respond to questions from the CC members.

7. Dispute Resolution Procedure

7.1. Any Party may report an existing dispute related to the implementation of the provisions of this Protocol or risks of reputational damage to the democratic forces, specifying the possible causes of the dispute and its consequences.

7.2. The Parties to the Protocol shall strive to resolve disputes through constructive dialogue and internal regulation mechanisms.

7.3. If agreement cannot be reached within 30 days, the Parties shall refer the dispute to the National Leader, who will make a final decision that aligns with national interests, and the Parties will confirm their willingness to implement it.

8. Final Provisions

8.1. The provisions of this Protocol may be amended or supplemented by mutual consent of all Parties expressed in writing.

8.2. In the event of any conflict between the provisions of this Protocol and those of other documents of the Parties, the provisions of this Protocol shall take precedence in their application and/or interpretation.

8.3. This Protocol shall be considered adopted if it is approved without changes by the CC, UTC, and OST, and signed by the National Leader.

8.4. This Protocol shall enter into force upon signature.

National Leader

Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya