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Statement of Belarusian National Platform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum on signing of the Republic of Belarus the treaty establishing the Eurasian Economic Community (EAEC)

We, representatives of civil society organizations united under the Belarusian National Platform, express our disagreement with signing by Aliaksandr Lukashenka the treaty on the establishment of the Eurasian Economic Union on behalf of our country.

The signing of the treaty establishing the EAEC causes significant harm to the national interests of the Republic of Belarus, as well as deprives our country some opportunities of geopolitical and civilizational choice, including more intensive and long-term oriented cooperation with the European Union and using the potential of the Eastern Partnership.

Creation of EAEC actually is an alliance of outsiders and can't be a counterweight to the European Union neither by economic parameters nor by qualitative institutional and political characteristics. Agreement on the EAEC is declarative in nature and is not able to ensure long-term realization of the interests of the Republic of Belarus.

In the current situation involvement in integration projects together with the Russian Federation in the actual conditions of de-facto military aggression of this country against Ukraine also damages reputation and interests of Belarus in the relationship with our southern neighbor.

Decision on the participation of our country in supranational integration initiatives of such type and scale should be based exclusively on the results of a broad expression of will of Belarusian citizens. By signing the EAEC treaty, Aliaksandr Lukashenka deprived citizens of their right to choose the direction of the geopolitical development of Belarus.

Belarusian civil society organizations, participants of Belarusian National Platform of the Civil Society Forum of the Eastern Partnership (over 60 CSOs)