

**LAW OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS
of 1 August 2002 No. 136-Z**

ON CITIZENSHIP OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

Adopted by the Chamber of Representatives on 18 June 2002
Approved by the Council of Republic on 28 June 2002

(in edition of the Law of the Republic of Belarus of 22.06.2006 No. 129-Z and of 04.01.2010 No. 105-Z)

This Law shall stipulate the legal basis for government control in the area of citizenship and it shall regulate the foundations and procedures of acquisition, retention and termination of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus; the order of adoption, execution and appeal of decisions on the issues of citizenship; it shall provide for special cases of citizenship alteration and retention; it shall establish the competency of public agencies, as well as the rights and duties of citizens of the Republic of Belarus in that sphere.

**Chapter 1
GENERAL PROVISIONS**

Article 1. Citizenship of the Republic of Belarus

Citizenship of the Republic of Belarus is a firm legal bond of a person with the Republic of Belarus manifested in the aggregate of their mutual rights, duties and accountability and based on acknowledgement and respect of the dignity and basic human rights and freedoms.

Citizenship of the Republic of Belarus is an integral attribute of the national sovereignty of the Republic of Belarus .

Article 2. Legal Regulation of the Issues of Citizenship of the Republic of Belarus

The issues of citizenship in the Republic of Belarus shall be regulated by the Constitution of the Republic of Belarus, this Law, other legislative acts and international treaties of the Republic of Belarus.

If an international treaty of the Republic of Belarus provides for regulations other than those provided in this Law, the regulations of international treaty shall apply.

Article 3. The Principles of Citizenship of the Republic of Belarus

Citizenship of the Republic of Belarus is based on the following principles:
every person is entitled to citizenship;
citizenship of the Republic of Belarus is equal for all citizens of the Republic of Belarus regardless of the grounds for its acquisition;
citizenship of the Republic of Belarus may not be conferred against will of that person;

no one may be deprived of the citizenship of the Republic of Belarus or of his/her right to change his/her citizenship.

The Republic of Belarus strives to avoid cases of statelessness.

Article 4. Protection and Patronage of Citizens of the Republic of Belarus by the State

The State shall guarantee its protection to the citizens of the Republic of Belarus both in the Republic of Belarus and outside of its limits.

If in the country of stay of citizens of the Republic of Belarus there are no diplomatic representations and consular establishments of the Republic of Belarus, the protection of rights and legal interests of citizens of the Republic of Belarus shall be conducted in accordance with international treaties of the Republic of Belarus by appropriate agencies of other countries.

Article 5. Impossibility of Extradition of a Citizen of the Republic of Belarus to a Foreign Country

A citizen of the Republic of Belarus may not be extradited to a foreign country unless international treaties of the Republic of Belarus provide otherwise.

Article 6. Retention of Citizenship of the Republic of Belarus

Residence of a citizen of the Republic of Belarus in a foreign country shall not by itself be the cause of loss of the citizenship of the Republic of Belarus.

Article 7. Citizenship of the Republic of Belarus at Marriage and Divorce

Marriage or divorce of a citizen of the Republic of Belarus with a citizen of another country or with a stateless person shall not by itself constitute acquisition or cessation of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus by either spouse¹.

A person married to a citizen of the Republic of Belarus shall acquire citizenship of the Republic of Belarus in the presence of his/her will and compliance with the conditions stipulated by this Law.

Article 8. Citizens of the Republic of Belarus

Citizens of the Republic of Belarus are:

persons who are citizens of the Republic of Belarus by the effective date of this Law;

persons who have acquired citizenship of the Republic of Belarus in accordance with this Law.

Citizens of the Republic of Belarus by birth are persons who were born within the current territory of the Republic of Belarus and who were citizens of the former USSR by birth and who acquired citizenship of the Republic of Belarus prior to the effective date of this Law.

¹ 2006 version (was): "... the cause of change of citizenship of either spouse ...". 2010 version (now): "[...] acquisition or cessation of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus by either spouse [...]". *UNHCR Belarus*

Article 9. Foreign Citizens and Stateless Persons

Foreign citizens in the Republic of Belarus are persons who are not citizens of the Republic of Belarus and who possess proof of their affiliation to citizenship (nationality) (hereinafter, if the other is not specified, – citizenship)² of another country.

Stateless persons in the Republic of Belarus are persons who are not citizens of the Republic of Belarus and who do not possess a proof of their affiliation to citizenship of another country.

Legal position of foreign citizens and stateless persons in the Republic of Belarus shall be regulated by the legislation of the Republic of Belarus.

Article 10. Documentary Proof of Citizenship of the Republic of Belarus

Documentary proof of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus shall be the passport of a citizen of the Republic of Belarus or another document indicating citizenship of the Republic of Belarus.

Article 11. Non-recognition of Foreign Citizenship as related to a Citizen of the Republic of Belarus

Foreign citizenship of a citizen of the Republic of Belarus shall not be recognized unless international treaties provide otherwise.

Citizens of the Republic of Belarus who also have other citizenships, may not for that reason be limited in rights or evade duties or be exempt from liability ensuing from the citizenship of the Republic of Belarus.

Chapter 2

ACQUISITION OF CITIZENSHIP OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

Article 12. Foundations for acquisition of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus

Citizenship of the Republic of Belarus may be acquired:

by birth;

as a result of admittance to citizenship of the Republic of Belarus ;

in course of registration;

by other reason provided in this Law or in international treaties of the Republic of Belarus (*in edition of the Law of the Republic of Belarus of 22.06.2006 No. 129-Z*)

Article 13. Acquisition of the Citizenship of the Republic of Belarus by Birth

A child shall obtain the citizenship of the Republic of Belarus by birth provided that on the date of the child's birth:

at least one of the child's parents is a citizen of the Republic of Belarus regardless

² Added in 2010 version: "... (nationality) (hereinafter, if the other is not specified, – citizenship) ...". Comment to this. Here nationality equals citizenship in its sense and meaning. In Russian there are terms "подданство" and "подданные" (for identification of those people). It describes people who are citizens, but citizens of the country where (in the majority of instances) the head of state (even formally) is a sovereign (king, queen, sultan and etc.), like in the United Kingdom. English synonym for this meaning of nationality is "homager". *UNHCR Belarus*

of the child's place of birth;

the child's parents (single parent) permanently residing in the Republic of Belarus are stateless persons, provided that the child was born in the Republic of Belarus;

the child's parents (single parent) permanently residing in the Republic of Belarus are foreign citizens provided that the child was born in the Republic of Belarus and the countries of its parents' citizenship(s) (nationality(-ies))³ do not confer their citizenship to the child.

A child in the Republic of Belarus, whose parents are unknown, shall become citizen of the Republic of Belarus.

Article 14. Admission to Citizenship of the Republic of Belarus

Any person who has reached 18 years of age may apply for admission to citizenship of the Republic of Belarus, provided that he/she:

observes and respects Constitution of the Republic of Belarus, the other legislative acts of the Republic of Belarus, undertakes the responsibility to follow and respect the Constitution of the Republic of Belarus and other legislative acts of the Republic of Belarus⁴;

knows at least one official language of the Republic of Belarus within communication limits;

resides in the Republic of Belarus after being granted permanent residence permit for the duration of the seven years uninterruptedly, except the cases provided in the Part 3 of this article. The period of the residence on the territory of the Republic of Belarus is considered to be uninterrupted if a person was leaving the territory of the Republic of Belarus for the total period of time of no more than three months during each year;

has legal source of income which provides him/her and incapacitated members of the family who depend on him/her minimum wage of living stipulated in the Republic of Belarus⁵;

does not have citizenship or will be losing foreign citizenship in case of acquisition of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus or has submitted to a competent agency of a foreign country an application on renunciation of nationality that he/she has, except for cases when renunciation of citizenship is impossible for reasons outside of person's control.

Persons who were granted refugee statue in the Republic of Belarus may be admitted to citizenship of the Republic of Belarus after seven years of their recognition as refugees and provided they have followed the conditions of Paragraphs Two, Three, Five and Six of Part One of this Article⁶.

The length of residence established in Paragraph Four of Part One of this Article

³ "... (nationality(-ies)) ..." added in 2010 version of the Law. Here term "nationality" is used in the meaning as it is explained in the footnote No 2. *UNHCR Belarus*

⁴ Wording of the paragraph according to 2010 version of the Law. In 2006 version the wording was the following: "...undertakes the responsibility to follow and respect the Constitution of the Republic of Belarus and other legislative acts of the Republic of Belarus ..." *UNHCR Belarus*

⁵ Wording of the paragraph according to 2010 version of the Law. In 2006 version the wording was the following: "...has a legal source of income..." *UNHCR Belarus*

⁶ Wording of the paragraph according to 2010 version of the Law. In 2006 version the wording was the following: "...Persons acknowledged as refugees in order established by the legislation of the Republic of Belarus may be Persons acknowledged as refugees in order established by the legislation of the Republic of Belarus may be admitted to citizenship of the Republic of Belarus after seven years of their recognition as refugees and provided they have followed the conditions of Paragraphs Two, Three, Five and Six of Part One of this Article they have followed the conditions of Paragraphs Two, Three, Five and Six of Part One of this Article..." *UNHCR Belarus*

may be shortened or never applied for:

Belarusians and for persons who identify themselves as Belarusians, their descendants (direct blood relatives: children, grandchildren, great grandchildren) born outside the contemporary territory of the Republic of Belarus;

persons who have outstanding merits to the Republic of Belarus for high achievements in the areas of science, technology, culture or sport, or those who possess a profession or qualification of public interest to the Republic of Belarus;

foreign citizens or stateless persons who have previously been citizens of the Republic of Belarus.

Admission to the citizenship of the Republic of Belarus is being organized taking into consideration the interests of the Republic of Belarus.

Article 15. Acquisition of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus in the Course of Registration.

Any person above 18 years of age who has been residing permanently on the territory of the Republic of Belarus or who was a citizen of the former USSR and did not possess the citizenship of the Republic of Belarus, may apply for acquisition of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus in the course of registration provided that he/she meets the requirements of the Paragraphs 2, 3 and 6 of the Part Two of this article and if he/she:

was born or resided permanently in the Republic of Belarus before 12 November 1991;

is a husband (wife) of the person who is acquiring the citizenship of the Republic of Belarus in the course of registration on the ground provided in the Paragraph 2 of this Part;

is a descendant of the person who is acquiring, acquired or could have acquired the citizenship of the Republic of Belarus in the course of registration on the ground provided in the Paragraph 2 of this Part.

The citizenship of the Republic of Belarus may be acquired in the course of registration by a person even if he/she does not meet the requirements provided in the Part 1 of this article, if he/she:

is a child permanently residing in the Republic of Belarus – by a joint application of the parents, of whom at least one is the citizen of the Republic of Belarus, or by application of one parent who is a citizen of the Republic of Belarus if the whereabouts of the other parent are unknown, or by an application of a single parent who is a citizen of the Republic of Belarus;

is a child staying in the Republic of Belarus whose only known parent or both parents have died, have been deprived of parental rights, have refused from upbringing the child or have given their consent to his adoption, who have been judicially acknowledged incapable, missing or dead, as well as incapable persons under custody or guardianship – by application of a guardian (trustee) coordinated with a guardianship and trusteeship agency.

Article 16. Bases for Rejecting⁷ Application for Citizenship of the Republic of Belarus

⁷ In 2010 version of the Law Russian term “отклонение” was substituted by term “отказ в рассмотрении”. This substitution did not change the meaning of the name of the article. *UNHCR Belarus*

An application for citizenship of the Republic of Belarus shall not be examined⁸ if the applicant:

has been convicted of a crime against peace and security of the humanity, for a war crime, a crime against state;

has been convicted for a crime⁹ in the Republic of Belarus or outside of it that is recognized as such by the legislation of the Republic of Belarus;

is suspected or accused and subject of criminal prosecution in the Republic of Belarus or in a foreign country for crimes recognized as such by the legislation of the Republic of Belarus – until the sentence or final decision is issued;

has been sentenced and is currently serving a sentence in custody until the end of the term of the sentence;

has been deported or expelled from the Republic of Belarus – until the end of the entrance ban period;

repeatedly (three and more times) were brought to administrative account within the territory of the Republic of Belarus, - until expiry of the term during a person is considered as brought to administrative account¹⁰;

have provided false information or fake documents;

is serving in the military, police, security, justice or other public agencies of a foreign country.

If instances provided in the Part One of this Article exist, application for acquisition of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus is returned back to the applicant together with all provided materials without any examination of the application¹¹.

Chapter 3

TERMINATION OF CITIZENSHIP OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

Article 17. Foundations for termination of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus

Citizenship of the Republic of Belarus shall be terminated for the reasons of:

renunciation of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus;

loss of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus.

Article 18. Renunciation of Citizenship of the Republic of Belarus

Citizen of the Republic of Belarus who reached the age of 18 years, has the right to submit an application for renunciation of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus.

Renunciation of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus for a citizen of the Republic of Belarus who did not reach the age of 18 years may be allowed upon application of his/her parents (single parent).

Renunciation of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus is executed in accordance with procedures stipulated by the President of the Republic of Belarus, and if there are

⁸ In 2010 version of the Law expression “shall be rejected” was substituted by “shall not be examined”. *UNHCR Belarus*

⁹ In 2010 version of the Law expression “convicted for grave or a particularly grave crime” was substituted by expression “convicted for a crime”. *UNHCR Belarus*

¹⁰ This paragraph was introduced in 2010 version of the Law. *UNHCR Belarus*

¹¹ This paragraph was introduced in 2010 version of the Law. *UNHCR Belarus*

no grounds provided in the Article 20 of this Law¹².

Article 19. Loss of the Citizenship of the Republic of Belarus

Citizenship of the Republic of Belarus is lost in the following cases:

in case of the enlistment of the person to military or police service, services with security, justice or other public agencies of a foreign country in absence of conditions listed in Article 20 of this Law;

on a written application of the parents (of a single parent) concerning their child who obtained by birth the citizenship of the Republic of Belarus along with the citizenship of a foreign State. The loss of the citizenship of a child aged 14-18 years is allowed only if the child gave his/her written consent and if this consent was notarized;

on the grounds listed in the international treaties, ratified by the Republic of Belarus.

Article 20. Reasons to Reject Termination of Citizenship of the Republic of Belarus

Termination of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus shall not be allowed when a citizen of the Republic of Belarus:

is accused or when in his/her regard there is a valid court sentence;

has tax indebtedness or other outstanding debts and liabilities to the Republic of Belarus, its administrative and territorial subdivisions¹³ and its legal or physical persons;

does not have any other citizenship or a guarantee to acquire such.

Chapter 4

CANCELLATION OF DECISIONS ON ISSUES OF CITIZENSHIP OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

Article 21. Cancellation of decision on acquisition or termination of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus

The decision on acquisition or revocation of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus may be cancelled if it was taken based on admittedly false data or fake documents.

Article 22. The procedure of Cancellation of a Decision on Acquisition or Termination of Citizenship of the Republic of Belarus

Cancellation of a decision on acquisition or termination of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus may be made by the President of the Republic of Belarus or an appointed agency that has made that decision¹⁴.

The decision on acquisition or termination of citizenship of the Republic of

¹² Wording as in 2010 version of the Law. In 2006 version Art. 18 was the following: "Renunciation of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus shall be carried out following the procedure established by the President of the Republic of Belarus in absence of conditions listed in Article 20 of this Law" *UNHCR Belarus*

¹³ This additional clause, i.e. "...its administrative and territorial subdivisions..." was added in 2010 version of the Law. *UNHCR Belarus*

¹⁴ The following clause was excluded in 2010 version of the Law: "Cancellation of decisions on issues of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus is possible within seven years upon their adoption". *UNHCR Belarus*

Belarus in case of cancellation shall be considered invalid from the date of its adoption.

Chapter 5

CITIZENSHIP OF CHILDREN WHEN PARENTS CHANGE THEIR CITIZENSHIP AND AT ADOPTION

Article 23. Citizenship of a child in case of the parents' or foster parents' change of citizenship.

If the parents (single parent) change citizenship, the child's citizenship shall be changed accordingly unless he/she is 14 years old.

Citizenship of children from 14 to 18 years of age shall be changed in case of their parents' change of citizenship, and the citizenship of adopted children, shall be made only upon written consent of children that is certified by a notary public.

By wish of the parents (single parent) of a child¹⁵ in case of their termination of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus, the citizenship of the Republic of Belarus may retain with a child.

Article 24. Retention of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus by child under the custody or guardianship

If both parents or either parent of the child residing in the Republic of Belarus and who is under the custody or guardianship of citizens of the Republic of Belarus, renounce citizenship of the Republic of Belarus or lose it and with that they fail to take part in upbringing the child, the child shall retain citizenship of the Republic of Belarus.

Article 25. Acquisition of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus when either parent acquires citizenship of the Republic of Belarus

If either parent acquires citizenship of the Republic of Belarus while the other remains foreign citizen or stateless, the child may acquire citizenship of the Republic of Belarus upon a joint request of the parents or the parent who acquires citizenship of the Republic of Belarus if the location of the other parent is unknown.

If either of the parents acquires citizenship of the Republic of Belarus while the other remains stateless, the child residing in the Republic of Belarus shall become citizen of the Republic of Belarus if otherwise he will become stateless.

Article 26. Retention of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus by a child when one of the parents renounces or Loses Citizenship of the Republic of Belarus.

If one of the parents renounces or loses citizenship of the Republic of Belarus while the other remains citizen of the Republic of Belarus, the child shall retain citizenship of the Republic of Belarus¹⁶.

¹⁵ In 2010 version of the Law expression "under 16 years of age" was excluded. *UNHCR Belarus*

¹⁶ In 2010 version of the Law the following sentence was excluded: "At joint request of the parents, such a child may be allowed to renounce citizenship of the Republic of Belarus". *UNHCR Belarus*

Article 27. Citizenship of a child in case of adoption.

A child who is a foreign citizen or who is stateless, shall become citizen of the Republic of Belarus from the date of adoption, if adopted by a citizen of the Republic of Belarus or a married couple who are citizens of the Republic of Belarus or by a married couple when one spouse is a citizen of the Republic of Belarus and the other is stateless.

A child who is a foreign citizen or a stateless person may acquire citizenship of the Republic of Belarus at joint request of the foster parents, if adopted by a married couple where one spouse is a citizen of the Republic of Belarus and the other is a foreign citizen.

A child who is a citizen of the Republic of Belarus shall retain citizenship of the Republic of Belarus at adoption by:

married couple who are foreign citizens or by a foreign citizen;

married couple who are stateless persons or by a stateless person;

married couple when one spouse is a citizen of the Republic of Belarus and the other is a foreign citizen or a stateless person.

The citizenship of a child adopted by spouses who are foreign citizens or by a foreign citizen may be terminated in the course of the renunciation of the citizenship after the child have reached the age of 18 years.

Chapter 6

COMPETENCE OF AUTHORITIES TAKING DECISIONS AND PROCESSING DOCUMENTS ON ISSUES OF CITIZENSHIP OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

Article 28. Taking decisions on issues of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus

Decisions on admittance to citizenship of the Republic of Belarus and its termination shall be made by the President of the Republic of Belarus or in order established by him.

Article 29. State authorities involved in taking decisions on citizenship of the Republic of Belarus

The following state authorities are involved in taking decisions on citizenship of the Republic of Belarus:

the President of the Republic of Belarus;

the interior authorities;

agencies of the Diplomatic Service of the Republic of Belarus abroad.

Article 30. Competency of the President of the Republic of Belarus

The President of the Republic of Belarus shall:

establish the procedure of acquisition of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus and its termination;

issue decrees on admittance to citizenship and renunciation of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus;

issue orders in cases of rejection of applications for admittance to citizenship and renunciation of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus.

Article 31. Competence of the Interior Authorities of the Republic of Belarus

The Interior Authorities of the Republic of Belarus shall:

receive from permanent residents of the Republic of Belarus applications on issues of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus¹⁷; verify their factual and documentary substantiation;

submit materials on citizenship applications and on renunciation of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus for review by the President of the Republic of Belarus;

determine whether persons staying in the Republic of Belarus possess citizenship of the Republic of Belarus;

resolve issues of acquisition of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus in the course of registration procedure by permanent residents of the Republic of Belarus;

register the loss of the citizenship of the Republic of Belarus by the persons permanently residing in the Republic of Belarus;

resolve the issues regarding the change of a citizenship in accordance with grounds provided in the international agreements of the Republic of Belarus;

control the issue of the termination of the foreign citizenship with regard to the persons who had been admitted to the citizenship of the Republic of Belarus;

resolve in accordance with the legislation of the Republic of Belarus other issues related to citizenship of the Republic of Belarus;

Article 32. Competence of Agencies of the Diplomatic Service of the Republic of Belarus

Agencies of the diplomatic service of the Republic of Belarus shall:

receive from persons permanently residing abroad applications on issues of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus¹⁸, verify their factual and documentary substantiation;

submit materials on citizenship applications and on denunciation of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus for review by the President of the Republic of Belarus;

determine whether persons permanently staying abroad possess citizenship of the Republic of Belarus;

register the loss of the citizenship of the Republic of Belarus by the persons permanently residing abroad;

resolve the issues regarding the change of a citizenship in accordance with the grounds provided in the international agreements of the Republic of Belarus;

control the issue of the termination of the foreign citizenship with regard to the persons who had been admitted to the citizenship of the Republic of Belarus;

resolve issues of acquisition of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus by persons permanently residing abroad in the course of the procedure of registration;

resolve in accordance with the legislation of the Republic of Belarus other issues related to citizenship of the Republic of Belarus.

Chapter 7

PROCEDURE OF SUBMITTAL AND REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS

¹⁷ Words “of the Republic of Belarus” were added in 2010 version of the Law. *UNHCR Belarus*

¹⁸ Words “of the Republic of Belarus” were added in 2010 version of the Law. *UNHCR Belarus*

ON ISSUES OF CITIZENSHIP OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

Article 33. Submittal and drawing up of applications on issues related to citizenship of the Republic of Belarus¹⁹

Applications on issues of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus shall be submitted to the interior authorities of the Republic of Belarus at the applicant's place of residence, and by persons permanently residing abroad – to an appropriate agency of the diplomatic service of the Republic of Belarus.

Applications on issues of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus²⁰ shall be submitted by the applicant in person and in writing. Requirements to the form of application and the list of attachments related to the concrete substantiation of acquisition or termination of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus shall be determined by the President of the Republic of Belarus.

Applications on issues of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus²¹ of children and incapable persons shall be submitted by their parents or other legal representatives.

If an applicant can not apply personally, the application and attachments may be submitted via another person or by mail.

Article 34. Terms of review of applications on issues related to citizenship of the Republic of Belarus²²

The period of review of applications on admission to citizenship of the Republic of Belarus shall not exceed one year.

The period of review of applications on denunciation of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus shall not exceed six months.

The period of review of applications on acquisition of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus²³ in the course of the procedure of registration shall not exceed two months.

Article 35. Date of acquisition or denunciation of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus

A person shall acquire citizenship of the Republic of Belarus:

in accordance with Article 13 of this Law – from the child's date of birth;

in accordance with Part One of Article 27 of this Law – from the date of adoption of the child;

in other cases – from the effective date of the Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus or from the date of decision of its appointed agency.

Citizenship of the Republic of Belarus shall be terminated on the effective date of the Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus or the date of decision of its appointed agency

¹⁹ Name of this article was reformulated in 2010 version of the Law. In 2006 version it was the following: "Submittal and Drawing up of Applications on Citizenship Issues". *UNHCR Belarus*

²⁰ Words "of the Republic of Belarus" were added in 2010 version of the Law. *UNHCR Belarus*

²¹ Words "of the Republic of Belarus" were added in 2010 version of the Law. *UNHCR Belarus*

²² Name of this article was reformulated in 2010 version of the Law. In 2006 version it was the following: "Terms of review of applications on citizenship issues". *UNHCR Belarus*

²³ Words "of the Republic of Belarus" were added in 2010 version of the Law. *UNHCR Belarus*

Article 36. Repeated review of applications on issues of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus.

Repeated applications for admission to citizenship of the Republic of Belarus or for renunciation of citizenship of the Republic of Belarus shall be accepted no earlier than one year after the previous decision was made. In case of newly accrued significant circumstances that have not been and could not have been known to the applicant, the repeated application may be reviewed in earlier terms.

Chapter 8

EXECUTION OF DECISIONS ON ISSUES OF CITIZENSHIP OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS²⁴, APPEALS OF DECISIONS OF STATE AUTHORITIES AND ACTIONS OF OFFICIALS ON ISSUES RELATED TO CITIZENSHIP OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS²⁵

Article 37. State authorities fulfilling decisions on issues related to citizenship of the Republic of Belarus²⁶

Decisions on citizenship issues in relation to residents of the Republic of Belarus shall be fulfilled by the interior authorities of the Republic of Belarus and in relation to persons residing abroad – by agencies of the diplomatic service of the Republic of Belarus.

Article 38. Appeal of decisions of state authorities and actions of officials on issues on issues related to citizenship of the Republic of Belarus²⁷

Decisions of the President of the Republic of Belarus on issues related to citizenship of the Republic of Belarus²⁸ may be appealed in the Supreme Court of the Republic of Belarus that shall review such cases as a court of first instance.

Decisions of state authorities appointed by the President of the Republic of Belarus on issues of citizenship may be appealed in Oblasts and Minsk City Courts.

Unsubstantiated rejection of applications for the issues related to citizenship of the Republic of Belarus²⁹, violation of terms of application review as well as other illegitimate actions of officials on citizenship issues may be appealed in court.

Chapter 9

FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 39. Validity of documents issued in accordance with the former citizenship legislation of the Republic of Belarus

Documents issued in accordance with the former citizenship legislation of the

²⁴ Words “of the Republic of Belarus” were added in 2010 version of the Law. *UNHCR Belarus*

²⁵ Words “of the Republic of Belarus” were added in 2010 version of the Law. *UNHCR Belarus*

²⁶ Words “of the Republic of Belarus” were added in 2010 version of the Law. *UNHCR Belarus*

²⁷ Words “of the Republic of Belarus” were added in 2010 version of the Law. *UNHCR Belarus*

²⁸ Words “of the Republic of Belarus” were added in 2010 version of the Law. *UNHCR Belarus*

²⁹ Words “of the Republic of Belarus” were added in 2010 version of the Law. *UNHCR Belarus*

Republic of Belarus shall remain legally valid provided that they are properly drawn up and that they shall be considered valid on the effective date of this Law.

Article 40. Execution of this Law

This Law shall come into effect ten days after its official publication.

This Law shall apply to legal relationships accrued after it came into effect.

Until the legislation of the Republic of Belarus is brought in line with this Law, it shall apply in part that does not contradict this Law.

Until 1 January 2004, for the purposes of determination of affiliation to citizenship of the Republic of Belarus within legal relationships accrued prior to execution of this Law, the provisions of the Law of the Republic of Belarus of 18 October 1991 "On Citizenship of the Republic of Belarus" (Vedamastsi Vyarhounaga Saveta Respubliki Belarus , 1991, No. 32, Art. 581) and Resolution of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus of 18 October 1991 "On Implementation of the Law of the Republic of Belarus "On Citizenship of the Republic of Belarus"(Vedamastsi Vyarhounaga Saveta Respubliki Belarus , 1991, No. 32, Art. 582) shall apply.

Article 41. Bringing legal acts of the Republic of Belarus in line with this Law

The Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus shall within six months after this Law comes into effect:

develop and introduce in established order proposals on bringing legal acts of the Republic of Belarus in line with this Law;

bring acts of the Government of the Republic of Belarus in line with this Law;

ensure that the republican authorities subordinate to the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus review and cancel their legal acts that contradict this Law;

take other measures required for implementation of provisions of this Law.

Article 42. Loss of validity of certain legislation acts

In relation with adoption of this Law, the following shall be considered invalid:

Law of the Republic of Belarus of 18 October 1991 "On Citizenship of the Republic of Belarus" (Vedamastsi Vyarhounaga Saveta Respubliki Belarus, 1991, No. 32, Art. 581);

Law of the Republic of Belarus of 15 June 1993 "On Introduction of Addenda and Amendments into the Existing Citizenship Legislation Acts" (Vedamastsi Vyarhounaga Saveta Respubliki Belarus , 1993, No. 26, Art. 320);

Law of the Republic of Belarus of 8 September 1995 "On Introduction of Addenda and Amendments into the Existing Legislation Acts on Citizenship of the Republic of Belarus" (Vedamastsi Vyarhounaga Saveta Respubliki Belarus, 1995, No. 32, Art. 421);

Law of the Republic of Belarus of 3 March 1997 "On Introduction of Addendum into the Law of the Republic of Belarus "On Citizenship of the Republic of Belarus" (Vedamastsi Natsiyanalnaha S'hodu Respubliki Belarus , 1997, No. 9, Art. 194);

Law of the Republic of Belarus of 13 November 1997 "On Introduction of an Amendment into the Resolution of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus "On Execution of the Law of the Republic of Belarus " On Citizenship of the Republic of Belarus" (Vedamastsi Natsiyanalnaha S'hodu Respubliki Belarus , 1997, No. 34, Art. 694);

Law of the Republic of Belarus of 22 June 1998 "On Introduction of Amendments and on Addendum into the Law of the Republic of "On Citizenship of the Republic of Belarus" (Vedamastsi Natsiyanalnaha S'hodu Respubliki Belarus, 1998, No. 25-26, Art. 432);

Article 1 of the Law of the Republic of Belarus of 9 November 1999 "On Introduction of Amendments into Certain Legislative Acts of the Republic of Belarus" (National Register of Legal Acts of the Republic of Belarus, 1999, No. 89, 2/82);

Law of the Republic of Belarus of 30 December 1999 "On Introduction of Addenda into the Law of the Republic of Belarus "On Citizenship of the Republic of Belarus" and an Amendment into the Resolution of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus "On Execution of the Law of the Republic of Belarus "On Citizenship of the Republic of Belarus" (National Register of Legal Acts of the Republic of Belarus, 2000, No. 4, 2/121);

Law of the Republic of Belarus of 18 June 2001 "On Introduction of Amendments and Addenda into Certain Legislative Acts of the Republic of Belarus on Citizenship of the Republic of Belarus" (National Register of Legal Acts of the Republic of Belarus , 2001, No. 61, 2/776);

Resolution of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus of 18 October 1991 "On Execution of the Law of the Republic of Belarus "On Citizenship of the Republic of Belarus" (Vedamastsi Vyarhounaga Saveta Respubliki Belarus, 1991, No. 32, Art. 582);

Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus of 19 June 1992 "On Approval of the Resolution on the Procedure of Reviewing Issues Related to Citizenship of the Republic of Belarus" (Vedamastsi Vyarhounaga Saveta Respubliki Belarus, 1992, No 21, Art. 377).

President of the Republic of Belarus

A.LUKASHENKO
