

STATEMENT OF THE RUSSIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Regarding the Publication of the UN Report of the Panel of Wise Men and Women

December 8, 2004

Moscow welcomes the publication of the report prepared by the High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change and submitted a few days ago to the member states of the UN by Kofi Annan, the Organization's Secretary General. Russia will most carefully study this thorough document containing more than 100 recommendations, including a set of innovative ideas and suggestions called upon to help the UN member states to work out common approaches and rationalize the mechanisms of joint action in order to respond effectively to international terrorism and other threats and challenges of our time.

The consideration of the recommendations - many of them bear a sweeping character and will certainly become a subject of not easy discussions - will begin in the near future. Russia, on whose initiative the formation of a global system for responding to new challenges and threats has been undertaken, will be most actively involved in this work.

We expect that, based on this report, the member states of the UN will be able to reach a general consensus on specific and effective decisions which will make it possible to realize even more fully the legal and operational potential of the current system of collective security and to increase the return on the multilateral UN mechanisms of cooperation for peace and development. Those decisions would be a worthy filling of the 2005 Summit, to be held in New York as part of the anniversary 60th session of the UN General Assembly.

Russia highly values the personal contribution of the UN Secretary General, to whom belongs the idea of establishing the High-Level Panel. While carrying out the transformation, big work awaits Kofi Annan together with the member states, the aim of which is to strengthen the central coordinating role of the UN in world affairs. Russia is ready to carry on close cooperation with him in this sphere and render necessary support.

We highly value the work of the Panel members, authoritative representatives of the world intellectual elite. It is gratifying that Academician Yevgeny Primakov made a substantial contribution to this work.