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PRESS RELEASE**30th Session of UN Interagency Procurement Working Group**

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The 30th session of the Interagency Procurement Working Group opened in Moscow on May 23, with the heads of the procurement services of more than 30 organizations of the UN system in attendance. Such annual meetings are alternately held in different countries and incorporate in their program communication between representatives of international organizations and local business circles, keen on work in the UN market.

The Russian side had made considerable efforts to ensure that the session was held in Moscow. Ever since February 2004 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had been actively promoting the candidacy of our country and in the end secured its victory in a competition. The Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Russian Federation had assumed the main functions in organizing the event.

Permanent Representative of Russia to the United Nations Andrei Denisov spoke at the opening of the session. He emphasized the keenness of the Russian side to expand and diversify its contribution to UN procurement activities. Russian companies lead in air carriage for the UN. In 2004 they rendered services worth about 140 US million dollars, primarily in the interest of peacekeeping missions in Africa.

As part of the session, it is planned to hold a Russia-UN business forum involving organizations and firms showing interest and already working on procurement markets of the United Nations and of its special institutions, funds and programs on May 25-26 under the aegis of the Foreign Ministry and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The task of the forum is to help expand Russian supplies and services on the promising UN market, the overall requirements of which are estimated at 3 billion dollars a year, with regard to the existing capabilities of Russia in such areas as motor transport, the petrochemical industry, telecommunications, and design work.

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