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PRESS RELEASE

Adoption by UN Security Council of a Resolution Endorsing Outcome of International Conference on Afghanistan

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On February 15 the UN Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 1659 endorsing the outcome of the International Conference on Afghanistan held in London at the end of January.

In particular, the resolution welcomes the further action program in support of the stabilization and democratization of Afghanistan that is set out in the Afghan Compact approved at the end of the London Forum.

The Russian side took the most active part in the work on the draft resolution, favoring a comprehensive approach towards the problem of Afghan settlement. As a result of the efforts made by us the document reflects the necessity of carrying on a large-scale fight against the Taliban, Al-Qaeda and other extremists as the principal sources of the terrorist threat emanating from the territory of Afghanistan.

It is of fundamental importance that the resolution provides for coordinated efforts by the international community for overcoming the narcotics threat from Afghanistan.

We highly appreciate the fact of adoption of this Council decision, which constitutes a significant contribution to the consolidation of international efforts in the field of stabilizing the situation in Afghanistan, with the UN playing the leadership role.

February 17, 2006