

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION****INFORMATION AND PRESS DEPARTMENT**

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PRESS RELEASE**United Nations Association of Russia 50th Anniversary Evening**

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A festive evening was held on March 28 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the United Nations Association of Russia.

Those attending were: deputies of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, officials from Russian ministries and agencies, eminent scholars, representatives of international organizations in Moscow, UNAR leaders and activists, and members of the Russian public and media.

In his welcoming remarks, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Russia Sergey Lavrov noted that "the Association, which has become a reliable helper to the United Nations Organization and an active promoter of its lofty goals and principles into the public life of our country, has been vigorously aiding the broad enlistment of Russian civil society in the search for solutions to the international problems facing humanity." He also emphasized that the leadership of the country was appreciative of the contribution of Russian civil diplomacy to enhancing and deepening the established broad international dialogue.

Chairman of the Central Board of the Association, Rector of MGIMO(U) Anatoly Torkunov and Ercan Murat, the UN Representative in Moscow, spoke at the evening.

Torkunov presented the UNAR Medals for Participation in United Nations Programs to Sergey Lavrov and Georgy Arbatov.

March 29, 2006