

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

**INFORMATION AND PRESS DEPARTMENT**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

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On April 25 the UN Security Council unanimously adopted an official Council Presidential Statement in support of the peace talks for settlement in the Sudanese region of Darfur that are currently being held in Abuja, Nigeria. Russia supported this decision of the Council, proceeding from its commitment to diplomatic methods of solving the intra-Sudanese problems.

On the same day by 12 votes in favor with three abstentions (Qatar, China and Russia) the Security Council adopted resolution 1672 imposing targeted sanctions, an asset freeze and international travel ban, against four individuals in Sudan. In forming our position we proceeded from the fact that the adoption of such a Council resolution could have a negative impact on the prospects for concluding a peace agreement on Darfur, which Russia has invariably favored.

We are firmly convinced that activating the sanctions arsenal by the UN Security Council should be closely linked with the task of assisting and facilitating the political resolution of the conflict and ensuring regional stability.

April 26, 2006