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PRESS RELEASE

In Relation to the Adoption of a Security Council Resolution Extending the Mandate of the UNSC 1540 Committee on Nonproliferation

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On April 27 the Security Council adopted resolution 1673 extending for another two years the mandate of its committee set up in accordance with UNSC resolution 1540 adopted on April 28, 2004, on nonproliferation (the 1540 Committee).

The Russian side, having been the initiator and a cosponsor of the resolution, considers it one of the key nonproliferation instruments directed primarily to keep WMD, their means of delivery and the related materials out of the hands of non-state actors, especially terrorists. In our conviction, ensuring the implementation in full and by all states of this resolution, which like all SC resolutions, bears a binding character, is one of the main lines of the fight against the serious threat for international peace and security posed by the worldwide spread of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery.

As shown by the final report of the chair of the 1540 Committee presented to the SC recently on the implementation by the world's states of the resolution over the past two years, a great deal has already been done in this field, but even more work still lies ahead. The resolution sets a whole variety of extensive tasks, primarily in terms of the development of legislative, law enforcement and organizational measures to prevent illegal production, trading and transfer of WMD and their means of delivery; to establish accounting for, and the safekeeping and physical protection of dual-use goods; to monitor their export and transfrontier movement; to counter their illicit trafficking, and so on.

The Russian side at the end of last year initiated in the Security Council the question of extending the mandate of the Committee, which is an important instrument helpful for carrying out resolution 1540. The Committee collects and analyzes reports on its fulfillment, gives recommendations to the Security Council, and facilitates the receipt of assistance with the resolution implementation by states in need of it, and the arrangement of international cooperation and experience exchange in this area.

The adopted decision on the extension of the Committee's mandate confirms the key role of

the UN and its Security Council in questions of nonproliferation and creates favorable conditions for the further intensification of efforts by individual states and the world community at large for implementing the resolution. The Russian side intends to continue to work actively at both the national level and in the international arena for attainment of this major objective.

April 29, 2006