

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION



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**Russian MFA Information and Press Department Commentary Regarding UN
Management Reform**

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On April 28, in the Fifth Committee of the United Nations General Assembly, for the first time in the long-standing practice of decision making on administrative and budgetary matters in the Organization's activities by consensus, a vote took place on a draft resolution touching on one of the most acute and important items on the agenda of this body - UN management. The members of Group 77 and China had cosponsored the draft. The resolution was passed by 108 votes in favor with 50 votes against and three abstentions.

Russia backed up the adoption of the resolution, although the vote on this item was not our choice. We had done everything possible to convince all the concerned parties of the necessity of finding as broad a consensus as possible on this far from easy problem, on the solution of which the Organization's future largely depends. We are convinced that UN management reform will only be successful if its key elements receive the broadest support from member states.

Russia, like the rest of the major payers to UN budgets, is objectively interested in the success of the reform. We presume that the adopted resolution only postpones consideration of this matter until the submission by the UN Secretary General of specifying reports on the various aspects of the proposed change.

We regard achievement of mutually acceptable results which will lead to a substantial enhancement of the effectiveness of the Organization with a minimum increase of financial expenses on its activities and also permit member states to keep the real levers of control over the use of UN budgetary and staff resources as our principal task in the field of UN management reform.

Russia is ready to work further on improving the UN management system in a constructive vein. We expect that other delegations will take a similar position.

May 2, 2006

