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PRESS RELEASE

Russian Federation Deposits Instrument of Ratification of UN Convention against Corruption, New York, May 9, 2006

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On May 9 Vitaly Churkin, Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations, officially conveyed to the UN Secretariat the instrument of ratification by Russia of the UN Convention against Corruption, which entered into force on December 14, 2005. After on March 8, 2006, President Vladimir Putin signed the Federal Law on Ratification of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, the Russian Federation became the fifty-second party to this international treaty.

Russia's active participation in the development and ratification of the Convention bears out its commitment to an uncompromising struggle against corruption, without which it is impossible to successfully counter the financing of international terrorism, the trade in humans, drug trafficking and the illicit trade in arms today.

The UN Convention lays down the standards for comprehensive action by the international community against corruption and opens up possibilities for states to improve their legal mechanisms in the fight against crime, including efforts through the mechanisms of international engagement. Measures to prevent as well as criminalize corruption have found reflection in it for the first time. Of great importance is the new provision enshrined in the Convention that assets obtained as a result of corruption shall be returned to the respective countries.

For our country the question of repatriating to countries of origin the assets obtained through corruption and illegally taken abroad is a priority issue. The Convention contains the necessary mechanisms for strengthening international cooperation with a view to

detecting, confiscating and returning criminal assets as well as the provisions directed at preventing the transfer of funds of illicit origin, derived from acts of corruption. The availability of the effective instruments to combat income laundering, plus the procedures for returning illicit assets to their countries of origin can become an effective anti-corruption vehicle.

May 10, 2006