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STATEMENT

**BY MR. V. NEBENZJA,
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
AT THE HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT OF THE SUBSTANTIVE SESSION
OF THE ECOSOC OF 2005**

New York, July 1, 2005

Mr. President,

The Russian Federation attaches fundamental importance to multilateral discussions in ECOSOC on progress in achieving internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration (MDGs), as well as implementing the outcomes of the major UN high-level conferences and summits.

We believe that the most constructive and viable basis for the decisions on development is the logic of **Millennium Declaration and Monterrey Consensus**, which consists in the acknowledgment of the respective responsibilities for developed as well as for developing countries in the field of development.

Each country bears the main responsibility for its development and financing of its national development strategies primarily from its own resources. In this context, we support the key role of the mobilization of domestic resources and the necessity to direct national development strategies at achieving the MDGs.

At the same time, international assistance for development continues to be of no less significance. The success of national strategies will to a great extent depend on the readiness of the donor community to accept them as a real basis for providing coordinated assistance to a country and support their implementation.

We attach key importance to the adopting by the Summit of balanced, realizable and economically viable decisions on **financing for development**.

As a matter of principle, we believe that any decisions in this sphere should be taken on the basis of consensus since only this principle generates the required sense of ownership in all the partners and ensure the effective development of the Monterrey process.

Along with increasing the volume of official development assistance (ODA), we consider it essential to take efficient measures to increase the effectiveness of its use.

At the same time, the international community should fully use a number of powerful means it already has at its disposal, such as entrepreneurial potential, domestic and foreign investments, trade, currency remittances of migrants, etc.

Debt relief, first of all for the highly indebted poorest countries in the framework of HIPC initiative, is an important source of resource mobilization for the development goals.

In the context of contribution to the achievement of MDG 8, Russia, together with its G8 partners, provides many-faceted assistance to this group of countries. We supported the recent initiative within the G8 meeting of Ministers of Finance to immediately cancel the debt of 18 poorest countries for a total sum of US\$ 40 billion. Recognizing the special need of Africa in the development sphere, Russia intends to announce this year the cancellation of US\$ 2,2 billion for the poorest African states on bilateral basis within the framework of HIPC.

In general, we view with interest the initiatives to find innovative sources of financing for development. In our opinion, the use of the such initiatives as an instrument to extend development assistance on a global scale should be voluntary and should be adopted by those countries that consider such mechanisms acceptable at this stage in terms of their national legislation as well as their economic capabilities.

In the view of the Russian delegation, the expansion of international trade and its progress towards a more equitable basis creates additional opportunities for achieving the development goals. In this regard, we support the call for a successful completion of the Doha Round of international trade negotiations of the WTO.

In the context of achieving MDG 8, Russia as an emerging donor, takes concrete steps to increase its participation in international development assistance and to raise the donor capabilities of our country.

Mr. President,

Despite the existing difficulties related to the completion of the country's transition to the market economy, the Russian Federation puts significant efforts in ensuring the progress of MDGs on its national level.

At the same time, we recognize the problems faced by our country. Fight against poverty, solution of social problems is at the top of the agenda of the socio-economic reforms carried out in Russia.

The last four years have been marked by a significant growth of GNP per capita in the country; real incomes of citizens increased. A reform of social sector was initiated in order to promote a more equitable provision of social services; a new Labor Code aimed at creating more favorable conditions for labor market development and protection of interests of workers has been adopted.

The Government makes active steps for qualitative improvement and modernization of the education and health protection systems in Russia.

Russia pays serious attention to comprehensive combat of HIV/AIDS expansion with the aim to minimize social and economic consequences of HIV/AIDS epidemic in Russia.

Our country is committed to the implementation of environmental protection and management measures at the national level.

Russia's ratification of the Kyoto Protocol was a fundamental step towards the creation of an effective system of environmental regulation.

We expect that the results of our discussion reflected in the Ministerial declaration will become a significant **input in the socio-economic agenda of the Summit 2005**.

Thank you.

