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# **S T A T E M E N T**

by

**H.E.MR. ANDREY I. DENISOV**

**Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations,**

**during the general debate in the Second Committee of the 59<sup>th</sup> Session  
of the United Nations General Assembly**

**New York, 4 October 2004**

Mr. President,

Today it is obvious to everyone that the new challenges and threats have brought the international community to a new stage. In the context of globalization the task to prevent emerging new pockets of social and economic tension threatening people's life, security and well-being has become critically important. It is necessary to eliminate such global adversities as international terrorism, hunger, poverty, epidemics, environment degradation, and a gap in standards of living in various regions of the world. It is hard to overestimate the role of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as the basis of the international agenda for resolving these global socio-economic problems.

In this context we welcome the initiative launched by the President of Brazil to eradicate hunger and poverty, and to explore innovative financing mechanisms to this end. The outcome of the September 20, New York meeting should provide positive impetus to the constructive dialogue on this subject.

For its part Russia continues to enhance its contribution to the international development assistance. The main thrust of our efforts is aimed at providing debt relief to the poorest countries. We are committed to follow the relevant arrangements agreed upon in this field in a multilateral format. Russia also provides various types of official assistance to many countries of the world and first of all to its CIS partners. Concrete steps have been taken recently to revitalize Russia's donor capacity.

We agree with the Secretary General that the MDGs have generated unprecedented increase in coherence and coordination of the efforts of the UN system, the Bretton Wood Institutions, WTO and governments. We strongly support this development.

A major breakthrough necessary, in the words of the Secretary General, to achieve the MDGs by 2015 will require more intensive and concerted efforts on the part of the international community. A strong political impetus is to be given by the 2005 UN GA High Level Plenary Meeting to review the progress achieved in the implementation of the Millennium Declaration and the decisions of major UN conferences and summits. The summit will provide a real opportunity to move from goal setting to defining specific ways of their implementation. Preparations for this major event of the coming year, in our view, will be one of the most important tasks of the current session of the General Assembly, including in the social and economic field. We are confident that thematic coverage of the summit should encompass all aspects of the Millennium Declaration. With respect to its modalities, format and organization, maximum use should be made of the positive experience of the Millennium Assembly.

Additional opportunities for the nations' progress towards achieving the MDGs are created by a more fair international trade system. We welcome the outcome of the UNCTAD-11 which has contributed to providing new impetus to the WTO talks after the Cancun setback. We support the main thrust of the UNCTAD immediate goals and share the approaches outlined in the Conference final document, including that of ensuring access for all countries to the benefits of globalization and minimization of its risks, taking account of national specificities, maintaining reasonable balance between the role played by the state and market forces in managing the economy, fair

division of efforts by the international community and national governments in achieving development goals.

Russia is steadily advancing towards accession to the WTO at acceptable terms. As we have already stated, Russia is prepared to assume obligations which go in line with the level of its economic development, take into account structural specificities and correspond to the obligations assumed by other WTO members. The process of Russia's accession should not be used as a testing ground for the ideas and concepts which are still under discussion in the WTO itself.

We believe that the integration of the countries with economies in transition into the world economy is one of the priority issues to be discussed by the coming session. Russia strongly supports efforts to mobilize international assistance to the economies in transition and uses its bilateral channels to assist a number of CIS transition economies. At the present stage we consider it important that the UN agencies and the Bretton Woods institutions be more focused on assisting the most needy transition economies, first of all the low income countries, for the purpose of their integration into the world economy and removal of impediments to their social and economic development.

We give priority to the expansion of international cooperation with a view to preventing and combating corrupt practices and transfer of assets of illicit origin abroad as well as money laundering. We advocate the prompt ratification of the UN Convention against Corruption by all Member-States. Practical measures taken by Russia at the national and regional levels have been positively assessed by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). Thus the Russian initiative to set up in Central Asia a FATF-type regional group to counter criminally earned money laundering and terrorism financing enjoyed support.

Mr. President,

Russia is one of the most active participants of international interaction in the field of sustainable development seeking to make an adequate contribution into international measures against new threats to environment.

In this regard I would like to highlight, the issue of ratification of the Kyoto Protocol by the Russian Federation, which has riveted ever greater international attention. This issue has been closely monitored by President Vladimir Putin who, as it is known, instructed the Government of the Russian Federation to study thoroughly the whole scope of the complex issues related to the Protocol and to speed up movement towards its ratification. Today it gives me pleasure to inform you that just the other day – September 30 – on the basis of the analysis made, the Russian Government considered the issue and took the decision to approve ratification of the Kyoto Protocol. Now it will be submitted to the lower house of the Parliament – State Duma - for ratification.

Besides, Russia has recently joined the Convention to Combat Desertification, the work is underway on the prospects of our accession to a number of other international and legal environment protection instruments, such as the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants as well as respective amendments to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

We positively assess the substantive results and renewed format of the 12<sup>th</sup> session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development. It is now important to work during CSD-13 for a successful completion of the reformed Commission's first cycle of activities, by focusing on efficient and effective political decision-making in conformity with the parameters of the CSD-12 water, sanitation and human settlement problem analysis.

As the Chair of the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF), Russia took lead in revitalizing and strengthening constructive framework of the international arrangement on forests promoting it as a priority item on the global environment agenda, and in enhancing the catalytic role of the UNFF in forest matters. We expect the upcoming Ministerial Session of the UNFF in 2005 to give an additional positive impetus to the forest process.

We attach particular importance to the International Meeting to Review of Implementation of the Programme of Action for Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States to be held in Mauritius. We now have to focus our efforts on preparing a balanced final paper of the Meeting in conformity with the guiding principles of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Special Session of the UN General Assembly on the Sustainable Development of SIDS and the WSSD, with a major emphasis on a full-fledged implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action.

We also attach great importance to the upcoming World Conference on Disaster Reduction to be held in Kobe in January 2005 which is to become a notable benchmark in the global assessment of the implementation of the Yokohama Strategy and the Plan of Action for a Safer World.

The Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review of Operational Activities for Development will be held in the context of the growing role the UN funds and programs play in assisting countries to achieve the MDGs. With regard to the TCPR Russia is committed to the fundamental principles of operational activities, first of all to the principle of national ownership and to preserving independent mandates of the funds and programmes. Based on these concepts, we are ready to support further simplification and harmonization of rules and procedures - with an emphasis made on the simplification part - in those fields that in real terms contribute to reducing administrative and financial burden of both programme countries and the UN agencies themselves. We also support strengthening the UN resident coordinator system and enhancing interaction with the World Bank.

This year the Second Committee is assigned to consider certain matters pertaining to strengthening coordination of humanitarian and natural disaster assistance, including special economic aid to individual countries and regions. We intend to actively participate in preparation of the country-specific humanitarian resolutions. In our view, the modalities of submission and negotiation of these resolutions that were used in the plenary sessions of the General Assembly should remain the same in the Second Committee.

We believe that consideration of these questions in the Second Committee, which deals with the economic matters, will provide for a more detailed deliberations on the increasingly pressing issues of transition from humanitarian assistance to development, within the context of specific situations in individual countries. At the same time we think that the attention should be paid not only to the matter of identifying the causes for re-emergence of conflicts but also to the analyses of the positive examples with a view to identifying the factors contributing to successful post-crisis

transition. The case of Tajikistan, that is to be discussed during this session may, in our view, provide a good basis for important holistic conclusions for the future.

Mr. President,

This year we are to assess a number of new and useful initiatives on rationalizing the work of the Second Committee elaborated by its previous Bureau. We note with appreciation an open and transparent discussion of these matters resulting in the Bureau's balanced and well-thought proposals. Now it depends on the Member-States if our Committee can do a far better job.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, I would like to follow the tradition and say a few words about the economic situation in Russia. We are witnessing positive trends in an accelerated and revitalized economic growth, which turns our country into one of the most promising emerging markets. The 2004 GDP is expected to grow at about 7 percent, with industrial growth rates remaining high. Even with the high consumer demand and households' real incomes on the rise, the inflation has been considerably reduced. Export is growing faster than import, resulting in a stronger foreign trade balance. Russia's status as the largest energy power is strengthening: export of oil and oil products went up 23 percent in 2003, which enabled Russia to become the world leading producer of oil and gas taken together. In the years to come, we plan to increase oil production by 5-10 percent annually regardless of world prices. Meanwhile, our Government is determined to put in place a new economic model for the country, designed to make use of new sources for growth in manufacturing, services and innovative technology sectors, to qualitatively renew Russia's entire economic, scientific and technical potential rather than export raw materials and energy.

Thank you.