

Check against delivery

STATEMENT

by Mr. Alexander V. Konuzin, First Deputy Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations in the Fifth Committee of the 59-th session of the UN General Assembly on item 108 of the agenda “Program budget for the biennium 2004-2005” on the issue of “Strengthened and Unified Security Management System for the United Nations”

November 3, 2004

Mr. Chairman,

The Russian delegation expresses its gratitude to Mr. Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary-General, for the presentation of his report “Strengthened and Unified Security Management System for the United Nations” which contains proposals for a second phase of additional measures on strengthening security. We are also grateful to Mr. V. Kuznetsov, Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) and Mr. D. Nair, Under- Secretary-General for the presentation of the respective reports of ACABQ and Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS).

Russia undoubtedly attaches primary importance to strengthening security of the UN staff and premises. Moreover, Russia views the questions of ensuring security of the Organization and its staff from a broader perspective, including in the context of countering the international terrorism. We are convinced that brutal terrorist attacks

in New York and Washington, Baghdad, Moscow, Grozny, Beslan and the recent kidnapping of UN staff members in Afghanistan are the links of one and the same chain. In the circumstances, when the Organization has been targeted by international terrorism, nobody should have any doubts with regard to the need for taking urgent and decisive measures to ensure security of the United Nations throughout the world. Projects in this area should be implemented with no delays and decision-making on funding such activities should be given top priority.

We note with satisfaction the progress achieved in the development of a unified all-system strategy for the UN security, of which the main elements have been outlined in the Secretary-General's report. At the same time, we are fully aware that so far this implies the first steps and in future both the Secretariat and the UN offices, as well as all agencies, funds and programs encompassed by this new strategy will have to do a great deal of work to finalize and implement the concepts now outlined in general including identification of a specific amount of funding that such measures may require.

Our delegation, on the whole, supports the Secretary-General's proposals on setting up a unified security management system for the UN. We hope that the establishment in the UN headquarters, in New York of a new Security Department which is to bring together several security units existing in the Secretariat, will make it possible to work out a common policy and standards in security area and ensure a centralized assessment of threats and risks, coordination of actions and operational and technical support of local security services.

Besides, we believe that one of the most important functions of the new Department should be to raise the efficiency and eliminate the drawbacks of the existing cost-sharing mechanism that have been pointed out in the Secretary-General's report. In our view, this mechanism should be maintained within the new overall system strategy for the UN security. We also think that the cost-sharing can be

made more efficient through a larger involvement of the UN system agencies, funds and programs in the decision-making process within the new strategy. Moreover, since the elimination of drawbacks, raising the efficiency and mobilization of resources within the cost-sharing mechanism will require a close attention on the part of the Security Department from the very outset of its activities, it would be expedient to invest respective functions to the deputy-chief of this Department at the Assistant-Secretary-General level and approve this post already at the current session of the General Assembly.

The Russian delegation shares the Secretary-General's view on the important role of the host countries in ensuring safety and security of the UN staff and their families and the need for an effective cooperation with the authorities of these countries. In this regard, we express our concern over the delays, mentioned in the ACABQ report, in bringing the existing agreements with the host countries in line with the requirements of the currently prevailing security situation, taking into account the relevant potential these countries have.

We would also like to note that while a centralized approach to ensuring the Organization's all-system security is important, it is necessary to avoid within the framework of the new strategy an excessive concentration of financial and human resources at the headquarters, particularly focusing on the needs of offices, agencies, funds, programs and missions outside New York, especially in the countries with a limited own capacity to ensure the Organization's security.

In conclusion, we would like to reiterate our fundamental support to the Secretary-General's steps to reinforce the Organization's safety and security and the readiness of the Russian delegation to constructively discuss specific parameters of the unified security management system for the UN taking into account a number of recommendations provided on this issue in the ACABQ and OIOS reports.

Thank you for your attention.