

*Check against delivery*

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

**by Mr. Andrey I. Denisov, Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations at the Plenary Meeting of the 59-th Session of the UN General Assembly on the “Report of the Security Council” and “Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters” (items 11 and 53 of the agenda)**

New York, 12 October 2004

Mr. President,

The current session of the General Assembly takes place under the sign of a growing understanding of the need to further strengthen the UN as a central mechanism of a collective resolution of international relations and to ensure global security and stability. This aim, no doubt, can be achieved only if adequate resources are provided to the World Organization and if its structure and mechanisms are enhanced.

In this context, it is extremely topical to successfully reform the UN, and to conform the composition of its Security Council with the drastically changed international realities.

The reform of the Security Council should be aimed at making this organ more representative and more effective in decision-making. This reform has been ripe which is vividly proved by the recent political debate and the current discussion of this issue.

At the same time one cannot close the eyes to the depth of persisting acute differences between the UN member-States with respect to the broadening of the Security Council composition. We are convinced, that the achievement of a broadest consent should remain the key benchmark in the reform process. We have a huge responsibility to allow no division in the Organization. Our task is to lay the groundwork for a stronger authority and potential of the Security Council as the main organ in maintaining peace and international security.

Russia is prepared to continue persistent work to bring closer the approaches in choosing an optimal model of the future Security Council composition. We are open to examine constructive proposals on these matters with the understanding that an increase in any member category of the Council should involve both the developed and developing nations with equal rights and responsibilities being shared between them. We believe that in the event of creating additional seats of permanent members

Germany, Japan, India, Brazil and an authoritative representative from Africa would be worthy candidates to claim them.

It is hard to overestimate the importance of preserving a compact composition of the renewed Council so as to ensure its adequate and rapid reaction to the challenges of the new Millennium. We are sure that all the delegations, which have ever worked in the Security Council, clearly realize that an excessive broadening of the Council could have a negative impact on its working capability with the repercussions ensuing for the international security.

We are convinced in counter-productivity of the ideas involving an infringement of the scope of responsibility and authority of the present members of the Security Council including the veto right. Ungrounded criticism of this vital institution which contributes to ensuring a necessary balance of interests of the Council members only stokes needless emotions and makes it no easier to reach a consent sought with regard to the reform parameters.

As to granting the veto right to new permanent members, we still believe there is no point in discussing it before an agreement is reached on an enlarged membership of the Security Council.

Mr. President,

Having actively supported the establishment of the High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change by the Secretary-General, Russia, as well as all the UN members, is looking forward with genuine interest to receiving its recommendations. We trust that the members of the Panel will prove their widespread image as real “wise men” and develop recommendations to effectively strengthen and improve multilateral mechanisms including the Security Council. We hope that the Secretary-General’s proposals on the outcome of the work done by the Wise Men Group will take into account the wide range of approaches to the reform of the

Security Council. Finally, member States will have to implement these proposals into effective decisions to ensure a comprehensive strengthening of the UN.

Given the above position, Russia will continue to constructively contribute, including within the Open-ended Working Group of the General Assembly, to finding an effective and widely supported model of reform of the UN Security Council.

Thank you for your attention.