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S T A T E M E N T

by

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On agenda items 45 and 55 of the 59th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

“Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields” and “Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit”

New York, 22 November 2004

Mr. President,

Most of contemporary threats and challenges have global nature, which dictates the necessity of a collective response to them on the basis of a comprehensive consideration and respect for the legitimate interests of every member of the international community and in strict conformity with the international law.

The strength and effectiveness of our Organization directly depend on the active support of the Member States, policies that they pursue and their readiness to use the UN platform for finding concerted solutions to emerging issues. It is obvious that in recent years our Organization has been facing conceptually new challenges. Accordingly – like any other complex system – it needs to be improved. The UN should continue to be capable to counter all these threats and challenges – new and old, “hard” and “soft” in different and extremely dangerous combinations – since the goals of the Organization are still relevant today.

On the initiative of Russia two preceding sessions of the General Assembly adopted by consensus resolutions on outlining, with the UN playing a central role, a global strategy to counter modern challenges and threats. Realization of this initiative will enable to fulfill the concept of collective security enshrined in the UN Charter. We hope that joint efforts in this field will be continued during the current session of the General Assembly.

We fully support the thesis of the Secretary General about the indispensable need to strengthen the rule of law as one of the basic elements of modern international relations. For Russia this is an imperative.

One of the priorities in this direction should become the enhanced role of the UN as the main universal body that guides and coordinates the interaction of states in combating international terrorism. We are confident that the Security Council resolution 1566, adopted on the initiative of Russia, will strengthen the UN antiterrorist potential and provide additional impetus to the work of the counterterrorist divisions of the Organization. As Chair of the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee our country intends to actively pursue the implementation of all the tasks standing before the CTC. In present situation it is important not only to ensure antiterrorist solidarity but also to take concrete practical actions.

Unfortunately the international community is still lagging behind in adopting measures, capable to effectively counter the growing terrorist threat. There is a need for additional collective efforts, aimed at elaborating a clear and comprehensive strategy, qualitative strengthening of the security system and universally recognized legal framework to oppose terrorism, which would first and foremost exclude double standards vis-à-vis terrorists no matter how they disguise themselves or what slogans they use.

Constantly increasing activity of terrorists characterized with crimes unprecedented in magnitude and cruelty, proves the need to ensure reliable safeguards preventing terrorists access to the weapons of mass destruction. The United Nations has significantly invigorated its efforts in addressing this task. The UN Security Council resolution 1540 provides for a complex of practical and legal actions, realization of which should prevent non-State actors from acquiring WMD. We hope that during the current session of the General Assembly it will be possible to complete the work on the

draft, proposed on the initiative of the Russian Federation, and adopt the text of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, which will join the list of international legal antiterrorist instruments in force.

We anticipate that recommendations of the High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change will enable the United Nations and other multilateral institutions to ensure a significant increase in their effectiveness. The High-Level Panel is called to contribute to the work on the reform the United Nations and its Security Council. The completion of this process should be marked by the broadest possible consensus among Member States with the common goal to strengthen the United Nations.

The United Nations should continue to improve peacemaking mechanisms with a view to deploying more timely and efficient peacekeeping and, where necessary, peace enforcement operations. Of course this should take place in strict compliance with the UN Charter. Here it is fundamentally important to not allow any circumvention of the Security Council's powers, especially in situations where it comes to the use of force on behalf of the international community.

Russia has consistently stood for enhancing and strengthening the capacity of the United Nations in the system of contemporary economic relations. Major UN conferences and summits of the last decade provided a strong impetus to strengthening the role of the Organization in addressing global socio-economic issues. We are convinced that coherence of the various implementation processes as a follow-up to these conferences should be ensured through full implementation of the mandate given by the UN GA resolutions 57/270 B, 50/227, 52/12 B as well as through the use of the potential of ECOSOC as the key coordination mechanism within the UN system.

Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals is uneven: there are both encouraging trends as well as stagnation and in some instances, unfortunately, setbacks. It is obvious that the task to attain the MDGs is relevant virtually for all regions of the world. Russia intends to make necessary efforts to reach specific targets within the MDGs at the national level. The progress achieved will be reflected in the national report on the MDGs, which will be prepared in 2005. On the whole, we concur with the Secretary-General that the attainment of the MDGs within the established timeframe remains realistic target, but it requires a new impetus to the implementation of the Millennium Declaration as well as of the commitments made in Monterrey and Johannesburg. We expect that such strong political impetus will be provided by the High-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly to review the implementation of the Millennium Declaration. Preparation for this major event stands among the most important priorities of the United Nations system in the forthcoming period.

We support the timing and modalities for preparation and holding of this event suggested by the Secretary General. Positive experience of the Millennium Summit in 2000 should serve as a model to follow. We believe that it is important to adopt the UN General Assembly resolution on organization of the "2005 Summit" as soon as possible – before the end of this year. In our view the Summit should be a comprehensive and holistic event with a broad thematic coverage, encompassing all main aspects of the Millennium Declaration. We stand ready to continue to discuss its modalities as well as all the documents which would provide a substantive contribution to its agenda.