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

**by His Excellency Ambassador Andrey I. Denisov  
Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations  
at the plenary meeting of the General Assembly of the United Nations  
on Agenda item 53  
"Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership  
of the Security Council and related matters"**

12 July 2005

Mr. President,

The Russian Federation is ready to support any reasonable option of the Security Council's enlargement if it is based on a widest possible agreement within the United Nations. In our view, such an agreement envisages a more substantial political support for one or another decision rather than legally required two thirds of the votes. The voting in the General Assembly should not cause a split among the Member-States and should not lead as a result, instead of strengthening, to the weakening of the United Nations and its Security Council, which, we are confident, is in nobody's interest.

In this regard those who advocate a speedy adoption of concrete decisions on such an important issue as the Security Council's reform bear serious responsibility. They should calculate thoroughly all positive and negative aspects of their move, give a sober estimate of an actual level of support they enjoy in order to avoid pernicious consequences for the future of the World Organization. to make it

We believe that the reform of the Security Council should meet the following principles. First of all, the task is to increase the effectiveness of the Council and to provide for a better balance of the Council's membership through the inclusion of major and influential developing states. At the same time, making the Security Council more representative must not undermine its effectiveness. These is why we are advocating the preservation of the compact size of the Security Council and insist that after enlargement the number of members in a new Security Council should not exceed a reasonable size (let us define it as "20 Plus").

Besides, we consider that there should not be an *a priori* granting of the veto right before the list of new permanent members of the Security Council is defined in case of a decision in favour of the Council's enlargement in both categories.

We reaffirm the unwavering position of the Russian Federation that any dilution of the status of the five current permanent members of the Security Council, first of all of the veto right, is categorically unacceptable.

On the basis of this overarching position and guided by its responsibility as a permanent member of the Security Council Russia will continue to advance the achievement of the necessary agreement.

Thank you, Mr. President