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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 60<sup>th</sup> Session  
of the United Nations General Assembly**

**New York, 3 October 2005**

Mr. Chairman,

As Mr. Sergey Lavrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, stated during the general debate of the 60<sup>th</sup> session of the UN General Assembly, today, mankind is not facing the dilemma on whether to accept the challenges of globalisation or not. The question is how and basing on what principles we should respond to them.

In this context, the Russian Federation welcomes the outcomes of the 2005 World Summit that is aimed at strengthening the collective principles and improving the mechanisms of multilateral co-operation in development.

Far from being simple, the negotiation process on development issues in the run-up to the Summit made it possible to define the extent of international consensus on this agenda, find common grounds on many issues and detect problem areas that need further discussion.

The debate and decisions at the level of Heads of State and Government were an important step forward in promoting global development agenda, confirming the principle of each country's responsibility for its development, and defining priority areas of work.

Today, 5 years after the Millennium Summit and 3 years after the International Conference on Finance for Development, the political impetus to achieve the MDGs has not only lost steam but has been further reinforced. There are good reasons to expect more intensified activities in the sphere of economic and social development in the United Nations, the Bretton-Woods Institutions and the WTO.

In this regard, Russia attaches great importance to the session of the Second Committee. The common objective for the Member States, in our opinion, is to define the program of implementation of the decisions reached during the Summit without repeating the discussions that already took place. There is a need to critically look at the priorities of the Committee, key points on its agenda and the nature of decisions that we need to take.

Mr. Chairman,

Weighed, realistic and economically viable decisions taken during the Summit on the issue of financing for development are of critical importance. Any decisions in this field have to be taken on the basis of consensus. Precipitating or imposing any specific initiatives here may have a negative impact on the effectiveness of the painstakingly built and well-balanced Monterrey process.

We consider the increase of official development assistance (ODA) as a serious and important task. We work on the strengthening of our own donor potential. At the same time, we are convinced that a mere mechanical increase of the volumes of external assistance is not a panacea in itself. Of no less significance is the improvement of aid quality and effectiveness of its use.

Quite important, in our view, for achieving the MDGs, will be the implementation of the G8 proposal to cancel 100 per cent of debt of the poorest African countries to the IFIs. Debt relief, primarily for highly indebted poorest countries within the IMF and the World Bank HIPC initiative is, in our view, an effective way of resource mobilisation for attaining the development goals and solving social problems.

In the view of the Russian delegation, the expansion of the world trade and its transition towards a more equitable basis will create additional opportunities for achieving the MDGs. In this connection, we note with great satisfaction the provision in the 2005 Summit outcome on the importance of universal integration of all states into the global trade system and on accelerating and

facilitating the accession of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to the WTO. We support the call for a prompt completion of the Doha Round of international trade negotiations of the WTO. We hope that the upcoming WTO Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong will be a turning point not only for the negotiations of the Round, but for achievement of the MDGs as well.

In general, we support the call for consideration of the possibility of using in a more long-term perspective innovative approaches for improvement of the current system of financing for development on the basis of voluntary mechanisms. Evaluation of the effectiveness and value added of already launched and planned pilot projects in this field should be the basis for resolving the existing conceptual problems, achieving broad consensus and making specific obligations by member-States. We are ready for active participation in the discussion of innovative sources of financing during the upcoming session of the Committee. However, in this field too, we need to set realistic objectives, to resist the temptation to impose on others the solutions that do not have universal support.

Mr. Chairman,

The World Summit has once again clearly demonstrated the increasing importance of the issue of sustainable development in the global affairs and its consolidating role in international efforts in the economic and social spectrum of the UN activity.

We understand the importance of the issue of improvement of global environmental governance. In our view, the principal objective here should be the effectiveness of the work of the whole environmental block of the UN system and its clearly defined integration in the implementation of the MDGs. What is also required, is due transparency and comprehensive nature of the process of consideration of this issue taking into account the already running processes, first of all within UNEP.

On the issue of climate and forests, we stress the importance of such forthcoming important fora as the 11<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol and the 6<sup>th</sup> session of the UN Forum on Forests. Their main purpose is to promote global dialogue on agreed long-term actions, to strengthen the consensus base for co-operation based on the existing institutions, and to take this cooperation to a qualitatively new level.

We consider that the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in Kobe has played a significant role in the development of the common understanding and commitment of the international community to reduce this risk.

We support the idea many times repeated by the UN Secretary-General to create a global early warning system. We see it in the context of the revamped International Strategy for Disaster Reduction.

One of the most important themes of today's cooperation in the sphere of sustainable development is international migration. The Russian Federation is in favour of strengthening international co-operation in this sphere in all its aspects. We support the High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development during the 61<sup>st</sup> session of the UN General Assembly.

We feel that the Summit's decisions concerning the operational activities of the UN are well balanced and reflect the present state of discussion on the ways to increase the effectiveness of work of the UN development system. All reform steps that are underway must be based exclusively on the

decisions of the member-States as reflected in the appropriate UN resolutions. We consider it fundamentally important to uphold the principle of the institutional integrity and organisational mandates of all the operational agencies as stated in UN GA resolution 59/250.

Russia as an emerging donor of development assistance is ready for the upcoming discussion on the modalities for financing the operational activities. In the evaluation of the possible new sources of financing we proceed from the point that they do not substitute voluntary contributions to the operational activities, which allow the UN system organisations to materialise one of its major comparative advantages - neutral and non-politicised nature of its work.

Mr. Chairman,

The outcomes of the Millennium Summit and 2005 World Summit have given a general direction to our efforts. Russia as the country that will assume the next G8 Presidency is ready, together with other states, to participate fully in defining ways of practical implementation and realisation of these decisions.

Thank you.