

STATEMENT
by the representative of the of the Russian Federation,
Mr. Alexander S. ALIMOV,
in the Second Committee of the 60th session of the UN General Assembly
on agenda item 57 “Operational activities for development of the United Nations system”

9 November 2005

Mr. Chairman,

The Russian Federation regards the 2005 Summit decisions on operational activities of the UN system as well balanced and reflecting in general the present-day state of discussion on these issues.

We share the importance of their implementation. At the same time the follow-up to the Summit outcomes in this field should be fully interwoven into the existing architecture of the intergovernmental negotiation process on the issues related to operational activities of the UN. This architecture, as it is known, consists of UN General Assembly, including the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities, operational activities segment of ECOSOC’s substantive session, and funds and programmes Executive Boards. In our opinion this system is effective enough. In this regard we do not share any possible ideas on moving towards creation of a parallel track of discussing operational activities, that goes beyond the established TCPR-based process.

With regard to the specific paragraphs of the Summit Outcome Document on operational activities we want to stress that UN GA resolution 59/250 is a consensus guiding basis for all steps towards strengthening the resident-coordinator system. We look forward to presentation of the “comprehensive accountability framework” for resident coordinators to exercise oversight of the design and implementation of UNDAF, requested from the Secretary-General in paragraph 58 of the resolution. We expect the approaches contained in this document will be consistent with the new “strategy and work plan on strengthening the role of the UN resident coordinators” referred to in the SG’s report 60/430.

The Russian delegation is also ready to consider other possible suggestions of the UN Secretary-General on further strengthening the management and coordination of UN operational activities and on “more tightly managed entities” in the field of development. In our opinion, the Summit outcome has clearly defined that further work should be implemented with due regard to the principle of maintaining the institutional integrity and organizational mandates of each organization.

On the whole we do not think that the Summit follow-up should be shaped as a next wave of operational reforms. We are still halfway through implementing the recommendations of the last TCPR. The management process for the implementation of resolution 59/250 has been just recently

approved by Member-States during ECOSOC's annual session. Possible new proposals can only be integrated into this existing plan of practical implementation of the TCPR decisions.

Substantive session of the ECOSOC, in our opinion, is an optimal platform for consideration of possibilities and ways of such integration.

Mr. Chairman,

We share, in principle, the importance of broadening of the donor base of funds and programmes, support the improved predictability, long-term stability and adequacy of financing of operational activities. Russia is taking concrete practical steps to this end. The plans are underway for the next year to double on average the amount of our voluntary contributions to some of the UN funds and programmes.

With regard to the possible new funding options we believe that they should not change the voluntary nature of funding for operational activities, which allows UN funds and programmes to materialize one of the main comparative advantages of their work – neutral and non-politicized nature of assistance that gives them trust and support of recipient governments. We are ready to further discuss this issue taking into account the interests of Russia as an emerging development assistance donor. Such discussion, in our opinion could be held in conjunction with the comprehensive review of trends and perspectives in funding for development cooperation during ECOSOC's annual session of 2006.

We welcome the improvement of the Secretary-General's annual statistical data report by the inclusion of multi-year dimension in the report. We support the necessity of further improvement in data quality and comprehensiveness as well as in methodology, including by enhancing cooperation with the UN Statistical Commission and other multilateral institutions.

Thank you.