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STATEMENT
by Mr. Vladimir A. Iossifov, Representative of the Russian Federation in
the Fifth Committee of the 60th session of the United Nations
General Assembly, on Agenda item 126
“Improving the financial situation of the United Nations”

20 October 2005

Mr. Chairman,

First of all, on behalf of the Russian delegation allow me to thank Mr. W. Sach, distinguished UN Controller, for detailed report on financial situation of the Organization.

The information provided shows that, in fact, all the UN activities and all the UN budgets are running with cash deficit. Certainly, the situation has become more stable and predictable as compared to previous financial periods; and, to a certain extent, with a lesser amount of debt and smaller number of states who have not paid their assessed contributions in time or in full. The trend towards improving the financial position of the UN is obvious though the problem is still far from being finally solved.

Failure by Member States to fulfill their financial obligations to the Organization is discordant to the objective need to increase expenditures in a number of areas of the UN activities – primarily, due to an unprecedented growth in the spending on peacekeeping operations which has exceeded US\$ 5 billion. A combination of these two factors can produce a cumulative effect that could seriously undermine the UN efforts in maintaining international peace and security. A negative scenario can only be avoided through stricter cost-saving measures, stronger financial discipline and a prompt settlement of arrears including those to the budgets of peacekeeping operations.

Over recent years, Russia has been fulfilling its obligations to the UN budgets accurately and in time. Our position of principle on this issue remains unchanged – the Member States must fulfill their Charter obligations to pay the contributions in full, without conditions, and without making the payment of contributions an instrument of political pressure. In this context, we fully share the opinion expressed by Mr. W. Sach in his statement that only a strong and predictable financial base can help the Organization implement the important and challenging tasks assigned to it by Member States.

One should not forget that a stable financing is a prerequisite of success of any activities within the UN framework, including the efforts to reform the Organization that gained momentum after the High-Level Plenary Meeting of the UN General Assembly this September. We call upon all the States that have not yet done so to make efforts to repay their arrears to the UN thus strengthening its capacity to respond to emerging global challenges and threats, implement the approved programmes and projects and adapt to the needs of the global community.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.