

Unofficial translation

Check against delivery

S T A T E M E N T

**by H.E. Boris V. Gryzlov, Chairman of the State Duma
of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation at the Second World
Conference of the Speakers of Parliaments**

(New York, 8 September 2005)

Dear Mr. Chairman,

Dear participants of the Conference,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Russian parliament attaches major importance to this Conference convened in pursuance of the decision taken by the Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and in line with a resolution of the UN General Assembly. We in the State Duma and our colleagues in the Council of Federation actively support the course towards enhancing the role of the parliamentary dimension in the system of contemporary foreign affairs. 67 groups of the State Duma deputies in the Inter-Parliamentary Group of the Russian Federation maintain contacts with foreign parliaments. These groups contribute to the development of parliamentary diplomacy and expansion of international co-operation both on bilateral and multilateral levels. Russian parliamentarians participate, on a continuous basis, in the work of such key organizations as the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE. We also pay much attention to the regional Inter-Parliamentary organizations, giving priority to the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the Eurasian Economic Community, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union of Belarus and the Russian Federation, the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

At their recent Summit in Kazan, on 27 August this year, heads of CIS member states adopted a joint statement on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the United Nations. Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation, commenting on the statement on behalf of the participants in the Summit, stressed the important role of this universal organization in strengthening stability and security in the world and expressed conviction that the UN potential would continue to be used for in addressing key regional and global issues.

The Russian parliament shares and supports that position which provides the basis of Russia's approach to the complicated and responsible task of reforming the UN Security Council.

Over the last decade Russia has been moving on the hard road of building a democratic society in our country. One of the basic principles of the current Constitution of the Russian Federation is that of separation of powers, and today the independence of both chambers of the Federal Assembly in the exercise of their constitutional powers is safely guaranteed by relevant constitutional norms. One of such powers is ratification of international treaties and agreements. Over the past decade the Russian parliament has done a lot in that area laying a solid foundation for a broad cooperation between Russia and many states whose parliamentary leaders are attending this Conference.

We in Russia are constantly aware that the role of parliament is not limited to law making, but is important as well in the process of the establishment and strengthening of democratic institutions. Indeed, much credit for the current high level of publicity and transparency of the decision-making process on key issues of national policy in Russia goes to its parliament. We have passed laws on political parties, on elections, on the establishment of the nation-wide Public Chamber of the Russian Federation to provide for a high level of public control over the state authorities. The Russian parliament will persist in its efforts to facilitate the development of

democratic institutions and to promote democratic values in Russia.

Responding to major challenges of the modern world at the beginning of the 21st century, the State Duma and the Council of Federation ratified last year the Kyoto Protocol, a critically important document aimed at solving the problem of global warming. Also, members of the Russian parliament persistently call for joining efforts, including in the parliamentary sphere, to effectively fight international terrorism. We consider it necessary for the United Nations to prepare and adopt universal international legal instruments providing for concrete measures to counteract that global evil. And we count on active support from our colleagues in the parliaments of various countries of the world.

Thank you.