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STATEMENT

**by the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation
to the United Nations
Andrey I. Denisov
at the Plenary Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly
on the Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization
(item 110 of the agenda)**

September 29, 2005

Mr. President,

The Secretary-General is right when he notes in his report on the work of the Organization that the United Nations, despite its imperfections, embodies the hope of the mankind for a peaceful and just world order. The United Nations, being the most representative intergovernmental body with universal mandate, continues to play an indispensable coordinating role in global affairs.

Last year a record number of “blue helmets” was sent to the regions where there are still many conflicts. Considerable efforts of this Organization were focused on promoting the sustainable development, including the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and the search for responses to such global threats and challenges as natural disasters, pandemics of new diseases, eradication of poverty, etc.

We all have participated in the heated discussions as to what should be the role of the Organization in today’s world. The 2005 World Summit Outcome document, despite the difficult consultations on the draft, confirmed that the members of the international community share the views on key issues of today.

It is of crucial importance that the world leaders renewed the commitment to ensure international security based on a comprehensive collective approach that takes into account military, political, economic, humanitarian and human rights dimensions, and in strict compliance with the UN Charter.

The President of Russia Vladimir V. Putin, speaking at the High Level Plenary meeting of the General Assembly, stressed the need to treat the United Nations with utmost care while pursuing consistently and patiently the process of its reform.

The Outcome document laid a mutually acceptable basis for further concerted efforts to enhance the effectiveness of the United Nations as a central multilateral institution. The Summit did not give the final answers to all the questions. The work over many issues will be continued. One of the urgent priorities in this work is the establishment of the Peacebuilding Commission that is supposed to assist the Security Council, and, if necessary, other UN bodies in their efforts aimed at

expedient rehabilitation of the post-conflict countries, the creation of guarantees against recurrence of conflicts.

A lot is yet to be done in the area of promoting sustainable development, eradicating poverty, epidemics, hunger and illiteracy. The Summit has endorsed a large-scale programme of achieving the Millennium Development Goals, and Russia supports the initiatives aimed at their implementation and will continue to bring its contribution to solving these most acute problems.

We agree with the Secretary-General when he speaks about the importance of meeting the MDGs within a broader agenda for development based on the integration of the economic, social and ecological goals in conformity with the decisions of the UN landmark conferences and summits. We support the efforts made within the ECOSOC in this area. And we share the goal highlighted in the Report of the Secretary-General to increase the efficiency of the UN participation in the implementation of Monterrey Consensus, including via further annual meetings in the format of ECOSOC-Bretton Wood institutions-WTO-UNCTAD, as well as the High Level Dialogue on Financing for Development.

We share the conclusion of the Secretary-General that there is a need to step up counterterrorism efforts of the Organization. We believe that the United Nations and its Security Council should become 'the headquarters' of the fight against international terrorism. Russia is ready to further provide active assistance in strengthening the central role of the United Nations in this area. A new important step was made when the Security Council Summit adopted Resolution 1624. Now, not only terrorists, their accomplices and financiers, but those who instigate terrorist acts are proclaimed outlaws. This decision by the Security Council must put an end to the attempts to use the mass media to propagate and justify terrorism. We join the appeal by the Secretary-General to spare no effort to reach agreement on the draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism as soon as possible. We believe that, if there is political will, this task can be fulfilled within the current session of the General Assembly.

Primary attention, as it is laid out in the Outcome Document, should be also paid to the development of comprehensive counterterrorism strategy that is meant to become a cornerstone of collective security system. In our view, the five elements of this strategy identified by the Secretary-General require further comprehensive discussion and clarification. Forthcoming is a thorny stage of their conceptual finalizing by the Member States. Moreover, we can not postpone compiling of a consolidated sanction list of terrorists and terrorist entities whether they are associated with Al-Qaida or Taliban or not.

We have to continue the work on improving the UN human rights protection tools. For Russia the respect of human rights is of great importance, that is why we supported the idea to set up the Human Rights Council. At the same time, as it is rightly stressed in the Report, the proposal to establish a new human rights protection body reflected a wide spectrum of opinions. That was clearly manifested also in the course of pre-Summit negotiations. In this context, it is vital to implement the initiative by several countries, including Russia, to set up an open-ended Working group that would work on the key parameters of the future Council during the 60th session of the General Assembly on the basis of transparency, non-selectiveness and with due regard to the views of all the Member States concerned.

We support the efforts aimed at ensuring the protection of civilians in armed conflicts. However, we believe that the wording of the relevant chapters of the Report should have been formulated more responsibly with due regard to the fact that conflict situations qualification should be based solely on the letter of the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols. In this context we would like to stress again the need to use the correct geographical names.

UN multilateral mechanisms are intended to play the key role also in fulfilling the tasks of disarmament and WMD non-proliferation based on strict compliance with the international agreements in this field. The lack of substantive section on these issues in the Outcome document is a clear reflection of the remaining dissonance. However, the United Nations achievements include Security Council

Resolution 1540 and Convention for Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism the implementation of which is aimed at preventing the WMD from falling into the hands of terrorists. Today, yet more urgent becomes the task to prevent the arms race in outer space. The time has also come to make efforts to develop transparency and strengthen confidence in this area. During the current session of the General Assembly Russia will introduce some initiatives on this issue.

We attach extraordinary importance to improving the management in the Organization. The Summit outcomes aim at ensuring effective performance of the Secretariat. We should have useful tools in our hands that will allow to assess progress of the Secretariat in accordance with the priorities identified by the Member States. We are looking forward to the proposals of the Secretary-General on how to create clear and efficient system ensuring accountability and responsibility of the Secretariat as well as other recommendations asked for by the Outcome document. The proposals of the Secretary-General should be considered in accordance with the General Assembly procedures.

The Russian Federation will participate actively and constructively in collective efforts in implementing decisions approved by the world leaders and goals identified by them, including on further reform of the Organization. This work should be conducted openly, transparently, without artificially imposed timeframes for taking decisions. It is crucial to ensure the broadest agreement, and ultimately – to reach consensus, on key issues of reforming and strengthening the United Nations the solution of which will, in many respects, determine our capability to achieve better manageability of the world processes in the era of globalization, to effectively respond to the related challenges and threats. We are convinced that there is no alternative to such approach.

Thank you.