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S T A T E M E N T

**by H.E. Ambassador Andrei Denisov
Representative of the Russian Federation at the 2006 session
of the UN Disarmament Commission**

New York, 11 April 2006

Mr. Chairman,

Dear delegates,

First of all let me congratulate Mr. Joon Oh on his election to the high post of the Chairman of the current session of the UN Disarmament Commission. I would also like to felicitate other members of the Bureau of the Commission and wish them every success in their work. You can count on the support and cooperation of the Russian delegation.

I would also like to congratulate Mr. Nobuaki Tanaka, who for the first time participates in the work of the Commission as Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs.

Our delegation is content by the fact that this year Commission will conduct its substantial session in two working groups and will as well discuss measures for improvement of the Commission's methods of work.

Distinguished delegates, Russia consistently stands for the central role of the UN in collective efforts in favour of supporting international peace and security, working out global strategy against new challenges and threats, preventing interlocking of terrorism with WMD. In this connection we advocate strengthening UN multilateral disarmament machinery, including the UN Disarmament Commission.

We are to address the paramount objectives of raising the efficiency of the Organization, promoting the principle of multilateralism for ensuring international security in strict compliance with the UN Charter. As Russian President V.V.Putin stressed in his address to the current UNGA session on 15 September 2005, "... there is a need to adjust the Organization to new historic realities. But this process should be constructive. It should take into account both the lessons learned, and the positive experience gained by the United Nations. And this process should unite, not separate". These words fully correspond to the UN Disarmament Commission as well. We hope that three-year cycle of discussing the agenda items starting this year will lead us to agreed recommendations.

Recently various views have been voiced about the critical state of multilateral non-proliferation regime, arms control and disarmament. We agree that a lot of our expectations in this field remain unfulfilled. Particularly we regret of the failure to agree on the “disarmament section” of the 2005 World Summit Outcome. We all expected much more from the 2005 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference. Nevertheless, we believe that the total balance of the UN activities remains positive. We have managed to avoid the recurrent threat of a global nuclear conflict, to prevent and settle dozens of armed conflicts, and to prevent WMD falling into hands of international terrorists.

We consider that the cause of strengthening the regimes of non-proliferation of WMD and its delivery systems is now coming to the fore of multilateral efforts. The Russian Federation was one of the co-authors of the resolution 1540, adopted by the SC and aimed at fighting WMD “black markets”. We call upon all States to implement its provisions rigorously and also expect that this month the Council will extend its mandate.

Russia also initiated and was the first to sign the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. The moment has come to bring it into force and implement. Now it is to be fully implemented everywhere.

Lately the world has encountered complicated issues of ensuring the regime of nuclear non-proliferation. We consider preserving integrity of the NPT and promoting its universalization as crucial tasks in the cause of ensuring international peace and security. We are of the view that the main role belongs to the IAEA, whose task on the one hand is to ensure non-proliferation of WMD and on the other – legitimate interests of States to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

We call for further efforts in seeking resolution of the Iranian nuclear program issue within the IAEA framework in a calm and depoliticized atmosphere. We believe that the Agency is capable to clarify the remaining issues.

Russia considers the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty to be one of the key elements in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. We call upon all States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the CTBT as soon as

possible, primarily those whose ratification is required for the entry of the Treaty into force. It is also important that the moratorium on test explosions of nuclear weapons and any other nuclear explosions should be still observed until that time.

We confirm our position that the next multilateral measure in the field of non-proliferation and disarmament should be the development of the Fissile Materials Cut-off Treaty. We support the re-establishing of the Ad Hoc Committee on the FMCT within the framework of the Conference on Disarmament with a negotiating mandate.

Russia expresses principal support to establishing Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones in different regions of the world as one of key points of narrowing the geographical area of deployment of nuclear weapons. Russian nuclear weapons are located only within the national territory borders. According to our national and international obligations we provided the security assurances to the NPT Member-States participating in nuclear-free zones. We do not object to re-establishing the Ad Hoc Committee at the Conference on Disarmament with the negotiating mandate under the agenda item «Effective International Arrangements to Assure Non-Nuclear Weapon States Against Use or Threat of Use of Nuclear Weapons».

We are committed to – and this is our ultimate goal – a total elimination of nuclear weapons and conclusion of a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.

Russia fully complies with its commitments under Article VI of the NPT, treaties with the United States, and unilateral initiatives on nuclear disarmament. In comparison to 1991, there has been a five-fold reduction of the aggregate stockpiles of nuclear weapons, and a four-fold reduction of non-strategic nuclear weapons. These reductions – and this is indeed a labor-intensive, technically complex, and very costly effort – are well underway and run smoothly and without any interruption. The Russian Federation is attached to the principle of irreversibility of nuclear weapon reductions. As stated by the Russian President V.V. Putin, we are ready to take new constructive steps in this field.

Within the framework of the process of strengthening confidence building measures in the field of conventional weapons Russia did everything possible for the entry into force of the renewed Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty (the CFE Treaty) including the ratification in summer of 2004 of the Agreement on the CFE Treaty adaptation. Now it is our partners' turn. We have no intentions to continue to pretend that the CFE Treaty of 1990, when there was a confrontation between the Warsaw Treaty Organization and the NATO, functions normally and suits us. NATO Member-States have to fulfill their Istanbul obligations of 1999 to take effective efforts to complete national ratification procedures, in order that the Agreement on adaptation to be implemented as soon as possible. If this situation doesn't change, evidently, the participants of the 3rd CFE Treaty Review Conference to be held this May, will have to decide in principle on the future of that «corner stone» of the European security.

Russia supports the UN leadership in resolving problem of proliferation of small arms and light weapons on the basis of implementation of the UN Programme of Action. We are ready to work out an international agreement on arms trade under the UN aegis. Within the framework of the PoA Review the Conference to be held this summer, we will provide information on specific actions aimed at the implementation of this Programme.

Russia supports the functioning of UN Register on conventional weapons. We consider this instrument to be an important confidence building measure and supply data for it on a regular basis. We support the inclusion into this Register as a subcategory of such a sensitive kind of weapons as man-portable air-defense systems.

Within the framework of the current session of the UN Disarmament Commission we will be ready to consider issues, related to the improvement of the UN disarmament machinery. In principle, we would like to point out the fact that this process should not infringe upon legitimate interests of each member of international community and should not turn into a purely bureaucratic process, conducted by a few officials. We don't think that it is necessary to dismantle the

existing “triangle” of multilateral disarmament: the First Committee, the UN Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament. The key issue is the optimization and increase of the practical outcome of their activities. At the same time we consider that the Disarmament Commission should serve as an “integrator” of concrete ideas and concepts to identify problems which deserve to be addressed through international agreements.