

Постоянное Представительство  
Российской Федерации  
при  
Организации Объединенных  
Наций



Permanent Mission  
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**ADDRESS**

**BY SERGEY V. LAVROV,  
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION  
AT THE 62<sup>ND</sup> SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**New York, 28 September 2007**

Dear Mr. Chairman,

Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

Dear Colleagues,

Traditionally, the General Assembly is to sum up the results of the expiring political year. This requires serious and joint consideration. It is essential to identify agreed solutions for today's global problems based on the collective analysis of current international affairs. It appears that no one is challenging that security and prosperity are inseparable in an increasingly globalized world. Our approach should be similarly comprehensive taking into account the inseparable link between the issues of peace and development, which has been amply proven by our recent experience.

The conflict range that is expanding in international politics through aggravations of regional crises, increasing threat of terrorism, risks of spreading WMDs, stagnation in disarmament, is jeopardizing international stability, diverting resources from their constructive use and calls into question possible sustainable economic growth throughout the world. And it is such growth that is our common fundamental goal. Poverty and economic backwardness expand the breeding grounds for extremism.

On the other hand, the developments over the past year provide convincing proof that an essentially new geopolitical situation has been developing in the world, one that is primarily defined by emerging multipolarity. We need to agree on what inferences we can make.

The president of Russia Vladimir V. Putin in his Munich speech in February called for an open and sincere dialogue that would enable us to work out a common understanding of the current historical epoch and the *modus operandi* to which it compels the nations.

The international landscape is changing due to the newly emerging centers of global growth. Today, nobody can cope with global challenges single-handedly. Neither diktat, nor "bipolar directory" can fit the task of world governance. What is needed is collective leadership of major states that should represent the geographical and civilizational dimensions. The basis for such an informal mechanism can only be provided by the United Nations with its unique legitimacy.

Multilateral diplomacy based on international law comes to the fore. As any society of free people, a world of free nations needs universal regulatory principles to ensure predictability and confidence in international affairs.

The way to achieving this goal lies through strengthening of the UN system by further adapting it to modern global realities. Decisions here should be based on the broadest possible consensus of Member States and rely on the universal inter-governmental nature of the United Nations. It is in this context that we consider the reform initiatives proposed by the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

It will be in our common interests to use more actively the UN peacekeeping capabilities. It could be improved by more effective use of such body as the Military Staff Committee. The initiative put forward by the president of Russia Vladimir Putin in 2000 to enhance the work of the MSC remains relevant. Naturally, this renewed body should operate with the participation of all members of the Security Council as provided for in the UN Charter.

There is a lot to be done, too, in improving the UN interaction with regional organizations that proved their ability to effectively participate in resolving security and development issues.

Positive interrelationship between the principles of multilateralism and regionalism is obviously very important. Presently, over 50 per cent of international trade is carried out under regional trade agreements. Effectiveness of global trade

regulation mechanisms is unthinkable without regional integration, which is key to the economic well-being of all the regions of the world.

Russia is actively signing and using regional trade agreements to achieve mutual liberalization of trade. Russia intends to use its current presidency in EurAsES to give a more practical focus to the Organization, which since 2003 has the observer status in the UN General Assembly. Russia along with other co-sponsors will submit to the General Assembly a draft resolution on cooperation between the UN and EurAsES aimed to provide a more systemic basis and facilitate the timely realization of the Millennium Development Goals. We also hope that of the UN Member States would honor the Eurasian Development Bank the status of observer in the General Assembly.

We shall actively promote the resolution of these objectives, including in the framework of the process to reinvigorate the CIS and build up SOC capabilities.

The efforts by the international community should remain focused on reaching the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). We are concerned that today, seven years since the Millennium Summit, many developing countries, the least developed countries, in particular, are still significantly behind schedule in achieving the MDGs. Particular attention should be paid to the specific needs of the African continent.

Russia fully shares the principles of global partnership in the interests of development approved at the Conference in Monterrey and intends to increase its input to our common efforts in this area. We shall consistently strengthen our position as a donor country in accordance with the concept of Russia's participation in international development assistance that was approved by President Putin in June 2007.

We are confident that the specific steps to ensure sustainable socio-economic development in all the regions of the world is a sure remedy against threats to peace and security.

There is a pressing need to use any means available to strengthen the leading role of the UN in fighting terrorism. The Organization's activities here should be based on a comprehensive framework, including the Global Counterterrorism Strategy adopted last year. The Collective Security Treaty Organization is contributing to these efforts, and has established useful interaction with the United Nations.

Our efforts to achieve resolution of regional conflicts and urgent social and economic problems should form part of our efforts to counteract terrorism.

Iraq has become a source of destabilization for the whole region. Ensuring security in that country, not to mention its economic development, requires a new strategy focused on reaching truly national reconciliation with the participation of all Iraqi neighbors and the support of the international community. We call upon the Secretary-General to take an active role in this issue given the additional UN powers in Iraqi settlement. The participants in the recent multilateral meetings on Iraq have upheld this approach.

The indivisibility of security is fully manifested in the Middle East. Early solution of the Palestine problem based on the "two states" concept and achievement of a comprehensive Middle East settlement underpinned by the UN-developed international legal platform are next on the agenda. We are convinced that this goal could be advanced through holding a representative international conference preceded by a thorough preparation. We consider the US initiative to convene in the coming November a multiparty meeting on the Middle East settlement as a step in this direction. We appreciate the preliminary considerations of the American side regarding the agenda and composition of this event. We reaffirm the importance of its preparation with the involvement of the Quartet of international mediators as well as the Arab League.

The settlement of the Kosovo problem is only possible within the framework of international law based on negotiations. Unilateral steps will not lead to a lasting peace and will create the risk of destabilization in the Balkans and other regions.

Complex problems require an integrated approach. This is particularly true for the situation around Iran. The goal of nuclear non-proliferation is an absolute priority, whereas we should not ignore the task of engaging Iran in constructive efforts to resolve regional and international issues.

Urgent steps are needed to strengthen the non-proliferation regime while providing legitimate access of all the states to the benefits of the peaceful use of nuclear energy. The joint initiative of the presidents of Russia and the United States put forward at their meeting in Kennebunkport is called to start joint practical work in this field.

We are confident that today peace should be based on willingness to cooperate, especially in matters directly affecting strategic stability. In this context, we cannot neglect the unilateral plans in the area of missile defense. President Vladimir Putin proposed a constructive alternative - collaborative work with the participation of Russia, the United States, Europe and subsequently of other countries. Such work could lead to a genuinely global strategic alliance within the entire Euro-Atlantic region, which would allow to move forward in setting up an open system of collective security. Our proposals are under discussion and we hope that the collective approach will prevail.

The principle of indivisibility of security should form the basis for resolving the situation around the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE). Russia stands ready for this; our proposals are well known. We expect that the proposals would be seriously discussed during the upcoming consultations.

The possibility of deploying weapons in space brings about a serious threat. Its threat is determined by the global coverage, which can put into danger all states

without exception. We are consistently opposing deploying in space weapons of any type and call upon the international community to conclude an agreement to that effect.

Another outstanding global issue is effective prevention of climate change that requires agreed and scientifically based solutions that are realistic, balanced, and do not undercut the countries' rights to development. Russia has always stood for a constructive dialogue with a view to adding a genuinely universal character to the international regime of climate protection. We hope that the important meetings that took place this week in New York and Washington would facilitate thorough preparations to a successful launch of negotiations on joint efforts in the period after 2012 in Bali in December this year.

Of increasingly vital importance are spiritual and moral foundations of human solidarity. Spiritual values of all world religions make it imperative to achieve intercivilizational accord and fight manifestations of xenophobia and racism, as well as the resurgence of neo-Nazi trends. These are the tasks to be tackled within the framework of the Alliance of Civilizations.

The World Summit of Religious Leaders held in Moscow last year added a new dimension to this work. We propose to build upon the results of the Summit and to think about establishing under the UN auspices, a special forum - a kind of consultative Council of Religions - for the exchange of views among representatives of major world confessions.

Russia will spare no effort to strengthen multilateral cooperation within the framework of the United Nations. I am convinced that with a continued commitment to the principles of the UN Charter we could make progress in the creation of an effective system of collective security as was the will of the founding fathers of the World Organization.