

Постоянное Представительство
Российской Федерации
при
Организации Объединенных
Наций



Permanent Mission
of the Russian Federation
to the United Nations

136 East 67th Street
New York, NY 10021

*Unofficial translation
Check against delivery*

S T A T E M E N T
BY SERGEY V. LAVROV
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE RUSSIAN
FEDERATION
AT THE 60TH SESSION OF THE U.N. GENERAL ASSEMBLY

NEW YORK
18 SEPTEMBER 2005

Today's discussion can hardly be called a routine. We are to sum up preliminary results of the large-scale United Nations' reform that we have launched, to designate the main vector for the work of the entire system of the UN institutions in implementing the provisions of the Outcome Document of the 2005 World Summit. Let us organize the work of the 60th session of the General Assembly in such a manner that would facilitate the broadest possible agreement on a number of fundamental issues related to strengthening the UN that will, eventually, determine our ability to enhance the controllability of the world trends of globalization, to better respond to its new collateral threats and challenges.

The analysis of the experience gained by the United Nations over the sixty years of its existence, with all the hardships of the post-war, 'cold war' and post-'cold-war' world order, gives much food for thought and conclusions. I would like to share some of them with you.

The United Nations, being the most representative international institution with universal mandate, has been and remains a major integration factor in the global politics. The success of the United Nations is our success. Just like its failures. But all in all, the balance of its work is definitely positive. It is mainly due to this organization that we have managed to avoid a new threat of a world war and a nuclear catastrophe, to prevent and settle dozens of military conflicts. At present, the UN mechanisms are still a means of constructive cooperation touching upon all the spheres of people's life.

The greater interdependence of the modern world has not made it more secure. The opposition between the East and the West has been replaced by numerous crises and conflicts that until recently had stayed latent, left on the periphery of the interests of the two superpowers. Some of these conflicts become real or potential sources of international terrorism feeding transborder crime and drug trafficking which are closely related to it. The mankind is facing the threat of an uncontrolled spread of WMD and their possible use by terrorists. Again the world is witnessing genocide and humanitarian disasters. All of this presents immediate danger to each and all of us.

In this context, the enormous potential of the United Nations is in greater demand, primarily, in ensuring peace and security on a collective and, more importantly, on a legitimate basis. The Organization has a whole arsenal of tools enabling it to coordinate the actions of the global community, to combine political efforts with those in social, economic and humanitarian areas as well as in the field of protection of human rights and environment and other. We should build upon this positive potential through concerted efforts of all states. Russia considers this task as a strategic core element of its foreign policy.

The events of the first years of the new millennium prove the validity of the conclusions drawn by the High-Level Panel and the Secretary General: stronger United Nations and a better use of its multilateral advantages is an essential instrument to build a balanced, safe international system based on the respect of the unique features of every country, sovereign equality and collective responsibility. There is no reasonable alternative to this.

Multilateral mechanisms should also play the key role in solving the issues of disarmament and WMD non-proliferation on the basis of the strict compliance with the relevant international agreements. The United Nations achievements include the Security Council Resolution 1540 initiated by Russia and the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism that are meant to prevent WMD from falling into the hands of terrorists.

It is of primary importance today to prevent arms race in outer space. I would like to remind that Russia has taken an obligation not to be the first to launch any sort of new armament into space and has called upon other countries possessing space potential to join in this action to keep the outer space peaceful. Long overdue are the steps to enhance transparency and to increase confidence in this area.

The legal basis for countering new threats, primarily terrorism, is being reinforced. The adoption by the United Nations Security Council Summit of Resolution 1624 initiated by the United Kingdom has become a new important step forward. It has

outlawed not only the terrorists, their accomplices and financiers but also the individuals inciting the terrorist acts. This Security Council decision must put an end to all the attempts to engage mass media for promulgation and justification of terrorism.

We expect that the General Assembly should also contribute to the fight against terrorism and encourage completion of the negotiations on the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism as soon as possible.

The fight against terrorism must be continued in the most decisive manner. And each of us should critically evaluate his or her efforts in this field.

In fact, while the sanctions against the Taliban, Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities are still in force, the arms supply as well as material and other kinds of assistance to the guerilla continue. The geographical scope of their activities is expanding. Many countries, including Russia, feel this in their own territory. Extremists who are not directly linked to Al-Qaida also invigorate their activities in various parts of the world. This demands strengthening of cooperation between the states and 1267 Sanctions Committee, 1540 Committee and the UN SC Counter-Terrorism Committee. Besides, compiling consolidated list of all terrorists and terrorist organizations, whether associated with Al-Qaida or not, can no longer be postponed.

The development of criteria for the use of force in accordance with the UN Charter is another urgent issue.

Such agreed criteria will be useful if set as a benchmark for consideration by the Security Council of various crisis situations. At the same time, it is clear that these criteria can not be applied automatically. The Security Council will authorize the use of force on a case-by-case basis as it is provided for in the Charter.

Of crucial importance is also the issue of exercising by states of their Charter right to individual and collective self-defense, including self-defense in case of an external terrorist attack or imminent threat of such attack. Russia and some other states that have become target of the terrorist attacks originated beyond their borders have no right to fail in the eyes of their citizens who have entrusted their security to them.

All in all, the force should not be opposed to the law. It may be an effective tool to ensure the rule of law in crisis situations. A tool to be used in extraordinary cases when the vital law-protected values and interests of the whole international community or its certain members are in jeopardy.

Unfortunately, in the course of preparation to the 2005 World Summit sufficient attention was not paid to searching for the solutions to these and a number of other important issues as well as to finding a way to common understanding. For that reason this task should remain a priority issue on our agenda.

There is still a lot to be done in relation to development, eradication of poverty, epidemics, famine and illiteracy. This would become the strongest guarantee of global stability and destroy the breeding soil for the extremism of all sorts. Russia endorses all the initiatives aimed at implementing the Millennium Declaration Goals and will augment its contribution to solving these urgent issues. The success of our concerted efforts to support development will largely depend on the effective work of the Peacebuilding Commission that is yet to be set up. The Commission will be able to achieve the results needed if it becomes more than just another "discussion club" but a mechanism facilitating greater coordination of programmes and projects of all the participants in the development assistance, including the World Bank Group, IMF, regional development banks, other multilateral and bilateral donors and, of course, the receiving countries.

Dramatic events of the last six months showed how sensitive is the reform of the Security Council for the majority of the Member States. Being guided first and foremost by the interests of ensuring the efficiency of the Security Council, Russia stood and stands for the possible modifications of this key body on the basis of a well-conceived, mutually acceptable decision. The UN members made a wise decision to continue negotiating and not pushing for a vote that might split the Organization apart.

I have recalled the striking words that were once said: "UN was not created to make Heaven on Earth, but to prevent it from going to Hell". Indeed, this is not an ideal

body but the best one out of all that the humanity built on the ashes of two world wars. With the help of the UN we are able to effectively counteract the threats to peace and security in the context of evolving geopolitical realities.

Today mankind is facing the challenges of globalization. It is not a question whether to accept them or not but on how to respond and what to set as a basis for it. The 2005 World Summit decisions outline the general directions for our efforts. As a Permanent Member of the UN Security Council and a succeeding G8 president, Russia together with other states has joined this work and will continue to strive for stronger collectivity concepts in global politics as well as for better multilateral cooperation mechanisms.

Thank you.