

**Постоянное
представительство
Российской Федерации
при Организации
Объединённых Наций**



**Permanent Mission
of the Russian
Federation
to the United Nations**

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**Statement by Amb.A.I.Antonov,
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Representative of the Russian Federation in the First Committee
of the 61st Session of the UN General Assembly**

(New-York, October 2, 2006)

Madam Chair,

The work of the current Session of the UN General Assembly overwhelmingly demonstrates that there is no alternative to collective actions of the international community on maintaining peace and security. The Russian Federation has always advocated the central role of the United Nations in resolving this vital task. The issues of non-proliferation, arms limitation and disarmament remain one of the major areas of application of joint efforts of the international community.

In recent years counteracting such a major threat as international terrorism has overshadowed the topical issues of disarmament. Yet, it would be too early to speak of the end of the arms race in the world. In his Address to the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation on May 10, 2006 President Vladimir V. Putin pointed out "...that the arms race has entered a new spiral today with the achievement of new levels of technology that raise the danger of the emergence of a whole arsenal of so-called destabilizing weapons." Containing a possible aggression, increasing international status, achieving supremacy over neighbors, and, possibly, gaining economic benefits are the factors that incite a number of countries to obtain such weapons, and implement wide scale military programs.

Depression in the disarmament efforts, naturally, negatively affects the process of containing proliferation of WMD, and the cause of preventing the terrorists from gaining access to it. Unprecedented military expenditures of individual countries, which exceed the Cold War highest levels, the continuing modernization of strategic offensive, as well as defensive weapons, the danger of placement of weapons in outer space, the use of information weapons, ultimately negatively affects the efforts of maintaining the strategic balance of forces in the world. We are convinced that the issue of disarmament should remain on the agenda of international fora and meetings.

Undoubtedly, Russian-US relations are of key importance for preventing a new spin of the arms race and maintaining strategic stability. The importance of

our agreements in the area of limitation and reduction of strategic armaments exceeds by far the framework of bilateral relations. Substantial positive results have been achieved in this field.

Not only that we strictly observe the limitations under the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, but we also continue further reductions of nuclear armaments. Because the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty will expire in December 2009 Russia has proposed to the American partners to launch the negotiations process.

Issues of WMD non-proliferation, including their antiterrorist aspect, stay in the focus of the Russian policy during its G8 Presidency. The Joint Global Initiative to Prevent Acts of Nuclear Terrorism that was put forward by the Presidents of Russia and the United States was unanimously supported by all G8 leaders in their special statement adopted at this year's Summit in Saint-Petersburg. This initiative constitutes, in essence, a plan of actions to foster practical cooperation of States on the implementation of the 2005 Convention on Combating Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, as well as to fulfill the UN Security Council resolution 1540. As regards the nuclear non-proliferation, the G8 Summit placed a new emphasis on the need to elaborate practical measures to assure access to the benefits of peaceful use of nuclear energy for countries, which faithfully comply with their treaty obligations.

The initiative of the President of Russia Vladimir V. Putin on the establishment of international centers to provide services in the field of nuclear fuel cycle is called to facilitate resolving the objectives of nuclear non-proliferation. It provides for an alternative to the development of sensitive elements of the nuclear fuel cycle, i.e. enrichment and reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel. We intend to work jointly with all interested states on the realization of this initiative with active IAEA involvement.

We believe that one of the major threats to the global stability is the possibility of placement of weapons in outer space. The task of preventing such a scenario is within our strength. The debates held this year at the Conference on Disarmament addressing the military and space issues revealed great interest of the

States to ensure that outer space is not turned into the arena of military confrontation, as well as to secure the safe operation of spacecraft and the integrity of costly space assets. The ideas on concluding the Treaty on the Prevention of Placement of Weapons in Outer Space, Use of Threat of Force against Space-Based Objects are gaining ground. We are in favour of the earliest re-establishment of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Conference on Disarmament on the Prevention of An Arms Race in Outer Space.

Transparency and confidence-building measures can serve the purpose of discouraging the placement of weapons in space. We would like to recall the Russian pledge at the United Nations that Russia will not be the first to place any weapons in outer space. A similar political commitment has been undertaken by the States of the Organization for Collective Security. We repeat our call on all the States that have military space capability to follow our suit.

We believe that time has come to review the entire range of confidence-building measures in outer space from the modern viewpoint and update the proposals on this issue that were elaborated in the United Nations in the beginning of the 90s. We plan to submit for review of the First Committee the new draft resolution entitled *Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures in Outer Space Activities*. We call on the Delegations to support it.

The possibility of the use of information and communication technologies for hostile purposes presents a serious threat to security at the national, regional and international levels. We deem it necessary to keep the issues of ensuring international information security in the focus of the United Nations and not to weaken the joint efforts at seeking agreed ways of their effective solution. We intend, in this connection, to introduce the updated draft resolution on *Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security*, prepared on the basis of the last year's text. We hope that it would be supported.

We believe that NPT is the foundation of international security and stability. We are of the view that new challenges and threats to the nuclear non-proliferation

regime should be resolved on the basis of this Treaty. Already today, we should set a business like tone to the preparation of the next five-year review of the Treaty that begins in 2007. We advocate collective search for solutions aimed at strengthening the NPT regime, in particular, its unconditional implementation at the national level, increase of its universality and viability.

In this context the settlement of the problems related to the nuclear program of Iran remains relevant. We stand for political and diplomatic solution, which, on the one hand, will allow Iran to develop nuclear energy under the IAEA safeguards, and assure the exclusively peaceful character of Teheran's nuclear program, on the other.

We believe that the solution of the nuclear problem of the Korean peninsula includes the return of Pyongyang into the NPT, resumption of the IAEA inspections, normalization of the DPRK relations with other countries and creation of favorable conditions for social and economic development of that country. The six-party talks provide an effective mechanism for achieving these goals.

We welcome the signing of the Treaty on the creation of a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone in Central Asia. This is an important step aimed at fostering the nuclear weapons non-proliferation regime. We expect that the Treaty will facilitate strengthening peace and stability in the Central Asian region and would make a substantial contribution to the fight against international terrorism and prevention of nuclear materials and technologies from falling into the hands of non-state actors.

We view the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty as one of the key instruments in nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. We call on all the countries, which have not yet signed or ratified the CTBT, to do so as soon as possible. Primarily, we have in view the states, whose ratification is required for the Treaty to come into force. It is important that the moratorium on nuclear weapons tests, as well as any other nuclear explosions, is observed until that moment.

The next logical step in the field of nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament is the elaboration of the Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty at the Conference on Disarmament. It is important to maintain and build on the positive dynamics of the CD that was achieved during its 2006 session, as well as to intensify the search for compromise on a balanced program of its work.

It is not our fault, that the entering into force of adopted in 1999 Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe has been delayed for a number of years. In the last few years Russia has fulfilled entirely all the arrangements pertaining to the Treaty. Now our partners should get the ball rolling.

We stand for the unconditional implementation by all the States of their obligations under the CWC, primarily, what concerns the elimination of stockpiles of warfare chemical agents within the established time limits. We support the efforts to ensure the universalization of the CWC, as well as the establishment and increase of efficiency of national implementation mechanisms.

We advocate continuation of work on strengthening the BTWC. We believe that the elaboration of the verification mechanism of the BTWC implementation remains important. We attach great importance to the forthcoming 6th BTWC Review Conference. It is called for a thorough article-by-article review of the progress of implementation of the Convention and adoption of a specific program of work aimed at improving its efficiency.

We strictly observe all the provisions of the Convention on Conventional Weapons and its Protocols. The upcoming 3rd CCW Review Conference will be yet another milestone in its strengthening. We stand for a detailed and balanced review of the fulfillment of the Convention, as well as for elaboration of realistic and balanced solutions.

Despite the discrepancies revealed at the Review Conference on the UN Program of Action to prevent the Illegal Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons, which prevented from reaching a consensus over the final document, we still believe that it was not futile. It is essential that all participating states reaffirmed their commitments to the Program of Action and the importance of stepping up the

collective efforts on combating illicit trafficking in SALW with a focus on resolving specific problems at the national and regional levels. The Russian Federation proposed a number of specific measures for counteracting the transfer of weapons from legal circulation into illicit trafficking. We are ready for cooperation in this field with all the States.

Madame Chair,

Let me assure you of the support and cooperation on the part of the Russian Delegation for achieving practical results in the work of the Committee.

Thank you.