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## STATEMENT

by H.E. Ambassador Vitaly I. CHURKIN  
Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the UN,  
Head of the Russian Delegation  
at the at the general debate  
of the First Committee of the 64<sup>th</sup> Session  
of the UN General Assembly

New York, 7 October, 2009

Today's meeting of the First Committee is taking place amidst the changing environment in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation – for the first time after long intermission we are starting to observe the positive trends that prove the desire of States to overcome the protracted crisis in this area. These are the current Russian-US negotiations on a new agreement to replace the START Treaty, and the adoption of the program of work by the Conference on Disarmament after more than 10 years pause, and the Summit Meeting of the UN Security Council of 24 September 2009 on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. All this confirms the increased willingness of the international community to undertake concrete steps towards strengthening the international security and strategic stability.

We believe that the First Committee as its main task today should consolidate the efforts of the international community in its combat against global threats and challenges, increase the efficiency of the collective security system and move forward the process of multilateral disarmament under the UN auspices. This is not an easy task and it can only be handled on the basis of mutual respect and compliance with the norms of international law.

The revitalization of disarmament and non-proliferation agenda is undoubtedly a positive signal. However, the pace of progress in this area moderate. It is essential to reinforce and develop the emerging positive dynamics and move forward towards strengthening the multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation mechanisms.

We regret that the Conference on Disarmament (CD) having adopted its program of work has not yet started its implementation. We are convinced that the start of negotiation process at the Conference is in the interest of all States. We hope that in 2010 the participants in this forum will be able to show flexibility and reach consensus on launching substantive work of the CD.

The statement of President of the Russian Federation Dmitry A. Medvedev read out by the Foreign Minister of Russia Sergey V. Lavrov on 7 March 2009 at the Conference on Disarmament specially emphasizes that Russia is fully committed to

achieving the goal of the world free of nuclear weapons. It is noteworthy that for the first time over the recent years the idea of non-nuclear world has been practically unanimously supported by the leaders of all major industrial countries. We realize that a particular responsibility in this effort lies with the nuclear weapon States including the Russian Federation. Nevertheless, it is our understanding that the elimination of nuclear weapons should be a result of gradual process of general and complete disarmament.

The outcome of the July Russian-US Summit and the meeting between Dmitry A. Medvedev and Barack Obama in New York on September 23, 2009, have confirmed the readiness of the two major nuclear powers to sustain the lead in the field of real nuclear disarmament. Russia and the United States are actively working on the elaboration of a comprehensive legally binding agreement to replace the START Treaty. We hope that we will be able to agree on the lower levels of nuclear warheads and substantial quantitative reduction in the number of strategic delivery vehicles – ICBMs, SLBMs and heavy bombers.

We also believe that the strengthening of the nuclear non-proliferation regime and intensification of the nuclear disarmament process can be achieved only if strategic stability is maintained and the principle of equal security is ensured. Therefore, we consistently oppose any unilateral steps towards the build-up of strategic missile-defense system. We are convinced that such activities substantially complicate the progress in the field of nuclear disarmament. The strategic defensive and offensive weapons are inseparably linked. One can hardly imagine a situation when the process of deep reductions in nuclear weapons would be accompanied by a deliberate build-up of ABM assets, intended to give a military advantage to one of the sides.

We do not reject, however, the anti-missile systems as such. Yet, we believe that the configuration of a global ABM system must be set out with due account of the interests of all States. We call for a broad dialogue with countries, which share our

assessments regarding missile proliferation. We prioritize a joint analysis of the existing risks and working out political and diplomatic methods of response to these risks.

We reiterate the validity of the proposal made by the President of the Russian Federation on October 12, 2007, to globalize the regime of the Intermediate Nuclear Force Treaty. We are prepared to engage in further discussions of the basic elements of the relevant international arrangement put forward by the Foreign Minister of Russia at the Conference on Disarmament on February 12, 2008.

An urgent task of the modern times is the prevention of placement of weapons in outer space. Russia firmly believes that the space should not become an area of military confrontation. The prevention of arms race in the outer space will contribute to the predictability of strategic situation and ensure global stability and international security as a whole. It is precisely with this goal in mind that in February 2008 at the Conference on Disarmament Russia and China tabled a joint draft international Treaty on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space. We are looking forward to more active substantial collective work on this draft and call upon all others to join it.

We believe that the development of transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space (TCBMs) activities is a necessary element of our work to prevent the placement of weapons in outer space. During the current session of the UN General Assembly Russia intends to reintroduce a draft resolution on TCBMs, encouraging the States to make their specific proposals regarding TCBMs, and requesting the UN Secretary-General to present a final report to the 65<sup>th</sup> UN GA session that summarizes the work conducted in this area over the last five years. We call on all delegations to support this draft and become its co-sponsors.

Soon after the session of the First Committee, the UN Group of Governmental Experts that was established in accordance with the resolution of the 63d UN GA session on "Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the

context of international security” will start its work. We are interested in reaching a new level of understanding of the problem of international information security and potential response to the threats in this area as a result of the work of this group.

Russia is working consistently towards the strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime. One of our priorities is to increase efficiency of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) on the basis of the balance of its three pillars – non-proliferation, disarmament and peaceful use of nuclear energy. We expect the 2010 NPT Review Conference to significantly contribute to achieving this goal.

Back in 2000 Russia ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). We hope that all the countries, which have not yet done so and on which the CTBT entry into force depends, will sign and ratify the Treaty as soon as possible. The observance of nuclear test moratorium is an important measure, however it cannot substitute legal obligations under the Treaty.

Russia is prepared to engage in negotiations at the Conference on Disarmament on elaboration of a treaty banning the production of weapons grade fissile materials (FMCT), which would become an important step towards nuclear disarmament and strengthening of nuclear non-proliferation regime.

We support the establishment of nuclear weapon-free zones, including such a sensitive area as the Middle East. We are ready to look for mutually acceptable ways to achieve this goal within the framework of the 2010 NPT Review Conference. We welcome the entry into force of the Treaty on establishing the nuclear weapon free zone in Central Asia (Semipalatinsk Treaty) and the completion of ratification procedure by all parties to the Pelindaba Treaty on nuclear weapon free zone in Africa.

We call for increased effectiveness of the verification activities of the IAEA. We believe that the Additional Protocol to the Safeguards Agreement is an efficient instrument in this regard, and it should become a universally recognized norm for

verification of States' compliance with their non-proliferation obligations and new standard in the area of nuclear export. Russia consistently calls for political and diplomatic solution to the issues related to the questions, which the IAEA has with regard to the nature of nuclear activities of certain NPT State-Parties. At the same time, we would like to emphasize that it is impossible to achieve a real progress in the strengthening of nuclear non-proliferation regime by focusing only on the regional topics.

The Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism is a practical example of how we can effectively work together towards the strengthening of the nuclear non-proliferation regime. This initiative has been put on track of practical implementation and acquired a large-scale dimension – it has been joined by 76 States. Its work is aimed at increasing national capabilities to counter the acts of nuclear terrorism, and establishing multilateral and bilateral interaction in fighting this threat.

The link between non-proliferation and peaceful use of nuclear energy in the modern world is evident. However, the goals of fullest possible use of advantages of peaceful nuclear energy should not overshadow the risks associated with potential proliferation of the so-called “sensitive” sensitive nuclear technologies.

We believe in this connection, that the implementation of initiatives in the area of multilateral approaches to nuclear fuel cycle (NFC) will allow us, on the one hand, to prevent the “replication” of “sensitive” technologies in the world and, on the other hand, to ensure implementation of legitimate interest of many countries in the development of nuclear energy. We take note of relevant professional work by the UN Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) to study political and legal aspects of multilateral approaches to NFC.

We have contributed to advancing these multilateral approaches by establishing the International Uranium Enrichment Centre (IUEC) in Angarsk (Russia) on the basis of an agreement with Kazakhstan. Armenia has already joined this Centre and

Ukraine is currently completing its accession procedure. A number of other States have also expressed interest in joining its activities.

We also intend to set up at the IUEC the so-called guaranteed stock of low-enriched uranium under IAEA control to ensure guaranteed supplies of fuel to the interested States in the event of market disruptions. Currently, we are promoting this initiative in the IAEA and expect wide international support.

Russia is committed to its obligations under the CWC and the BTWC. We call for further strengthening of these essential international instruments in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation also by their universalization and implementation at the national level.

The UN has been assigned a central role in addressing the issues of missile proliferation. We call for constructive interaction in the framework of the UN Group of Governmental Experts during the examination of the “missile issue in all its aspects”. We are interested in continuing dialogue on the missile dossier in this format.

The issues of conventional weapons have recently attracted a growing attention. This has to do both with humanitarian concerns arising from the use of these weapons against civilian population, as well as an entire set of issues related to its destabilizing accumulation in the crisis regions and their diversion into illegal traffic.

We call for further strengthening of the Geneva Convention on “inhumane” Conventional Weapons (CCW) – and the adoption of a relevant resolution in its support. We believe, at the same time, the provisions of this resolution should not prejudge the decisions to be taken in the CCW format.

As for the problem of illicit traffic of small arms and light weapons (SALW), which affects to a certain extent all the countries, we are convinced that the leading role in addressing this problem must be played by the UN, which is capable to elaborate coordinated measures on this issue. Only the UN can effectively coordinate the development of national legislations in terms of preventing the falling of SALW

“into wrong hands”. In doing so, it is necessary to ensure that the UN fulfills this function in full.

The issues of regulation of the world arms trade deserve the most serious attention. These issues are so diverse and complex that any attempt of their forced solution through the adoption of any kind of weak and non-functional global instrument can only undermine the efforts of the international community to put an order in this area. In working out the idea of an international treaty on arms trade we believe it is necessary to fully take into account the provisions of the UN Secretary-General report to 63d UN GA session and GA Resolution 63/240, which set the course to a gradual, step-by-step examination of the key problems of the world arms trade with the view to reaching a consensus result satisfactory to all.

We believe it is important to pay attention to such a trend in the evolving international relations as the regionalization of global politics. Today, as ever before, there is an urgent task to really strengthen the fundamental values such as observance of international law, non-use of force, respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, commitment to peaceful settlement of conflicts and principles of arms control. In this connection, we call for the strengthening of regional security, in particular in its Euro-Atlantic dimension. President of Russia Dmitry A. Medvedev has put forward an idea of a European Security Treaty. The principle of indivisibility of security in the Euro-Atlantic space should become its key element. Russia invites all States as well as all organizations, which are acting on the European continent, to engage in joint work over a draft of such a treaty. It is necessary to agree on clear up-to-date and, most importantly, effective rules of the game.

One of the essential prerequisites of strengthening the European security is the revitalization of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE). Russia does its best to achieve this goal.

However, the negotiations on CFE issues are not moving easily – it seems that our Western partners still expect that Russia is ready to make concessions now in

exchange of their promise to “examine” our concerns sometime in the future. Russia on its part believes that in order to get the CFE out of deadlock, we need specific and unambiguous obligations of the parties rather than vague promises.

The efforts undertaken to revive the role of multilateral disarmament in the global agenda are closely linked with the general search for the ways to overcome the current crisis manifestations in financial and economic, politico-military, environmental or other areas. The problems that we are facing today can be resolved only by joint efforts on the basis of renewed confidence in global policy and collective efforts which meet the interests of every State and the international community as the whole. Russia is open to a constructive dialogue and is ready to engage in collective work with its partners. The time has come when we have a real opportunity to resume global disarmament process on an extensive agenda. Let us not miss this opportunity.