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## ADDRESS

by **H. E. Dmitry A. Medvedev, President of the Russian Federation,**  
at the 64<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN General Assembly

23 September 2009

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today I would like to highlight five topics that are, as it seems to me, important for all of us and for our common approaches to the international agenda.

1. **Timing of this meeting.**

The current UN GA session is taking place in a very crucial and uneasy point in time. Without exaggeration, we are living through one of the breaking moments of the modern history. Besides the economic crisis – the first wide-scale crisis of globalization era – the world development continues to be threatened by regional and local conflicts, terrorism and trans-border crime, food shortage and climate change.

The impact of this crisis continues to be suffered by the majority of the countries of the world. Albeit so far we were able to avoid the worst scenario, the question is still pending: how the huge disbalances and deficits accumulated in the world and national economies amounting to trillions of dollars will be overcome?

The unification agenda has been dictated by life itself. And this dictates the growing demand for the UN as a time tested mechanism of harmonization of interests of different countries.

As never before, we are feeling the need for informal collective leadership; increased role of such formats as G8, and recently, G20, as well as other negotiation and mediation fora. These platforms act not against anyone but in favor of advancing converging interests of their participants. Their agreed approaches are being implemented through the UN system as well harmonically complementing the comprehensive efforts of this Organization as a pillar of the current world order.

Another distinctive feature of the modern time is the increasing role of the regional entities. They become even more active throughout all the continents. This trend is absolutely consistent with the principles of the UN Charter. Russia, on its part, will continue to strengthen the mechanisms of regional interaction together with its partners across the CIS and in the framework of the SCO and BRIC. These mechanisms help respond collectively to common threats, and mitigate the consequences of the crisis for our citizens and increase sustainability of national economies.

## **2. Existing problems.**

Let me dwell on those which cannot be effectively addressed without and beyond the United Nations.

The first one is the disbalance of currently existing mechanisms of world economy governance, inadequacy of their “rules of the game”, the gap between the financial markets and the real sector of economy. We need to make joint efforts to establish such financial and economic model that would guarantee everyone from such turmoil in the future.

In fact, all countries have confronted a drop in volumes of output and the living standard of millions of people. The crisis has exacerbated social problems; and

became a trial for the young people at the start of their life; and caused significant growth in unemployment.

A painful blow was delivered to our plans to alleviate poverty. A real threat of disruption of the Millennium Development Goals has manifested itself. We must do our utmost to prevent such a development.

The donor assistance to the countries in need cannot be put off “to the later”. The tasks assigned as priority by the world community must be addressed by all means. The arrangements made at the G20 Summits and the UN Conference on world financial and economic crisis and its impact on development must be fulfilled.

The second major task here is to address the issues of global energy security. Three years ago at the Saint Petersburg G8 Summit, principles of a new legal framework for such cooperation were formulated. The goal is to harmonize the interests of all participants in the energy “chain”: suppliers, consumers and transmitters.

Recently, we have specified these principles and invite everyone to engage in further constructive discussion. We believe that these discussions should be conducted with active involvement of profile multilateral institutions including the UN family agencies.

The third task that Russia deems important is the throughout strengthening of the United Nations potential. The UN must rationally adapt itself to [new] world realities. It should also strengthen its influence and preserve its multinational nature and integrity of the UN Charter provisions.

The reform of the UN Security Council is an essential component of its revitalization. The time has come to speed up the search for a compromise formula of its expansion and increased efficiency of its work.

### 3. **Disarmament.**

A highly challenging task is to move forward the process of multilateral disarmament under the UN auspices. You are aware that positive trends have

emerged in overcoming the protracted crisis in this area. The Conference on Disarmament in Geneva has adapted its program of work. Let me mention the Russian-Chinese initiative regarding a treaty on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space as well as our proposal to universalize the Russian-American Treaty on the Elimination of the Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles.

Russia will steadily follow the path of verifiable and irreversible reductions in nuclear weapons as an essential element of "the new start" in our relations with the United States. President Obama and I signed a relevant document in Moscow last June. A mandate for further negotiations was agreed upon – to elaborate a legally binding treaty. This treaty should replace the Treaty on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms, which expires this December.

I would like to emphasize the objective relationship between strategic offensive and defensive arms. The recently announced adjustments in the US plans of missile defense system development are in our view a constructive step in the right direction that deserved the positive response of the international community. We are prepared to engage in a thorough discussion of the US proposals and relevant Russia's initiatives regarding cooperation in this area to reach generally acceptable arrangements.

The real progress in nuclear disarmament is impossible without addressing such matters of principle as NMD and non-nuclear SOA potential. I expect that the work on a new treaty will be fully consistent with relevant provisions of the joint document endorsed by the US President and me during our meeting in Moscow.

We believe that other nuclear States should join the disarmament efforts of Russia and the United States. It is not necessary to wait for further progress in the Russian-American disarmament process. We can start elaborating in advance acceptable and practical arrangements that take into account the differences in the size of potentials. For instance, we can use as an example the decisions of the 1921-

1922 Washington Conference on the naval armaments when the participants agreed on their maximum size of their fleets without trying to achieve their equal levels. If we use the same approach today based on the actual status of nuclear powers arsenal we will give the rest of the world a necessary signal of certainty that the unaccounted numbers will be added to the “equation” of strategic stability.

The 2010 NPT Review Conference will focus on the issues of nuclear disarmament, strengthening of the nuclear non-proliferation regime and peaceful atom. We are looking forward to its success.

The Global Nuclear Security Summit scheduled for next April will provide a good opportunity for a more detailed discussion of these issues.

We have also agreed with the US Administration on joint steps for further progress in such aspects of nuclear security as prevention of nuclear terrorism, and expanding the access for all good faith NPT Members to the achievements of peaceful atom.

We call for collective cooperation on these matters.

In order to reach a common understanding on such important issues we must engage all nations and influential international organizations into the above-mentioned negotiation processes. The international community has at its disposal such well-tested measures for increasing the level of regional and international security as nuclear free zones. In particular, there is an urgent task of establishing a zone free of all types of WMDs and their means of delivery in the Middle East. This is a long-standing issue. And the 1995 NPT Review Conference had adopted a relevant resolution in this regard.

Russia as a member of the Quartet of international mediators on the Middle East settlement consistently supports the efforts aimed at strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime in the Middle East. Russia has made specific proposals in the framework of the NPT review process to search for generally acceptable ways of

implementing the relevant NPT decisions. All countries of the region need to take an active stance on this issue and demonstrate their willingness to ensure a real progress in establishing a nuclear free zone.

We also need to speed up the work towards a mechanism to ensure peace and security in North-East Asia. Russia made its proposals in this regard to the participants in the Six-Party Talks. Under the present circumstances this task becomes even more urgent.

#### 4. **Regional conflicts and regional security.**

We intend to continue to participate in the search for efficient options of settlement for regional conflicts. We are convinced that the use of force can only aggravate this situation. This was demonstrated by a reckless attempt of the Georgian authorities to resolve the problems in their relations with South Ossetia by military means.

Then, in August 2008, we were very close to the situation when a local armed conflict could grow into a full-scale war. I am certain that this is understood by everyone and in order to avoid repetition of such developments we need to have clear and effective mechanisms to implement the principle of indivisibility of security. Without it we will not be able to step over the legacy of the past era, to overcome its instincts and prejudices. Moreover, the irresponsible regimes should not have any opportunity whatsoever to cause disputes among other countries.

The role and place of the modern nations in ensuring global security is one of the most relevant topics. We have repeatedly witnessed situations when the problems emerging on the territory of individual states acquired regional or even global character. Incompetence and inefficiency of national government institutions can provoke consequences that represent risk for several countries. Of course, the prevention of such consequences is a complex issue. But we must think it over together as well.



These issues were at the focus of discussion in the Russian city of Yaroslavl where a representative international conference was held. The outcome of this discussion is that the future belongs to the smart politics. The current global crisis is not only the crisis of economy but also the crisis of ideas. It accumulates a “critical mass” of outdated policies and development models.

Russia has come up with the initiative to sign a European security treaty and proposed a fresh look at this problem so as to abandon the outdated policies. The Cold War is over. But the world has not become more secure. And this is already a fact known to everyone. Today we need genuinely modern solutions. We also need clear legal framework for already existing political commitments. This includes obligations that would strengthen the following principle: not to ensure one’s own security at the expense of security of others.

Our initiative concerns the Euro-Atlantic space. However, its key provision on indivisibility of security is a universal principle applicable to all regions of the world that is fully consistent with the letter and spirit of the UN Charter. The principle of indivisibility of security should become an integral part of the international law.

#### 5. Values.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The protection of human rights and interests, universal application of generally recognized norms and principles in this area should become a basis for strengthening confidence and stability in the international relations. We all share the values that are rooted in the norms of morality, religions, customs and traditions. I am talking about such essential concepts as the right to live, tolerance to dissent, responsibility towards one’s family, charity and compassion. This is the basis for both the daily life of people and relations among States.

However, the world is witnessing growing nationalist moods, numerous manifestations of religious intolerance and animosity. Therefore, we consider it to be

extremely useful to establish a High Level Group on interreligious dialogue under the UNESCO Director-General. This is especially relevant on the eve of 2010 declared by the UN as the year for Rapprochement of Cultures.

And finally, I cannot but touch upon one more topic as I stand on this podium. Next year we are going to celebrate the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the World War II.

Russia made a proposal to adopt a relevant UN GA resolution and hold in May next year its special session to commemorate all victims of that war. We cannot allow its horrible lessons to be forgotten.

However, from time to time we see the neo-Nazi organizations raising their head. Racial, national or ethnic crimes are being committed. Attempts are being made to whitewash the Nazism, to deny Holocaust, revise the decisions of the Nuremberg Tribunal.

I am convinced that firm and joint resistance to manifestations of neo-Nazism and attempts to revise the results of the World War II enshrined in the UN Charter should remain a priority task for the United Nations.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The creation of the UN has become one of the main achievements of the world community in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. There is no and cannot be an alternative to this organization and its fruitful activity. We have no right to forget that the UN possesses a unique international legitimacy. And we all must preserve and strengthen this shared wealth of the peoples of the world.

Thank you for attention.