

Delegation from the Russian Federation
Position Paper for the UN General Assembly

The issues before the UN General Assembly in its upcoming session are: Nuclear Disarmament and International Security; Ensuring Access to Affordable, Reliable, Sustainable and Modern Energy for All and Combating Human Trafficking. Bearing in mind that all topics are of crucial importance for the international security and stability, the Russian Federation looks forward to constructive discussions in the UN Security Council.

I. Nuclear Disarmament and International Security

Complete and non-selective nuclear disarmament is a key paradigm of the Russian Federation's foreign policy. The Russian Federation has made substantial efforts to conduct a long lasting, stable and permanent process of nuclear disarmament. We join forces with all those who wish to live in a world where nuclear weapons are absent. A nuclear weapon state, within 30 years Russia has diminished its nuclear weapons capabilities by 85 percent. Member States refuting nuclear disarmament however frivolously endanger international peace and security. This concerns in particular those Member States who withdrew from bi- and multilateral agreements with other member states to modernize and expand their nuclear weapons arsenals. With a view to peace and stability in the Middle East, Russia stresses is aggravated by the recent withdrawal of the United States of America from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), endorsed by Security Council Resolution 2231 (2015). This has inevitably led to a loss of confidence in the United States to maintain dialogue and diplomacy as main instrument of nuclear disarmament. Moreover, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) repeatedly breaks this paradigm enshrined in the NPT within large-scale field exercises in Poland.

The nuclear disarmament regime rests on two main pillars. First, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (1970, NPT), whose first article prohibits signatories to transfer nuclear weapons to other Member States. The NPT prohibits member states to transfer and delegate directly or indirectly any competence related to nuclear weapons, such as infrastructure and logistics for their deploy. The Russian Federation feels menaced by the blatant violation of Article 1 of the NPT and thus we cannot hold on to continue in reducing our nuclear arsenal. Another pillar of nuclear disarmament and security is the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), that if come into effect will prohibit the testing of nuclear weapons. The Russian Federation has signed and ratified this agreement, but we are alarmed by nuclear weapons states who have not signed and/or ratified the treaty. Also, some states have withdrawn from the commitment of ratification, thus preventing a complete test ban to come into effect.

In light of these alarming developments, the Russian Federation sees desperate need for a confidence-building process that encourages progressive, realistic and pragmatic measures towards nuclear disarmament between nuclear weapon states. An approach such as the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons is, despite well-intentioned, irrespective of current strategic stability in the Middle East, and it would thus be a mistake to invest efforts for its ratification. Therefore, Russia proposes the Progressive Nuclear Disarmament Milestones Conference (PNDC) hosted by the Russian Federation in December 2020 where representatives of Nuclear Weapons States shall convene to begin a process of trust and confidence building to reintegrate the United States into the dialogue of reasonable nuclear disarmament. This will encourage states reluctant to participate in nuclear disarmament to improve the international trust and confidence building process regarding nuclear weapons and international stability.

II. Ensuring Access to Affordable, Reliable, Sustainable and Modern Energy for All

The emission of greenhouse gases poses a substantial threat to the world as it is an integral part of climate change. The *Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change on the Impacts of Global Warming of 1.50C above pre-Industrial Levels* (2018, IPCCRep) indicates that global warming will have catastrophic climate consequences. Greenhouse gases (GHG) and carbon emissions are the main driving forces behind global warming. The Russian Federation is one of the world's largest producers and consumers of natural gas. Russia has understood the importance of climate change, unlike states who recently left the Paris Agreement (2015, PA), and thus has signed and accepted the PA. The *Emissions Gap Report 2019* explains that countries have failed to cut GHG emissions thus exacerbating the need for drastic change in countries' emission policies. However, GHG and carbon emissions seem unavoidable collateral damage for developing countries to satisfy their energy needs. The Russian Federation has understood the gravity of the situation and has pioneered in reducing GHG emissions

compared to the base year of 1990. This was possible due by resorting to the use of natural gas over other fossil fuels for power production and in transportation. Recalling Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 7 and 13 (*Affordable and Clean Energy, Climate Action*), the Russian Federation stresses that it is impossible to switch to emission-free energy production immediately: a transition period that permits the development of 100 percent renewable power production and transportation on large scale is needed. For this, a competitively priced, low emission fuel is needed. This fuel can only be natural gas.

Russia stresses that the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNCE) has highlighted the importance of natural gas in achieving the SDG. The UNCE features a Group of Experts on Gas that annually convenes since 2013 to evaluate the progress in natural gas facilitating the achievement of the SDG. The UNCE also published various booklets on the role of natural gas in sustainable development such as *The Role of Gas in Sustainable Energy (Booklet)* (2015) and on the role of natural gas in transportation with the *Best Practice Policy Guidance for Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Case Study: Small Scale LNG – Truck Loading* (2017). Meanwhile, the International Energy Association offers a range of databases and research publications monitoring proceedings and state policies concerning the undertaking in using natural gas both for power production and transportation. The Russian Federation recognizes the good faith of these measures; however, we fear that for a transition to renewable energy to be permitted to most developing countries, this does not suffice.

Russia firmly believes in the importance of natural gas in sustainable development. Regrettably, there is no entity such as the International Atomic Energy Association (IAEA) that supports Member States undertaking a transition to renewable energy using natural gas, despite natural gas is an indispensable fuel for a developing country to switch to renewable energy in power-production and transportation. This hinders Member States to successfully contribute to achieving SDG 7 and 13. The Russian Federation thus proposes the International Natural Gas Energy Organization (INGE) that shall bundle know-how and be a forum of cooperation for Member States to maximize the use of natural gas as a source of renewable energy. The United Nations Secretary General shall organize the Conference on the Statute of the International Natural Gas Energy Organization (CSINGE) at the Headquarters of the United Nations by the end of the year where leading experts in sustainable development, renewable energy and natural gas as well as representatives of Member States shall draft a statute for the INGE. The Russian Federation, aware of the threat of climate change, is generously willing to provide for 70 percent of the funds for CSINGE as well as for the first year of INGE. Russia is sure INGE will significantly improve chances of Member States to reach the necessary cuts of GHG emissions.

III. Combating Human Trafficking

Human Trafficking is one of the main sources of income for terrorism and organized crime. Aware of the importance of funding for terrorist organization to sustain their malicious activities, it is imperative to prohibit all possible funding channels of terrorist organizations. The Security Council Counter Terrorism Committee (SCCT) in its publication *Identifying and Exploring the Nexus Between Human Trafficking, Terrorism, and Terrorism Financing* (2018) highlights that human trafficking is increasingly present within armed conflicts has become increasingly attractive for non-State armed groups, foremost terrorist entities, as they provide an effective means for the forceful recruitment of fighters. In an age of sophisticated use of information technologies (ITC), terrorist groups manage to safely administrate their funds, thus circumventing anti-terrorist law enforcement.

Upon our initiative, the *Financial Action Task Force* (FATF) has discovered new models of tackling ISIS funding activities. The Russian Federation reminds Member States that Security Council Resolution 1373 (2001) prohibits the illicit trade with terrorist organizations such as ISIS and Al-Qaeda. Security Council Resolution 2331 (2016) condemns all acts of trafficking with humans undertaken by terrorist organizations as this significantly contributes to increased leverage that terrorist groups have on other income sources. The FATW has undertaken significant efforts to bundle international cooperation for fighting terrorism financing. However, the FATF must keep up with the challenges posed by new terrorist use of ICT.

A world leader in ITC, intends to equip the FATW with a task force focusing on cyber-activities of terrorists for the pursuit of money-laundering and terrorism financing via ITC. The task force shall bundle the experiences of member states into the FATW Best Practices on Preventing Human Trafficking through ITC Technologies. Russia is certain that this concrete step towards international consolidation of anti-terrorist-activities will significantly improve Member State's ability to prevent human trafficking by persecution of terrorist financial activities.