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**STATEMENT**  
**by H.E. Mr. Sergey V. LAVROV,**  
**Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation,**  
**at the UN Summit for the Adoption**  
**of the Post-2015 Development Agenda**

**September 27, 2015**

Mr. President,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

Promotion of socio-economic progress and prosperity of all countries and peoples is the core mission of our Organization. Forging a global partnership for development has been one of the most significant achievements of the UN that we all can rightly be proud of. Fifteen years ago it was precisely the UN that made it possible for the international community to unite in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Joint efforts of the Member States, international and non-governmental organizations, business and academia facilitated considerable

progress in fighting poverty and hunger, providing access to health and education services for millions of people around the world as well as in reducing maternal and child mortality.

The impressive success in the achievement of the MDGs is by no means the reason for complacency. Addressing global challenges, such as eradicating extreme poverty, combating inequalities, ensuring food security and healthy lifestyles and shifting to more sustainable patterns of production and consumption, will require additional financial, industrial and technological resources, supported by an environment of constructive cooperation and mutual assistance. Many States still cannot on their own overcome development challenges, often accompanied by political instability, discrimination and constraints, and are in need of a large-scale international support. The outcomes of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development held in Addis Ababa last July provide a solid basis for increasing such interaction.

Russia welcomes the adoption of the new 2030 Agenda for Development. We stand ready to actively support its successful implementation at all levels. Guided by the principles of solidarity, our country will continue to make a significant contribution to building and strengthening economic, intellectual, information, scientific and technological capacities of partner countries. We will further facilitate the effective utilization of the possibilities offered by global markets for goods and services, diversification of economic ties, active participation in integration processes, women and youth empowerment as well as promotion of child-friendly environment. Russia intends to use the achievements in science and technology, in particular information and communication technologies that are essential to accelerate global development and bridge the gap between developed and developing countries.

Russian development assistance is invariably aimed at solving the most pressing challenges faced by the countries in need. In these efforts we are neither trying to lecture our partners on how they should build their lives, nor imposing political models and values. Poverty eradication is the key objective of Russia's state policy in the area of international development assistance at the global level. Debt relief is one of the effective instruments in this regard. Under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative (HIPC), our country has written off over 20 billion US dollars of the principal debt owed by African countries alone. Russia also contributes to reducing the debt burden of the poorest countries beyond HIPC through debt-for-aid swaps. We also take other steps towards the settlement of debt owed to Russia, both in multilateral and bilateral formats.

Our country has been funding and implementing aid projects on education, health, energy, food security and infrastructure. We actively use the capacities offered by the UN Development System organizations and humanitarian agencies that provide assistance without conditionalities and in a politically unbiased manner.

Despite the challenging economic environment Russia remains a responsible and reliable partner of developing countries in addressing the most pressing challenges confronting their people, such as the spread of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, maternal, infant and child mortality or the Ebola outbreak.

Our international development assistance is increasing. Last year it grew by over 20 percent. We have provided over 127 mln US dollars through the UN system alone, and the overall ODA in accordance with the OECD methodology surpassed 875 mln US dollars. We will further enhance our participation in multilateral development assistance efforts.

It is understood that the assistance to the countries in need in establishing their viable social and economic systems is the investment in the global stability. It is an

essential precondition for building a more effective and resilient international system, the factor of well-being and prosperity of the humanity as a whole. We often refer to the indivisibility of international peace and security. The new social and economic agenda should ensure the indivisibility of sustainable development.

The international community should promote an enabling external environment for socio-economic progress. It is especially important to ensure fair trade and enhanced access to cutting-edge technologies.

Russia stands for creating a more equitable global economic order and ensuring better governance for global development. We call to act on the basis of the universally recognized norms of international law, in the spirit of collective decision-making. We will enhance cooperation with our partners in such viable formats as the G20 and BRICS; we are open to dialogue in the framework of other informal structures – obviously while respecting the central coordinating role of the UN.

We call for more consistent efforts to reform the governance structures, in particular of the IMF and the World Bank, by strengthening the positions of developing countries. We stand for ensuring a more efficient interaction of the UN General Assembly and ECOSOC with the Bretton Woods institutions and the WTO in order to harmonize the governance of the global monetary, financial and trade systems. We see an important role in these processes for the UN specialized agencies.

Russia remains committed to consolidating regional cooperation, including integration in the Eurasian space. The recently established Eurasian Economic Union is becoming an important factor for facilitating strong, sustained and long-term economic growth in the participating countries. While developing this Union we always stand for the harmonization of the various integration mechanisms both in the East and in the West.

Unilateral coercive measures that are imposed in violation of the UN Charter go in direct contradiction with the achievement of the sustainable development goals. Such illegitimate restrictive actions that also undermine market principles in trade, finance, technology and investment should be discontinued. This fully applies to lifting the embargo against Cuba, as well as to other sanctions which bypassed the UN Security Council.

In our view, finding a solution to the climate change problem is one of the key preconditions for achieving sustainable development. Our country is the global leader in the cumulative reduction of the greenhouse gas emissions and compensates for the increases of the emissions in other countries and regions of the world. We have overfulfilled our commitments under the Kyoto Protocol by reducing our emissions 31 percent below the 1990 level. Over the last twenty years, the emissions of Russia's energy sector have been reduced by 37 percent (comparable to five-year emissions by all EU countries and three-year emissions by the U.S.).

In the context of the preparation for the UNFCCC Conference in Paris we have already announced parameters of our possible commitments. We would like to highlight the role of the Russian boreal forests that absorb around 600 mln tons of carbon dioxide per year. We propose to take the forest factor into account within the framework of the new climate agreement and to think about complementing the efforts under the aegis of the UN Forum on Forests with the practical actions within some form of a UN centre for planning, protection and rehabilitation of forests with a view to achieving sustainable development and controlling climate change.

In general, we are convinced that it is necessary to make the decisions of the forthcoming Paris Conference comprehensive, legally binding and universal. The problem of climate change is super-serious and in this sense the quality and the efficiency of the agreement should have absolute priority.

In its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, the UN remains the main international forum for developing basic principles and standards of social and economic, humanitarian and environmental cooperation. Multilateral associations, including informal alliances of leaders, should organize their work in line with fundamental agreements achieved at this Universal Organization which has undeniable legitimacy.

We are ready to comprehensively contribute to increasing the effectiveness of the United Nations. I believe that by joining our efforts we will achieve the efficient and timely implementation of the new global development agenda.

Thank you, Mr. President.