

Постоянное Представительство
Российской Федерации
при Организации
Объединенных Наций



Permanent Mission
of the Russian Federation
to the United Nations

STATEMENT

by H.E. Mr. Vitaliy I.CHURKIN,

Head of the Russian Delegation,

Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations,

at the High Level Meeting of the 61st Session of the

United Nations General Assembly on the mid-term comprehensive global review of
the implementation of the Programme of Actions for Least Developed Countries
for the decade of 2001-2010

18 September 2006

Madame President

The Brussels Program of Action (BPOA), which laid the foundation for national level activities and international partnership cooperation in the interests of LDCs, remains fully relevant for the global development agenda. The implementation of the Programme should remain a high priority for the international community: it is the progress in the poorest countries of the world that will become, to a large extent, the crucial factor for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs.

At the same time fast population growth, rapid urbanization, environmental degradation and HIV/AIDS aggravate extreme poverty in LDCs. If these trends persist, very few LDCs will be able to meet the goals and targets of the Brussels Programme of Action.

Bearing this in mind, the present High Level Meeting is of particular importance for addressing the tasks put forward in the BPOA and determining the ways to reverse the current trends.

We share the conclusion in the report of the Secretary-General on the central role of mobilizing internal efforts and resources in order to ensure economic growth in LDCs, establish favourable conditions for eradicating poverty and ensuring progress on the MDGs. We assume that the LDCs have incorporated goals and targets of the BPOA into their national development strategies.

LDC's own efforts and initiatives should be supported. The Cotonou Strategy adopted at the LDC Ministerial Conference in June this year is an important document that reflects the approaches of the countries of the group to the ways of implementation of the BPOA. In this regard, the Cotonou Strategy requires thorough consideration.

At the same time, the issue of combating poverty and marginalization of LDCs in the era of globalization has acquired particular significance, and can not be resolved without uniting the efforts of all countries and international organizations, without cooperation under the auspices and with coordination of the United Nations.

In this context we believe that fully justified is the emphasis on the human resources development, including through improved quality of education and healthcare systems, on the increased effectiveness of governance, infrastructure development, in particular, transportation infrastructure, as well as on the importance of the settlement of regional conflicts and maintaining peace and stability,

On its part, Russia is taking concrete steps in assisting the development of LDCs. In particular, our country promotes in real terms international trade liberalization through reducing import duties and applying a special preferential regime to the imports from many developing countries, primarily those of the LDC group.

No quantitative limitations, anti-dumping, compensation or special protective measures are being applied to the imports from LDCs. In this connection, we welcome the establishment of a comparative preferable trade regime for LDCs by other countries in response to the call of the Millenium Summit.

Russia actively participates in the World Bank programme to cancel 100 per cent of the debt owed by heavily indebted poor countries of Africa to the IFIs and in the implementation the decision of the International Monetary Fund cancel USD 4.8 billion debt of 19 countries.

Russia also is writing off the debt of the poorest countries on a bilateral basis. In 2005 Russia cancelled USD 2.2 billion debt of African countries which equals to 0.29 per cent of national GDP. The Federal budget for 2006 provides for the possibility of writing off 100 percent of the debt of the poorest countries to Russia. Presently this debt of 16 countries, including African, amounts to USD 688 million.

In providing debt relief to the poorest countries, Russia attaches great importance to ensuring that the funds designated for debt repayment in the indebted countries are used for the development of these countries. We also believe that debt cancellation without effective financial and economic and budgetary policies, structural reforms, and strengthening governmental institutions and improving investment climate in the poorest countries will not bring about the desired results.

In conclusion, I would like to underscore the importance of effective mechanisms of monitoring and assessment of the implementation of the BPOA and note in this connection the outcome Declaration our meeting. In our view, this consensus document takes into account the various aspects of the concern of the international community aver LDC issues, reflects the commitment of member-states to cooperation in the implementation of the BPOA, gives and objective assessment of the achievements and problems which were encountered in the course of its implementation, and directs the international community towards further concerted actions in this field.

Thank you.