

Preface

Government of Russian Federation together with representatives of RF which will be defending country's interest regarding development in the Arctic are appreciating effort of the *Forum for 21st Century* concerning rightful shearing of valuable resources of this territory.

Expressing our trust in responsible execution of all rights and obligations granted by all participating stakeholders involved in this negotiation process we are pleased with initiative of international resolution which will determinate future framework.

Considering global climate change and advancing Technologies which created premises for future development of the territory RF is stressing importance of maintaining world peace and sustainable development regarding this matter.

The Arctic is experiencing a profound transformation driven by the forces of climate change and globalization which are resulting in tighter economic and geopolitical links between the region and the rest of the world. This development makes adequate to consider adjusting existing system and to create appropriate criteria of division of the territory regarding emerging needs for Arctic future government.

This region, possessing of abundant natural resources and strategic location which has a great global political and economical importance not only for RF, therefore should become subject of multilateral convention.

Nevertheless RF is fully aware of environmental challenges which could arise in connection with this issue.

Targets

Success in this endeavour requires the identification of crucial questions regarding needs for governance, the formulation of normative guidelines and regulatory frameworks. RF is enhancing maintenance of security of the Arctic territory as a zone of peace and environmental sustainability.

RF is emphasizing on following issues:

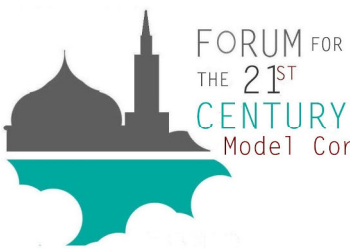
1. *Political division* – Multilateral agreed framework will be solid foundation for responsible management by five coastal States and other users of this Ocean through international implementation and application of future relevant agreement. Concerning future political division of the Arctic and therefore rights of its future development RF would like to open the question regarding Lomonosov Ringe and legal claims of RF related to this territory. Priority of RF is to define country's continental shelf by 2015 and international acknowledgement of this zone posed a crucial importance for universally recognised permanent arrangement of the issue.
2. *Security dimension* – Due to geographical location of the territory of Arctic this issue is considered as a crucial for RF and therefore RF will focus on it in future discussion. We remain committed to existing arrangements constituting legal framework and in accordance with international law and United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea – UNCLOS. In the light of changing needs RF is suggesting adjustment to the existing arrangements which would ensure peaceful cooperation of the nations. Strategic dimension of territory for RF is crucial not just for security reasons related to national defence but also for its environmental security importance.
3. *Natural resources* – Potential exploitation of natural resources is connected with protection of environment and sustainability of all future involvement regarding ecological issues. Is necessary to guarantee high safety and technical standards in all aspects of intended extraction of mineral resources avoiding the environmental impact of oil spills or any other damage of the territory. RF is emphasizing economic importance of the region as a source of immense development potential which can be exploited only with sufficient respect of its fragile environmental character. Therefore RF is determined to protect this territory during and after official negotiation respectively against any kind of improper treatment from all parties involved in its exploitation.

4. *Transport* - Effective limitation of transportation in the region is required to sustain environmental security. Therefore close cooperation of all involve nations is crucial in every aspect of scientific, touristic or shipping exploitation of the region. In this regard we intend to work together to strengthen existing measures and develop new measures to improve the safety of maritime navigation and prevent or reduce the risk of ship based pollution. Undoubtedly all the participants of the Arctic Council could understand significant concern of the Arctic territory for RF as a strategic and effective means of transportation regarding geographic location imminent proximity of insular and mainland territories of RF. Development of transport and communication infrastructure in the region in one of the essential interests of RF and we are hoping this goal can be shared with all involved stakeholders as a common benefit and universal effectiveness and security of this schemas.

5. *Environmental issues* – The Arctic is experiencing a profound transformation caused by effects of climate change and globalization. Major consequences of biophysical changes are emerging opportunities involving commercial shipping, oil and gas development, mining, fishing and tourism. RF is considering issues of sustainable development of Arctic as part of a common global interest and therefore will search for effective protection of environment of this territory and conservation of its vulnerable ecosystem.

6. *Protection of autochthonous inhabitants* – It is a essential interest of RF to protect human right by strengthening the right of self-determination of indigenous people and their future status within the Arctic territory. Mutual understanding of the inhabitants of the territory and all the other concerning parties should be part of the future agreement.

7. *Establishment of legal binding agreement* - Regarding all the aspects of this complex issue RF believes that *Forum for 21st Century* is appropriate base for finding a proper solution as a result of mutual trust and consent which could be agreed in final treaty.



RF is hoping that *Forum for 21st Century* will lead to multilateral agreement and adoption of important steps facing this specific and sensitive issue which can respond to all its needs of the concerning States and indigenous communities. We are committing ourselves to fulfil all the obligations and responsibilities which will be universally agreed in the future treaty negotiated and signed by all the stakeholders.