

ENCLOSURE A3

Speech given by the Russian President Vladimir Putin at the UN General Assembly, September 28, 2015.

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It was in January 1946 that the UN General Assembly gathered for its first session. Russia believes in the huge potential of the United Nations, which should help us avoid a new global confrontation and engage in strategic cooperation. Together with other countries, we will consistently work towards strengthening the central coordinating role of the UN. I'm confident that by working together, we will make the world stable and safe, as well as provide conditions for the development of all states and nations. The UN is a unique institution in its legitimacy, representation and universality. It is true that lately the UN has been widely criticized for supposedly not being efficient enough, and for the fact that the decision-making on fundamental issues stalls due to insurmountable differences, first of all, among the members of the Security Council. However, I'd like to point out that there have always been differences in the UN among the permanent members, the United States, the United Kingdom, France, China, and Russia. It is absolutely natural for so diverse and representative an organization.

When the UN was established, its founders did not in the least think that there would always be unanimity. The mission of the organization is to seek and reach compromises, and its strength comes from taking different views and opinions into consideration. We all know that after the end of the Cold War — everyone is aware of that — a single center of domination emerged in the world, and then those who found themselves at the top of the pyramid were tempted to think that if they were strong and exceptional, they knew better and they did not have to reckon with the UN. We consider the attempts to undermine the legitimacy of the United Nations as extremely dangerous. They could lead to a collapse of the entire architecture of international organizations, and then indeed there would be no other rules left but the rule of force. We would get a world increasingly characterized by dictate rather than equality. Sovereignty is basically about freedom and the right to choose freely one's own future for every person, nation and state. We are all different, and we should respect that. No one has to conform to a single development model that someone has once and for all recognized as the only right one.

The honest and frank approach of Russia in Syria has recently been used as a pretext to accuse it of its growing ambitions. However, it's not about Russia's ambitions, but about the recognition of the fact that we can no longer tolerate the current state of affairs in the world. What we actually propose is to be guided by common values and common interests, rather than ambitions. On the basis of international law, we must join efforts to address the problems that all of us are facing and create a genuinely broad international coalition against terrorism.

Russia proposes to establish a commission whose job it would be to carry out a comprehensive analysis of threats in the Middle East. We propose discussing whether it is possible to agree on a resolution aimed at coordinating the actions of all the forces that confront the Islamic State and other terrorist organizations. Once again, this coordination should be based on the principles of the UN Charter. We hope that the international community will be able to develop a comprehensive strategy for political stabilization, as well as social and economic recovery, of the Middle East. It is important that this coordination is based on the UN Charter. Literally, any assistance to sovereign states can and must be offered rather than imposed exclusively and solely in accordance with the UN Charter. Everything that contravenes the UN Charter must be rejected.