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The National Security Concept of the Russian Federation
Approved by Decree of the Acting
President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin
of January 10, 2000

[...] ¹⁵²

I. Russia in the world community

The world situation is characterized by a system of international relations undergoing dynamic transformation. Following the end of the bipolar confrontation era, two mutually exclusive tendencies came to prevail.

The first of these tendencies manifests itself in the strengthened economic and political positions of a significant number of states and of their integrative associations and in improved mechanisms for multilateral governance of international processes. Economic, political, science and technological, environmental and information factors are playing an ever-increasing role. Russia will help shape the ideology behind the rise of a multipolar world on this basis.

The second tendency manifests itself in attempts to create an international relations structure based on domination by developed Western countries in the international community, under US leadership and designed for unilateral solutions (primarily by the use of military force) to key issues in world politics in circumvention of the fundamental rules of international law.

The formation of international relations is accompanied by competition and by the striving of a number of states to increase their influence on global politics, including by creating weapons of mass destruction. The significance of the military and security aspects of international relations continues to remain substantial.

Russia is one of the world's major countries, with a centuries-old history and rich cultural traditions. Despite the complicated international situation and difficulties of a domestic nature, Russia objectively continues to play an important role in global processes by virtue of its great economic, science- technological and military potential and its unique strategic location on the Eurasian continent.

¹⁵² Section containing the formal introduction has been omitted.

There are prospects for the Russian Federation's broader integration into the world economy and for expanded cooperation with international economic and financial institutions. Objectively, the commonality of interests between Russia and other states persists with regard to many international security problems, particularly opposing the proliferation of mass destruction weapons, settling and preventing regional conflicts, fighting international terrorism and the drug business, and resolving acute ecological problems of a global nature, including nuclear and radiation safety.

At the same time, a number of states are stepping up efforts to weaken Russia politically, economically, militarily and in other ways. Attempts to ignore Russia's interests when resolving major issues in international relations, including conflict situations, are capable of undermining international security and stability and of inhibiting the positive changes occurring in international relations.

In many countries, including the Russian Federation, the acuteness of the problem of terrorism, having a transnational character and threatening world stability, has sharply increased, which calls for the unification of efforts by the entire international community, increased effectiveness of existing forms and methods of countering this threat, and urgent action to neutralize it.

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III. Threats to the Russian Federation's national security

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The main threats in the international sphere are due to the following factors:

- the striving of particular states and intergovernmental associations to belittle the role of existing mechanisms for ensuring international security, above all the United Nations and the OSCE;
- the danger of a weakening of Russia's political, economic and military influence in the world;
- the strengthening of military-political blocs and alliances, above all NATO's eastward expansion;
- possible appearance of foreign military bases and large troop contingents in direct proximity to Russia's borders;
- proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery vehicles;

¹⁵³ Section on Russian national interests has been omitted.

¹⁵⁴ Section on internal threats has been omitted.

- a weakening of the integration processes in the Commonwealth of Independent States;
- outbreak and escalation of conflicts near the state border of the Russian Federation and the external borders of the member states of the Commonwealth of Independent States;
- territorial claims against Russia.

Internationally, threats to Russian national security are manifested in attempts by other states to counteract its strengthening as one of the centres of influence in a multipolar world, to hinder realization of its national interests and to weaken its positions in Europe, the Middle East, Transcaucasia, Central Asia and the Asia-Pacific Region.

Terrorism represents a serious threat to Russian national security. International terrorism has unleashed the overt campaign aimed at destabilizing the situation in Russia.

There is an increasing threat to national security in the information sphere. The striving of a number of countries to dominate the global information space and oust Russia from the external and internal information market poses a serious danger, as do the elaboration by a number of states of a concept of information wars that envisages creation of means of dangerous influence on the information spheres of other countries of the world; disruption of the normal functioning of information and telecommunication systems and of storage reliability for information resources; and gaining of unsanctioned access to them.

The level and scope of threats in the military sphere are growing.

Elevated to the rank of strategic doctrine, NATO's shift to the practice of using military force outside its zone of responsibility and without UN Security Council authorization is fraught with the danger of destabilizing the entire strategic situation in the world.

The growing technological edge of a number of leading powers and the buildup of their capabilities to develop new-generation weapons and military equipment create the prerequisites for a qualitatively new phase of the arms race and for a radical alteration of the forms and methods of warfare.

Foreign special services and the organizations they use are increasingly active on the territory of the Russian Federation.

Adding to the negative tendencies in the military domain is the protracted reform process in the Russian military organization and defence industrial complex, along with inadequate funding for national defence and the imperfections of the legal and regulatory base. This currently shows itself in the critically low level of operational and

combat training in the Russian Armed Forces and in other forces, troop units and agencies, in the impermissible drop in the level of provision of modern weapons, military and special equipment for the troops (forces), in the extreme acuteness of social problems and leads to a weakening of the military security of the Russian Federation as a whole.

Threats to the national security and interests of the Russian Federation in the border sphere are due to the following causes:

- adjacent states' economic, demographic and cultural-religious expansion into Russian territory;
- stepped-up activity by transfrontier organized crime as well as by foreign terrorist organizations.

The threat of a deteriorating environmental situation in the country and depletion of its natural resources hinges directly on the state of the economy and society's willingness to grasp the globality and importance of these issues. For Russia, this threat is particularly great because of the preferential development of fuel and energy industries, the lack of development in legislative framework for environmental activities, the absence or limited use of resource conservation technologies, and low environmental awareness. There is a tendency for Russia to be used as a place for reprocessing and burying environmentally dangerous materials and substances.

In these circumstances, the erosion of state oversight and the insufficient effectiveness of the legal and economic mechanisms for averting and relieving emergencies are bound to increase the risk of man-made disasters in all sectors of economic activity.

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Source: National Security Concept of the Russian Federation Approved by Presidential Decree No. 24 of 10 January 2000 www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/official_documents//asset_publisher/CptICk6BZ29/content/id/589768 (retrieved 29.06.2020).

¹⁵⁵ Sections on methods to ensure national security and the conclusion have been omitted.

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