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**The National Security Strategy of the Russian Federation
until 2000 Approved by Decree of the President
of the Russian Federation Dmitry Medvedev
of May 12, 2009**

[...] ²⁰⁵

II. Russia and the modern world: Current conditions and trends of development

8. World development is following the path of globalisation in all spheres of international life, which in turn is characterised by a high degree of dynamism and interdependence of events.

Nation-states have experienced the intensification of conflicts connected to unequal development, as a result of globalising processes, and of the deepening rift between rich and poor countries. Values and models of development have become the subject of global competition.

The vulnerability of all members of the international community to new threats and challenges has grown.

As a result of the rise of new centres of economic growth and political influence, a qualitatively new geopolitical situation is unfolding. There is an increasing tendency to seek resolutions to existing problems and regulate crisis situations on a regional basis, without the participation of non-regional powers.

The inadequacy of the current global and regional architecture, oriented (particularly in the Euro-Atlantic region) towards NATO, and likewise the imperfect nature of legal instruments and mechanisms, create an ever-increasing threat to international security.

9. The transition in the international system from opposing blocs to principles of multi-vector diplomacy, together with Russia's resource potential and pragmatic policy for its use, have broadened the possibilities for the Russian Federation to reinforce its influence on the world stage.

The Russian Federation has sufficient potential to count on the creation, in the medium-term, of conditions conducive to its entrenchment among the leaders of the world economy, on the basis of effective participation in global division of labour, improved global

²⁰⁵ Preface and general assumptions have been omitted.

competitiveness of the national economy, of defence potential, and of the level of state and social security.

10. A negative influence on the assurance of Russia's national interests will be exerted by the likely recurrence of one-sided use of force in international relations, disagreements between the main participants in world politics, the threat of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and of their use by terrorists, and likewise the improvement of forms of illicit activity in the cybernetic and biological domains, in the sphere of high technology. The global information struggle will intensify, threats will increase to the stability of industrialised and developing countries, their socio-economic development and democratic institutions. Nationalist sentiments, xenophobia, separatism and violent extremism will grow, including under the banner of religious radicalism. The global demographic situation and environmental problems will become more acute, and threats associated with uncontrolled and illegal migration, drug and human trafficking, and other forms of transnational organised crime, will also increase. Epidemics caused by new, previously unknown viruses are likely to spread. The deficit of fresh water will become more obvious.

11. In the long term, the attention of international politics will be focused on ownership of energy resources, including in the Near East, the Barents Sea shelf and other parts of the Arctic, in the Caspian basin, and in Central Asia.

In the medium term, the situation in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as conflicts in the Near and Middle East, in a number of South Asian and African countries, and on the Korean peninsula, will continue to exert a negative influence on the international situation.

12. The critical condition of physical storage of dangerous materials and objects, especially in countries with unstable political situations, together with the proliferation of regular armaments beyond the control of the state, can lead to the intensification of existing, as well as the creation of new regional and interstate conflicts.

Under conditions of competition for resources, it is not excluded that arising problems may be resolved using military force, and that the current balance of power on the borders of Russia and its allies may be disturbed.

There is an increasing risk that the number of countries possessing nuclear weapons will rise.

The possibility of maintaining global and regional stability will substantially decrease with the placement in Europe of elements of the global missile defence system of the United States of America.

The consequences of global financial-economic crises may become comparable, in terms of overall losses, to the consequences of large-scale application of military force.

13. In the long term, the Russian Federation will seek to construct international relations based on the principles of international law, and on the institution of reliable and equal security of nation-states.

For the defence of its national interests, Russia, while remaining within the boundaries of international law, will implement a rational and pragmatic foreign policy, one which excludes expensive confrontation, including a new arms race.

Russia perceives the United Nations and the Security Council of the United Nations as a central element of a stable system of international relations, at the basis of which lie respect, equal rights and mutually beneficial cooperation among nations, resting on civilised political instruments for the resolution of global and regional crisis situations.

Russia will increase its interaction with multilateral fora such as the G8, G20, RIC (Russia/India/China), BRIC (Brazil/Russia/India/China), and will likewise capitalise on the potential of other informal international institutions.

The development of bilateral and multilateral cooperation with member states of the Commonwealth of Independent States is a priority direction of Russian foreign policy. Russia will seek to develop the potential for regional and subregional integration and coordination among member-states of the CIS, first of all within the framework of the Commonwealth, and also the CSTO²⁰⁶ and EvrAzEs,²⁰⁷ which exert a stabilising influence on the overall situation in the regions bordering on the CIS.

Moreover, the CSTO is regarded as the main interstate instrument for responding to regional threats and challenges of a military-political

²⁰⁶ The CTSO was formally established in September 2003 in the process of institutionalisation of the Collective Security Treaty (also known as Tashkent Treaty) of May 1992. Its members are: Russia, Belarus, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan. Georgia and Azerbaijan were member states of the Tashkent Treaty between 1993 and 1999 while Uzbekistan was its member in the years 1992–1999 and 2006–2012.

²⁰⁷ The EurAsEC was formally established in January 2001 and operated formally until 2014 when it was incorporated into the emerging Eurasian Economic Community. Its members were: Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan (until 2008).

or military-strategic nature, including the fight with illegal trafficking in narcotic and psychotropic substances.

14. Russia will promote the strengthening of EvrAzEs as the nucleus of economic integration, and instrument of assistance to the realisation of major hydropower, infrastructural, industrial and other joint projects having a primarily regional significance.

15. Of particular significance for Russia will be the reinforcement of the political potential of the SCO, and the stimulation within its framework of practical steps towards the enhancement of mutual trust and partnership in the Central Asian region.

16. The Russian Federation is in favour strengthening the mechanisms of cooperation with the European Union by all possible means, including the continued formation of common spaces in the economic, educational, scientific and cultural spheres, and in terms of internal and external security. The long-term national interests of Russia are served by the creation of an open system of Euro-Atlantic collective security, on a clear legal and treaty basis.

17. A determining aspect of relations with NATO remains the fact that plans to extend the alliance's military infrastructure to Russia's borders, and attempts to endow NATO with global functions that go counter to norms of international law, are unacceptable to Russia.

Russia is prepared to develop relations with NATO on the basis of equality and in the interests of strengthening the general security of the Euro-Atlantic region. The content and depth of these relations will be determined by the preparedness of the alliance to recognise Russia's legal interests when engaging in military-political planning, and to respect norms of international law; and likewise NATO's readiness to consider the further transformation of these relations and the search for new tasks and functions with a humanist [sic!] orientation.

18. Russia will strive to build an equitable and valuable strategic partnership with the United States of America, on the basis of shared interests and taking into account the key influence of Russian-American relations on the international situation as a whole. In terms of priorities, these will continue to be the achievement of new agreements in the sphere of disarmament and arms control, the reinforcement of confidence building measures, and likewise the resolution of issues surrounding non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, the development of antiterrorist cooperation, and the regulation of regional conflicts.

19. In the sphere of international security, Russia will maintain its adherence to the use of political, legal, economic, military and other instruments to defend state sovereignty and national interests.

The execution of a predictable and open foreign policy is inextricably tied to the realisation of Russia's stable development. The successful integration of Russia into the global economic space and the international division of labour is inhibited by the slow pace of transition of the national economy towards an innovation-based development trajectory.

20. For the prevention of threats to national security, it is essential to guarantee social stability, ethnic and denominational harmony, increase the mobilisation potential and growth of the national economy, as well as improve the quality of work performed by state bodies and formulate effective mechanisms for their interaction with civil society, in order to realise the right of every Russian citizen to life, security, work, housing, health and a healthy way of life, accessible education and cultural development.

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Source: National Security Strategy of the Russian Federation to 2020 Approved by Decree of the President of the Russian Federation, 12 May 2009, No. 537, <http://thailand.mid.ru/en/national-security-strategy-of-the-russian-federation> (retrieved 04.07.2020).

²⁰⁸ Sections concerning national interests and strategic priorities, methods of ensuring security, organisational, normative, legal and information bases, and security assessment criteria have been omitted.

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