

S. V. Vershinin¹

ON SOME ASPECTS OF GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT AT THE CURRENT STAGE

Currently, we can say that the system of international relations is sustainably moving to further strengthening of multipolarity. And though the general transformation vector is hardly reversible, it is still uncertain what multipolarity of the 21st century will be like. In this environment, struggle for the right to set forth “the rules of the game” within the framework of the changing world order is aggravated.

“The collective West” is trying to preserve its privileges as the only decision-taking center and thus to slow down or correct the objective trends at the current stage of foreign relations development. As a result, the system of international law established over decades and serving as a guarantor of stability and predictability in world affairs, is under a threat now. The West is forcing a new formula on the other participants of international relations instead of it – some “world order based on the rules”. At the same time, such “rules” are often a free interpretation of the generally accepted international legal standards in favour of a limited group of countries. The established architecture of global governance is under a serious stress and just can’t function efficiently.

The United States and their allies more and more definitely head for the radical reformatting of multilateral institutions that don’t suit them. As a result, decisions are more and more often taken in the format of narrow situational unions instead of multilateral diplomacy universally embodied in the United Nations. After that all other states are offered to join the already agreed upon and coordinated decisions, presented as the whole international community’s position.

It’s evident that such an approach undermines the United Nations Charter, it is not in accordance with the ideals of true many-sidedness shared by the overwhelming majority of the global Organization’s member states and adds a considerable element of strategic uncertainty to international affairs, leads to increase of mutual distrust and narrows space for constructive inter-state cooperation.

The said aspects can’t fail to reflect on economy. On the one hand, we witness global economy demonstrating certain signs of revival as a result of 2018, after a long stagnation period. According to the World Bank and IMF data, global GDP growth rates amounted to about 3.7% in 2018, and it is the best indicator since 2011. At the same time, crisis phenomena development risks are still present and global economy’s dynamics is characterized by instability. According to forecasts by experts, global GDP growth rates can reduce down to 3.5% in 2019 and 3.6% in 2020. There are signs certifying the start of recession already not only in emerging countries such as Argentina and

Turkey but in developed countries as well – Italy, France, South Korea.

At the same time, we run across such global challenges as growing tension in trade relations that has recently become especially noticeable in relations between the United States and China, growth of protectionism, expected exit of the United Kingdom from the EU, geopolitical instability as well as everyone not being ready for coordinated actions.

Current international relations are characterized by intensification of rivalry in military and political, economic, financial, technological, information and other sectors. The policy of certain countries focused on promotion of the use of force, unilateral coercive measures, accusations with no proof and refusal from previously undertaken international legal obligations by no means helps normal development of states, becoming a powerful destabilizing factor for them.

New realities dictate the necessity to comprehend arising risks as a consequence of all that. Deepening inequality between developed and emerging countries, job cuts, infringement of basic human rights and freedoms, in particular, should be first of all referred to them. In that connection, search for adequate answers to such challenges should become one of the priorities of the current agenda. Activation of inter-state cooperation in development of international standards for the global Internet management and control as well as perfection and harmonization of national legislation regulating the digital technologies application sector become especially urgent in this environment.

According to experts, the world is currently on the threshold of large-scale structural transformation brought about not only by wide-spread practical implementation of computerization but also because of the debt model of economic growth being exhausted and existing global regulation mechanisms losing their efficiency. Hence the trend for protectionism being more evident, and one of its manifestations is politically motivated sanctions.

Such limitation measures are unprofitable for all the sides. The order based on ill-considered use of such tools leads only to new problems, and not helping to solve the already present contradictions.

The special feature of the current times is that conflict potential build-up in the world takes place with unprecedented inter-dependency and openness of national economies, transfer to a new technological pattern as the background. There are enough grounds to suppose that development and implementation of innovative technologies will help to stimulate economic growth and increase efficiency of natural resources use. Global economy is in the process of structural transformation under the impact of the so-called Industry 4.0, or the Fourth Industrial Revolution with active development of digital technologies. In this context, it is required to work out a new innovative, based on resource-saving principles development paradigm as well as restructure the existing global governance methods.

In our opinion, this will considerably and positively help the world order evolution and will be focused on formation of creative multipolarity – a more just and representative world order model. It should be based on large-scale, non-confrontational and equal cooperation of states

¹ Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (from March, 2018), Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary. He graduated from the Moscow State Institute of International Relations (1976) run by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR (MGIMO) and the Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR (1991). In diplomatic service since 1976. Adviser-envoy of the Russian Federation Embassy in Tunisia (1993–1997). Division head in the Department of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia (1997–2000). Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to Algeria (1999–2003). Director of the Department of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia (2005–2018). He was awarded the Order of Friendship and the Order of Honour.

and their unions, with respect to cultural and civilization diversity of the today's world, observance of generally accepted principles and standards of international law by eve-

ryone as common "rules of the game", and acknowledgement of the United Nations' role as the universal regulator for world politics.