

MULTIPOLAR WORLD AND NEW MODELS OF RELATIONSHIPS

Dear Aleksander Sergeevich, dear colleagues! I am very glad to be among you in this Hall today, at this authoritative scientific forum. Let me read out the welcoming word of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation to the organizers and participants of the Readings.

(The speaker reads out the welcoming word)*

The theme of the current event is more relevant than ever, because today we are witnessing the rapid establishment of new centers of economic, political, scientific and cultural influence. The global balance of power is shifting towards the countries of the Global South, which are no longer passive objects of geopolitics. They strive for strengthening their sovereignty and identity, pursuing their independent foreign policy courses, and defending traditional values. The gradual demise of the former socioeconomic and political model, which was characterized by the dominance of the collective West, and the formation of the multipolar world order are accompanied by increased turbulence in many areas. Armed conflicts break out, trade wars flare up, and ethnic and religious tensions arise. Due to deep disagreements between states and the commitment of the secretariats of international structures, these organizations are far from always able to cope with their tasks. The situation is aggravated by the West's attempts to maintain its dominance using neocolonial methods.

Russia is doing its best to promote the democratization of international relations. We promote the unifying agenda and are open to constructive cooperation with all those who are ready to build a dialogue based on the principles of equality, solidarity, respect, given the historical and cultural identity of its participants. We reject attempts to impose someone's own rules and regulations, to claim exclusivity, infallibility and impunity. We call for resolving disputes and contradictions at the negotiating table, and stand guard over the universally recognized norms of international law, primarily

¹Note: The welcoming word is published on Page _____ of the collection.

the principles of the UN Charter. Herewith, we strive for complying with them not selectively, as our opponents do, but in their entirety and interrelationship.

We consider the multipolar world as a system based on several pillars, which are truly sovereign civilizational countries or civilizational communities, between which stable horizontal ties have been established. It is on these principles that Russian President Vladimir Putin's initiative to form a large Eurasian partnership is based, which provides for building an architecture of equal and indivisible security, progressive and sustainable development on the continent. We see that the countries that make up the world's majority perceive Russia's actions through the prism of restoring justice and equality. And we proceed from the fact that in the new realities, the future belongs to such associations, where there is no strict block discipline, there are no leaders and followers. It is about such successful integration structures as the BRICS, the EAC and the SCO.

However, the role of the core mechanism of multilateralism and coordination of the interests of states should remain with the UN. After all, only the United Nations, by virtue of its unique legitimacy, global representation and broad competencies, is able to make multipolarity orderly and fair. Together with a wide range of like-minded people, we will continue working for the full restoration of the UN's authority and effectiveness.

It is obvious that in the new reality, the role and significance of the works by Academician D.S. Likhachev, a leading Soviet and Russian philologist, culture critic, and humanist, who made a huge contribution to the treasury of world knowledge, remain enduring. Being the same age as the 20th century, and the conscience of the nation, Likhachev shunned politics, leaving it at the mercy of professionals. Herewith, he consistently advocated the peaceful coexistence of various political systems, the consolidation of all countries and peoples, based on common moral and cultural values. I am sure that these Readings will contribute to perpetuating and popularizing the heritage of this outstanding scientist and thinker.

I believe we will have the opportunity for specifically discussing many of the issues that concern us. Being in St. Petersburg, in Leningrad, I consider it is especially

important for me personally and for everyone to remember the 80th anniversary of the Victory in the great war against fascism and Nazism. For us, this is a very serious date, especially in terms of working with the new generation. This is an urgent task, and we, as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, firmly link the date of our victory and the victory of our allies with the creation of the United Nations. For this, millions of lives have been sacrificed, and enormous suffering has been endured. And, of course, we cannot give up what was created on the ruins of the great war, when the USSR and its allies won. Therefore, it is obvious to us that the 80th anniversary of the Victory and the 80th anniversary of the United Nations are related. We are doing everything to ensure that today's attempts to reform and improve the system of multilateral international organizations are based on the right principles and harm in no way the political, economic or other interests of the Russian Federation.

A number of conflict situations, including Ukraine, Gaza, and the Middle East, were listed here. We have a clear position on them, and we hold it at all international forums, in bilateral relations and contacts, not only regarding certain negotiations, whether they are in Istanbul or elsewhere. This position is based on the obligatory elimination of the root causes of the conflict, which would ensure the security of the Russian Federation, its sustainable development, and therefore the security of Europe and the world. Conflicts should be resolved on the basis of the principles of the UN Charter, only in their full reading, in a complex, and not by tearing out individual plots, as it is sometimes the case with our Western partners. And in terms of justice, the words have already been spoken today: any conflicts – and Gaza is a very important example, – should be resolved in compliance with international humanitarian law, justice, if you like.