

28/3/2006

**Final Communiqué of the First Meeting of the Group of the
“Strategic Vision: Russia-Islamic World”
(Moscow, 27-28 March 2006)**

We, representatives of Russia and some member countries of Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC), having gathered in Moscow for the first meeting of the Group of the Strategic Vision "Russia-Islamic World:" former Prime-minister of the Russian Federation E.M.Primakov, former Prime-minister of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria Belaid Abdesselem (on sick-leave), representative of the Azerbaijani Republic, Professor Mamedaliev Vasim Mamedali Oglu (on sick-leave), representative of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Professor Dr.M.Shamsher Ali, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Mr. Ahmed Maher, Secretary General of the Indonesian Council of Ulama and President of the Central Board of Muhammadiyah, Professor Dr. Din Syamsuddin, representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran Ayatolla Taskhiry, Prince Ghazi of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Ambassador-at-large of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan, D.K.Kaseinov, Under Secretary of the State of Kuwait, Dr. Adel A. al- Falah, Ambassador of Kyrgyz Republic in the Kingdom of Belgium, the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, C.T.Aitmatov, former Minister of Endowment and religious affairs of Morocco, Dr.Abdelkebir Alaoui Medaghri, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Inam-ul-Haque, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Mohammed Hasan Abdelwali, director of the state complex “Kohi Wahdat” of the Republic of Tajikistan S.S.Mirzoshoev, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey, Mr. Yashar Yakish, former Prime-

minister of the Republic of Tunisia, Hedi Baccouche, General Director of the Diplomatic Institute of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the UAE, Dr. Yousef Al-Hassan, representative of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Professor A. Abdullayev, former Prime-minister of the Republic of Yemen, Dr. Abdul-Kareim al-Aryani declare the following:

1. We note with satisfaction the process of stable positive development of relations between Russia and member countries of OIC. We are convinced that the entrance of Russia as an observer in 2005 in the Organization of Islamic Conference, on the initiative of President Vladimir V. Putin, gave a new impulse to further fruitful expansion of relations between Russia and member countries of OIC in political, trade, economic, cultural and other fields. Moreover, this event also contributes to intensive communications between Russian Moslems and their fellow Muslims in the world. Further consolidation of such interaction not only meets the interests of Russia and member countries of OIC but also facilitates strengthening of international security in general.

Participants in the meeting are convinced that the combined potentials and resources of Russia and member countries of OIC could become a genuine constructive factor in world politics and in the global economy.

2. We underline the affinity of Russia and OIC member countries' positions on many aspects of international relations, including: the prevention of the WMD proliferation, mutual respect for nations' rights and obligations envisaged in international treaties, recognition of the central role of the United Nations in addressing key challenges of today's world, inter alia, those related to the settlement of regional conflicts, the fight against illegal drug trafficking, the importance of coordination of common efforts in mitigating environmental and natural disasters, as well as counteracting transnational terrorism and offsetting attempts to drag the world community into a confrontation between different civilizations and cultures. The participants unanimously agree that all crisis and conflict situations should be dealt with using solely political and diplomatic means.

Intercivilizational dialogue becomes especially important and relevant in this regard. New problems often result from misunderstanding and ignorance, leading to some estrangement not only between individual countries but also between entire nations and even civilizations. Although all world cultures share common values, it should be borne in mind that every civilization has its own unique identity and distinctive value. This identity is the patrimony of all mankind, with each nation having its own cultural, religious and historical experience, and the most attractive feature of our world is that it is diverse and multifaceted. Experience has shown that the progress of mankind has been driven, to a large extent, by an open dialogue between nations and the cross-fertilization of cultures. This has helped to crystallize common values for all mankind and cultivate tolerance, mutual respect and concern for each other's interests.

Intercivilizational partnership should be built on a broader base, thus becoming a responsibility of the whole civilized mankind rather than separate organizations or individuals.

The participants underline the role of the Media in promoting understanding between different countries and religions.

3. The modern world faces an ever-growing number of global problems, and many of them are related to injustice and inequality, and double standards. Transnational terrorism is one of the consequences of these maladies of our society.

We are convinced that terrorism should not be associated with any religion, particularly Islam; no great religion advocates violence, killing of innocent people, or war; on the contrary, all of them preach good, tolerance and mutual understanding.

Terrorism is a universal threat, and we can deal with it only through joint efforts. The fight against global terror has become a vital imperative, and it should unite, rather than separate countries, since at the present time, security can be nothing, if not shared. In this respect, Russia and member countries of OIC, being

wedded to the idea of equal interaction of civilizations, are strategic partners in the quest for the achievement of this noble goal.

The participants welcome the initiative of the custodian of the two holy Mosques, King of Saudi Arabia, Abdallah Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud to establish a counter-terrorism center under the supervision of the United Nations.

We believe that the religion-based confrontation, as well as the conflict of civilizations that is much spoken about these days, are threatening challenges to the contemporary world. Prevention of confrontation is our main task, as any other alternative would push the mankind into an abyss.

Therefore, we encourage all countries to introduce into their curricula a course devoted to pluralism, religious tolerance, and a respectful attitude towards different cultures. It is worth thinking about a special UN General Assembly resolution on this subject. The implementation of this project would be a practical step in the process of establishing a dialogue between civilizations through deeds and not only in name.

The participants in the meeting look forward to a report by a High-Level Group for the Alliance of Civilizations, support the efforts of Turkey and Spain in this respect and hope that it will be a good basis for increased cooperation among different cultures and religions. In this respect, we call upon the UN Secretary-General to study the possibility of creating a some type of standing advisory body - a Council of Civilizations - to promote the ideas of intercivilization partnership which will undoubtedly facilitate the achievement of international peace and prosperity and become a serious step towards promoting mutual understanding and respect, and eliminating ignorance, suspicion, hostility, extremism and violence.