

Background Material for London Hall's "Non Char Non text" Russian Approach

1. Russia does recognize the importance of the Initiative to establish new international forum L-14, - given the evident crisis of the world governance, including the failure of UN reform, the lack of representation of G-8 and the absence of coherence in the mandates of existing international organizations. For that reason Russia will welcome efforts to set in motion new effective global governance mechanism and will take active part in it.

2. Energy Security is a top priority question for Russia, since no matter who succeeds V.Putin in 2008, Russia will remain in foreseeable future "energetic power". Russian political class will at least for a decade to come consider national energy resources as natural advantage in terms of world competitiveness. In this sense Russia is really a hostage of its energy resources. But exactly in this field Russia is able to become a laboratory and a test-range for the new energy saving and ecological pure technologies, no doubt in cooperation with other countries.

3. The global climate change is of less importance for Russia, since in foreseeable future Russia will not be the major planet "polluter" like China and India. The Russian economy is too small, soviet industry is ruined and unlikely to be restored. Russia probably will support international effort in this field but hardly would be active actor.

4. The same is related to the world trade liberalization question Russia hardly would implement aggressive strategy in this area, given its modest place (role) in the world economics. Russian activity in this area will depend upon the integration speed in the world economy space and adaptation to WTO.

5. Russia would be interested to include international security issues in the world agenda. Particularly it will traditionally pay special attention to nuclear non-proliferation in the context of peaceful nuclear energy development.

Russia considers that without international security issues the world agenda will be not comprehensive and therefore the new international body not authoritative enough and not efficient.

6. Russia agrees with "package deal" approach which should be framed as "Energy and Climate Security" and accepts the described concept of White Oak meeting.

7. Russia shares in general six courses of action, described in the Background Material. In particular Russia favors long-term targets approach, which should be based upon principles of progressivism and insurance. The idea to establish a permanent influential commission sounds reasonable as well.

8. Russia welcomes the idea to encourage coordination of a multiplicity of autonomous efforts, enlisted in the second course of action, however realizing that this idea is next to impossible, especially overcoming "nothing to do with me" syndrome.

9. The most promising is a new strategy for world engagement, mentioned in the third course of action. Russia will support with enthusiasm the deal, making Russian gas more available to China, since such a deal is compatible with Russian

energy strategy. At the same time Russia will be indifferent to any plan for lowering deforestation in Brazil and other countries. Russia will be cautious to the idea of extension of the US-India commercial partnership to additional countries, since through such a deal US recognized India as de-facto nuclear power, delivering devastating blow against the nonproliferation regime.

10. Russia agrees that conservation has an important role to play and probably will be ready to share its technological experience with other countries. Russia definitely will be able to contribute to the new R&D strategy, testing and implementing new technologies in energy sector.

11. Russia welcomes the idea the L-14 would pursue tasks by instructing their representatives to work together in international agencies. However this effort is bound to fail unless L-14 becomes really authoritative international body. Anyway L-14 should be mandated by UN.

12. Russia will be ready to join the consensus on Declaratory Introduction, enlisting preamble statements, formulated in the last paragraph of Background Material.

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