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الدورة الثالثة والسبعون

البند ٣٤ من جدول الأعمال

منع نشوب النزاعات المسلحة

مجلس الأمن

السنة الرابعة والسبعون

رسالة مؤرخة ٢٦ تموز/يوليه ٢٠١٩ موجهة إلى الأمين العام من الممثل الدائم للاتحاد الروسي لدى الأمم المتحدة

أتشرف بأن أحيل إليكم طيه المقترح المقدم من الاتحاد الروسي بشأن الأمن الجماعي في منطقة الخليج الفارسي، مشفوعا بالمعلومات الأساسية المتصلة بذلك (انظر المرفقين الأول والثاني)*.

وأرجو ممتنا تعميم هذه الرسالة ومرفقيها باعتبارها وثيقة من وثائق الجمعية العامة، في إطار البند ٣٤ من جدول الأعمال، ومن وثائق مجلس الأمن.

(توقيع) ف. **نيبنزيا**

* يعمَّم المرفقان باللغتين الإنكليزية والروسية فقط.

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الرجاء إعادة استعمال الورق

المرفق الأول للرسالة المؤرخة في ٢٦ تموز/يوليه ٢٠١٩ الموجهة إلى الأمين العام من الممثل الدائم للاتحاد الروسي لدى الأمم المتحدة

Proposal of the Russian Federation on collective security in the area of the Persian Gulf

Ensuring security in the strategically significant Persian Gulf area is a key regional issue of current importance. The military and political upheavals of recent years in the Middle East and North Africa and the rapidly growing terrorist threat in this part of the world, where huge hydrocarbon resources are concentrated, hold damaging consequences for the system of international relations, as well as for global economic and, above all, energy security.

Tensions in the Gulf region have not subsided in recent decades. This has a negative impact on security and political and economic stability in the region and in the world. The existing flashpoints are being joined by new flashpoints. The environs of the Gulf have become home to a major nexus of the transnational terrorist network.

In these circumstances, vigorous and effective international and regional action is needed to remedy and improve the situation in the Persian Gulf area, overcome the protracted crisis and turn the subregion towards peace, good-neighbourliness and sustainable development.

In Russia's view, the idea of creating a security system in the Persian Gulf area could play a key role in consolidating political and diplomatic efforts in the area. This would involve the implementation of a long-term programme of action to normalize the situation, strengthen stability and security, settle conflicts, define the main guidelines and parameters for the future post-crisis architecture, as well as ways of fulfilling related tasks. Our initiative builds on the Russian proposals developed in the late 1990s and refined in 2004 and 2007.

The Russian proposal for ensuring security in the area of the Gulf is based on the following principles:

– Giving priority to consolidating into a single counter-terrorism coalition all stakeholders with an interest in eliminating the terrorist and extremist flashpoint in the Middle East and reaching a sustainable political settlement in Syria, Yemen and other countries of the region. Counter-terrorism activities should be built on a solid basis of international law, under the auspices of the Security Council. This should provide a foundation for the deployment of political and diplomatic means to resolve situations of conflict and other contentious matters. This is precisely how the key elements of the elimination of chemical weapons in Syria were successfully addressed.

– Public opinion in Muslim and other countries must be mobilized to focus on joint action to counter the terrorist threat, by means including comprehensive efforts in the information field.

– All parties should be committed to international law and, above all, to the United Nations Charter and resolutions of the United Nations Security Council. Our common goal is a democratic and prosperous Middle East that supports interfaith peace and coexistence.

– Peacekeeping operations can be carried out only on the basis of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council or at the request of the

legitimate authorities of a State that has been the victim of aggression. The application of double standards to these matters is unacceptable.

– The Persian Gulf security system must be universal and comprehensive, be based on respect for the interests of all regional and other stakeholders in all areas of security, including military, economic and energy security. It should take full account of the need to provide humanitarian assistance to countries and peoples in need in the region in order to resolve conflict situations and stabilize societies.

– Multilateralism will be regarded as the mechanism for stakeholder participation in the process of undertaking joint assessment of the situation and taking and implementing decisions. The exclusion of any party for any reason is unacceptable.

– Progress towards the creation of a security system will be achieved step by step, starting with resolution of the most acute and urgent problems. The priority issues will be combating international terrorism; the settlement of the Iraqi, Yemeni and Syrian crises; and the implementation of all agreements regarding Iran's nuclear programme.

– The principle of step-by-step action will also apply to the adoption by the States of the Persian Gulf and the international community of confidence-building measures and to the provision of mutual security guarantees in the region.

– Given the close interconnection between the problems facing the region, the creation of a Persian Gulf region security system will be seen as part of the solution to the problems of ensuring security in the Middle East as a whole. The key principles will be respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, and the resolution of domestic political problems without external interference, within constitutional frameworks and through national dialogue.

Practical action to launch the process of establishing a security system in the Persian Gulf area can be initiated through bilateral and multilateral consultations between stakeholders, including States within and outside the region, the Security Council, the League of Arab States, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf. In the course of these contacts, an initiative group should be formed to prepare an international conference on security and cooperation in the Persian Gulf area. The initiative group will be called upon to agree on the geographical scope of the future security system; on the system's participants, agenda and level of representation; and on the venue for the forthcoming forum, and also to prepare draft forum decisions, including the definition of security, confidence-building and verification measures.

Accordingly, Russia is presenting as preliminary ideas for further discussion and development the following considerations regarding the package of security, confidence-building and verification measures.

In connection with the situation in the environs of the Persian Gulf, the States of the region and stakeholders outside the region:

– Would reaffirm the totality of their international legal commitments: in particular, the renunciation of the use or threat of use of force to resolve contentious issues, respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the States of the subregion, the commitment to settle territorial and border disputes exclusively through negotiations or other peaceful means, and the fulfilment in good faith of their international obligations;

– Would make mutual commitments regarding military transparency (dialogue on military doctrines, subregional meetings of defence ministers, establishment of hotlines, exchanges of prior notification of military exercises and military aviation flights, exchanges of observers, renunciation of the permanent deployment of groups from States outside the region in the territory of the countries of the Persian Gulf, exchanges of information on armed forces and on arms purchases);

– Would conclude arms control agreements, including, for example, the establishment of demilitarized zones, the prohibition of destabilizing stockpiles of conventional weapons, including anti-missile weapons, and the balanced reduction of armed forces by all parties;

– Would, given the objective of strengthening in the Middle East the nuclear non-proliferation regime based around the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, take steps to make the region a zone free of weapons of mass destruction;

– Would conclude agreements on combating international terrorism, illegal arms trafficking and migration, drug trafficking and organized crime.

As progress is made in building the security system, discussion should begin on reducing the foreign military presence in the region and on developing common confidence-building measures between regional and other States.

The central long-term objective is to establish an Organization for Security and Cooperation in the Persian Gulf, encompassing – in addition to the countries of the Gulf – Russia, China, the United States, the European Union, India and other interested parties as observers or associate members.

There should be no let-up in efforts to resolve chronic conflicts, especially the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, which remains one of the main factors of instability in the entire Middle East region, helping extremists to acquire new recruits. In the future, in the context of achieving an Arab-Israeli settlement, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in the Persian Gulf could become part of the region-wide Middle East and North Africa security system.

Russia is ready to cooperate with all interested parties to implement these and other constructive proposals in order to ensure reliable security in the Persian Gulf area.

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Proposal of the Russian Federation on collective security in the area of the Persian Gulf – background information

The Persian Gulf region, which is strategically important for the entire world, is experiencing extremely worrying trends. We have seen a marked worsening of the confrontations between individual countries, a lack of readiness on their part to take account of each other's interests and concerns and, as a consequence, a significant increase in the potential for conflict. There is a real threat of further escalation of the situation, up to and including large-scale armed confrontation.

We regard such a development as inadmissible. In that connection, we believe there is a need for collective effort to find consensus compromise solutions aimed at reducing tension and resolving all acute crises by political and diplomatic means on the basis of international law.

Russia maintains traditionally friendly relations with all the countries of the Persian Gulf region without exception, and builds interaction with them on an equal and mutually respectful basis. We firmly believe that the key to a decent and secure future for all States and peoples of the region, which now more than ever needs a positive agenda, could be the establishment of an inclusive peace and security architecture.

As far back in the late 1990s, under completely different geopolitical circumstances, Russia had begun to develop a proposal for ensuring collective security in the Persian Gulf region. The ideas in the proposal were subsequently updated several times, and in the current circumstances have acquired a new and topical significance. The proposal provides for step-by-step progress, on the basis of equal interaction between all regional and other stakeholders, towards breaking the deadlock in situations of conflict, developing confidence-building and verification measures and, ultimately, establishing a coherent mechanism for collective security and cooperation in the subregion, with the establishment of appropriate organizational structures. The intention is that such a system should become a prelude to building a common post-crisis architecture for the Middle East region.

Our position is that the Russian proposals are not set in stone, but rather an invitation to constructive dialogue regarding ways to achieve long-term stabilization in the area of the Persian Gulf. We are prepared to enter into close contacts with all stakeholders, both through official channels and through socio-political and expert communities.