



RUSSIAN FEDERATION



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S T A T E M E N T

BY

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AT THE HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT OF THE ECOSOC 2011 SUBSTANTIVE SESSION
ON "IMPLEMENTING THE INTERNATIONALLY AGREED GOALS AND
COMMITMENTS IN REGARD TO EDUCATION"

Geneva, 5 July 2011

Mr. President,

Distinguished delegates, colleagues,

Education is among the most important factors of development. It enriches culture, promotes mutual understanding at the global level, strengthens the basis for law and democracy, and stands as a driving force behind human progress.

In order to achieve ambitious internationally agreed goals in regard to education at a time when necessary resources are limited, international organizations should employ extra efforts to strengthen cooperation with other relevant stakeholders. It is no less important to further prioritize the activities to achieve concrete and significant results.

That is why the program of work of international organizations should match the tasks set by the international community in regard to the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Despite current financial and economic constraints international organizations within the UN system should continue searching opportunities to timely achieve the MDGs. Special focus should be made on providing assistance to countries which are facing the most acute challenges in this field. Additional efforts should be undertaken to mobilize bilateral and multilateral resources in order to overcome the deficit in education financing in developing countries. Strengthening educational systems is an essential prerequisite for their social and economic development and poverty eradication.

I would like to emphasize the work of UNESCO and other international organizations, that pull together and coordinate global efforts in providing technical assistance to the countries in need, encourage them to pursue sustainable national educational policies that ensure an equitable access to education, gender equality, employment of high skilled teachers, sufficient financing with a particular focus on primary education, good governance, improvement of legislation, etc.

Meanwhile, it is unlikely that without practical measures at both national and international level we will be able to succeed in such a laborious job as implementation of "Education for All".

Modern Russia enjoys an effective system of elementary, secondary and professional education. We have positive experience and valuable expertise in

elaboration and implementation of policies in the areas of social welfare, education, science and technology and innovations in the context of multinational and multiconfessional society. Russia also has strong traditions in fundamental education and science.

My country contributes significantly to the implementation of the Program "Education for all". We are now in transition from being a recipient of international intellectual and financial resources to a donor-country and initiator of global projects aimed at assisting international development.

As you may know in September 2010 Moscow played a host for the First World Conference on Early Childhood Care and Education that brought together about 65 national ministers and deputy-ministers of education as well as many prominent representatives from international organizations, NGOs, professional educational community.

We strongly believe that the outcomes of the Conference will help us to better coordinate educational policy, mobilize intellectual and financial resources of countries and international organizations in order to develop future comprehensible programs. At present our main objective is to actively engage all the stakeholders to implement the decisions and initiatives proclaimed in the implementation of Moscow declaration.

Mr. President,

One of the crucial factors in implementing the international goals in regard to education is to keep education high on the global agenda. It is important that the international assistance as well as national expenditures on education shouldn't be decreased. We believe that the current ECOSOC session will contribute significantly to strengthening political commitment to investing in education that means investing in our future.

Thank you.

