

Position Paper for the Economic and Social Council

The issues before the Economic and Social Council are: Providing Economic and Social Services for Victims of Conflict, for Internally Displaced Persons and Refugees; Addressing the Humanitarian Needs of Haiti's Displaced, and Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and International Human Rights. The Russian Federation is a constantly emerging world economy as well as a cultural, historic and contemporary political responsible world power, incorporates innovative multilayer competences, and thus guiding capabilities on many fields of policy especially on the field of economic and social issues for improving living conditions.

I. Providing Economic and Social Services for Victims of Conflict, for Internally Displaced Persons and Refugees

In 2009 the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimated 15.2 million refugees worldwide, most of them from Afghanistan, and 27.1 million internally displaced people (IDP). The Russian Federation itself - with more than 4,880 estimated refugees in 2010 - had to cope with major inflows of fleeing persons originating in particular from Afghanistan, Iraq and former Soviet States. To ensure the protection of refugees' economic and social rights and to evenly divide the burden of host countries, the international community has to undertake a shared responsibility.

The Russian Federation strongly supported measures such as the foundation of the United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees (UNHCR) by *A/RES/428 (V)* (1950), the *Geneva Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees* adopted in *A/RES/2198 (XXI)* (1966), as well as the *Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees* (1967) and therewith actively participated in finding solutions on refugee and IDP issues. As confirmed by *E/C.12/RUS/5 (2008)*, the Russian Federation was successful in improving the situation of IDPs and refugees within its country. Due to the foundation of the *North Caucasus Theme Group* (NCTG), established in 2007 as a successor of the *NC Humanitarian Coordination Group*, the number of IDPs could be decreased by 83.8 percent since 1999 and more than 50,000 displaced families were given durable housing solutions in 2010. Since its foundation in 1992, the *International Organization for Migration Moscow* offers emergency efforts targeted to assist migrants and to combat cross-border crimes. In addition, the legal situation of refugees within Russia could be improved enormously by amending the federal law '*On the Legal Status of Foreign Citizens in the Russian Federation*' in 2010.

To improve the situation of IDPs worldwide, the Russian Federation requests to establish a new specialized program of the UN General Assembly called the *UN Internally Displaced Persons Programme* (UNIDPP). It shall develop sustainable solutions extending IDPs' situation by offering tailored expertise, legal consultancy and by fostering cooperation between Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) and UN institutions. The UNIDPP is supposed to consist of social and economic professionals, advocates and regional experts. Since concrete information about numbers and needs of IDPs is scarce, Russia suggests forming an ad-hoc working group of experts to develop a report summarizing the IDPs' main social and economic problems as well as a collection of all organizations and bodies dealing with IDPs. The report has to be presented at the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) constituting a basis for further work on a proper recommendation on the foundation of the UNIDPP, which is supposed to be introduced to the GA until the end of 2012. The Russian Federation is especially concerned about the situation of displaced people in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Republic of Iraq, being the countries of origin of about five million refugees. To find ways to reintegrate these people and to help them as efficiently as possible, Russia calls for the foundation of an *Ad-hoc advisory group on the Situation of Refugees of Afghanistan and Iraq* (AGSRAI). Over a period of six months, a team consisting of representatives from both countries of origin - Iraq and Afghanistan -, from host countries, as well as representatives of the UNHCR and the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) shall create a report on the situation and possibilities. The findings of their work shall be stated in a report which is to be presented to the ECOSOC and the Security Council.

II. Addressing the Humanitarian Needs of Haiti's Displaced

Although Haiti has received a great amount of support since the disastrous earthquake in January 2010 in which more than 230,000 people lost their lives, the situation of the 1.6 million IDPs living in overcrowded camps is still alarming. The rural migration additionally worsened conditions in Port-au-Prince. More than \$ 246 billion relief only for food was needed. The Russian Federation is especially concerned about the infrastructural conditions and the security situation within the camps and on the streets.

The Russian Federation is involved in improving the situation in Haiti for a long time by supporting the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), authorized to stabilize the country by *S/RES/1542* (2004) from the very beginning. Additionally, the Russian Federation supported the extension of the MINUSTAH mandate until October 15, 2011 with *S/RES/1944* (2010) as well as an increase of military personnel to more than 8,940 troops and 4,391 police officers with *S/RES/1927* (2010). Furthermore, the Russian Federation delegated training staff in order to support the Haitian police. After providing emergency relief as required in *A/65/335* (2010), Russia emphasizes the

proposals made in the reports *E/2009/105* (2009) and *E/2010/102* (2010) of the *Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti*. The group, established by *E/RES/1999/4* (1999) and *E/RES/2010/28* (2010), stresses the special importance of an improved infrastructure, needed for a future development of the Haitian economy.

To guarantee sustainable support to Haiti and its IDPs, the Russian Federation focuses on three main requests: In June 2011, a delegation from the permanent *Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti* in cooperation with delegates from the Haitian Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources, & Rural Development shall start to explore the possibilities of cultivating Haiti's landscape. The delegation is encouraged to foster a strong cooperation with local entities, like the *Trees for the Future Program*, as well as the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO). The delegation's conclusions are supposed to be reported to the ECOSOC within one year to improve the access to food, and to strengthen the Haitian economy in the long term. To ameliorate Haiti's infrastructure as a basis for sustainable economic progress, Russia demands the establishment of a *Haiti Infrastructure Cluster* (HIC) according to the principles of the UN cluster system. The HIC is expected to consist of delegates from the Haitian Ministry on Public Works and Transportation, local enterprises of the construction sector, and in addition professionals from industrialized countries. Russia offers to send a group of engineers to assist the HIC for a period of seven months and calls for other countries to follow this example. The HIC shall be financed by the World Food Programme (WFP). Besides the shortages in nutrition and infrastructure, Haiti still has a "crime problem" resulting from an understaffed and under-equipped police force. Hence, the cooperation between MINUSTAH and the Haitian National Police (HNP) established in 2004 has to be strengthened. Therefore, a special program called *Haitian Future Police Force* (HAIFUPF) shall be created with the aim to train HNP and MINUSTAH officers together, enabling them to solve future conflicts in joint efforts. The training shall be financed through the MINUSTAH budget. Subsequent to an evaluation phase, conducted by the *Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti*, a second period shall start in half a year from now. The Russian Federation will provide training forces to the program and stresses the importance of further international support.

III. Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and International Human Rights

The worldwide human rights situation of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transsexual (LGBT) people is alarming and many people still have disapprobatory attitudes towards homosexual individuals. The Russian Federation has continuously worked on improving this situation. To ensure the protection of the LGBT human rights and to avoid conflicts, the international awareness on this topic has yet to grow.

In 1993, the Russian Federation decriminalized homosexuality by repealing article 121 of the *Constitution of the Russian Federation*. Since 1997, transsexual and transgender people are allowed to change their legal gender. Beginning with 2003, gay men are allowed to serve in the Russian military. Signaling Russia's will to foster the civil society's discussion on LGBTs, the city of Moscow hosted the *National Conference of Civil Organizations in Support of Lesbian Gay Bi- and Transsexuals Movement* (2010). Additionally, Russia is a signatory state of the proposed *UN Declaration on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity* (2008), which targets at preventing discrimination based on gender orientation and identity. Moreover, Russia approves the Secretary General's speech *SG/SM/13311* (2010), in which he calls upon all UN member states to continue the fight against discrimination of LGBT people. During meeting 71 of the GA's 63rd session, Russia militated against any disadvantage of people with non-traditional sexual orientation. As stated by experts, Russia calls attention to the link between *Men Who Have Sex With Men* (MSM) and the infection risk of the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV).

Recognizing the UN High Commissioner on Refugees (UNHCR) *Guidance note on refugee claims relating to sexual orientation and gender identity* (2008), the Russian Federation appeals to the ECOSOC member states for a new report about refugees discriminated because of their sexual orientation. The report shall contain information about the refugees' countries of origin and show the refugee streams. It shall be presented to the UNHCR and identify perspectives for possible returns and specialized programs to help and protect the fugitives. Similar to the *National Conference of Civil Organizations in Support LGBT Movement* in Russia, the Russian delegation urges for an *International Conference on the Concerns of the LGBT Community* (ICCLGBTC) to take place in September 2011 in Moscow. The ICCLGBTC targets at debating on the problems of the international LGBT community as well as on possibilities to prevent discrimination against them. Thus, the Russian Federation asks all states to enable the ICCLGBTC by sending one delegate per state. To combat HIV, especially among MSM, Russia proposes the foundation of an *MSM Support Team* (MSMST) as part of the *Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS* (UNAIDS). Analogous to UNAIDS' *Regional Support Teams* (RST) the MSMST shall help coordinating and providing informational programs enlightening how to prevent the risk of re-infection and spreading of sexual diseases. In close cooperation with the United Nations Volunteers, teams consisting of medical and social volunteers as well as professional medics shall offer *in-situ* consultancy on related topics. Affected states as well as specialized regional NGOs shall be given the possibility to request the support of an MSMST for a period of six months. During a pilot phase of three years, the costs of the MSMST group shall be covered by the UNAIDS budget.