

The OSCE Secretariat bears no responsibility for the content of this document and circulates it without altering its content. The distribution by OSCE Conference Services of this document is without prejudice to OSCE decisions, as set out in documents agreed by OSCE participating States.

PC.DEL/922/22
24 June 2022

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
MR. ALEKSANDR VOLGAREV, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1379th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

23 June 2022

On the 25th St. Petersburg International Economic Forum

Mr. Chairperson,

The 25th St. Petersburg International Economic Forum was held from 15 to 18 June under the slogan “New Opportunities in a New World”. Over the past 25 years, the Forum has earned the reputation as one of the world’s leading platforms for discussing key issues in the global economy and sharing global best practices and expertise in pursuit of sustainable development.

The large-scale event in Russia’s northern capital clearly demonstrated that the mantras repeated in this room by a number of countries about some kind of international isolation of Russia are merely wishful thinking. Our flagship congress event was able to fully confirm its international standing.

The anniversary event was attended by 14,000 people from 130 countries, with 79 States sending official representatives. The Forum was covered by over 3,000 journalists. The six largest delegations were Egypt (as a guest country), Kazakhstan, Türkiye, China, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. Significantly, while there were no officials from most of the countries that have associated themselves with the unlawful unilateral sanctions against our country, business people and experts from those countries were present at the ExpoForum site.

The Presidents of Armenia and Kazakhstan, the heads of the Donetsk People’s Republic and the Luhansk People’s Republic, the Serbian member of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Prime Ministers of Kyrgyzstan and the Central African Republic, the Vice-President of Venezuela and the Deputy Prime Ministers of Abkhazia, Belarus, Cuba and South Ossetia were among the distinguished guests at the Forum. Some 40 foreign delegations were represented at the ministerial level and around 60 countries sent their ambassadors to the Forum. Twelve heads of international organizations and associations came to St. Petersburg.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Forum fully confirmed the reputation it has established over a quarter of a century as a leading international business event. On the margins of the Forum, which was attended by around 1,110 Russian and foreign companies, some 700 agreements were signed worth more than 5.6 trillion roubles.

Participants were offered a wide-ranging business programme of 214 events (involving 1,500 moderators from Russia and other countries), divided into four blocks: the new economic order, the Russian economy, modern technologies and investment.

The main event at the Forum was the plenary session on 17 June, with the participation of the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, and the President of Kazakhstan, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev. The leaders of Egypt and China addressed the guests by video link.

The Russian Head of State made a wide-ranging statement on the global agenda. The President stressed that the era of a unipolar world order has come to an end – it is impossible to play by the old rules in a changed world, while the deterioration of the global economy did not begin a few months ago and is the result of systemic managerial errors by the US administration and Western bureaucracies. The anti-Russian sanctions are built on the false premise of the vulnerability of our economy, but attempts by the West to isolate undesirable countries are futile.

Bilateral negotiations with foreign partners, including talks at the highest level, along with international sessions on the margins of the Forum, also played an important role.

Several key thematic sessions were devoted to interaction through the Eurasian Economic Union, the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, focusing on the promotion of the Greater Eurasian Partnership initiative. The B20 Regional Consultation Forum, which discussed international private sector co-operation to mitigate global crises, was a further notable event.

Food and energy security, the development of new ways of financial settlement, co-operation in innovation and technology, health, education and culture, and co-operation within integration associations were identified as priority areas.

Mr. Chairperson,

The holding of this Forum at the highest level demonstrates Russia's prominent role in international affairs, its self-sufficiency and economic sovereignty, its resistance to all forms of blackmail and pressure from unfriendly States, and our readiness to broaden dialogue with constructively minded foreign partners.

Detailed information on Forum events, key facts and statistics are available on the Roscongress Foundation's information and analysis system (roscongress.org).

Thank you for your attention.