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Text of statement dated 18 September 2006 from the President of the Russian Federation to the participants of the 50th regular session of the General Conference

At the request of the delegation of the Russian Federation, the Secretariat herewith attaches the text of a statement dated 18 September 2006 from the President of the Russian Federation to the participants of the 50th regular session of the General Conference.

PRESIDENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

18 September 2006

Moscow, Kremlin

To the participants in the 50th session of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency

Greetings to the participants in the 50th anniversary session of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Over the decades the IAEA has remained an organization that actively fosters international partnership in the field of the peaceful use of atomic energy and upholds the nuclear weapons non-proliferation regime.

The decision to award the Agency and its Director General the Nobel Peace Prize in October 2005 was a confirmation of the IAEA's great role and importance. This award testifies to the effectiveness of the Agency's work and to the public significance of the results it has achieved.

Our country has always been most active in supporting the work of the IAEA, and will continue to do so. This year, Russia launched an initiative to establish international centres for nuclear fuel reprocessing and enrichment. We are convinced that putting this idea into practice will allow all interested countries non-discriminatory access to the benefits of atomic energy.

I consider that continued improvement, under the aegis of the IAEA, of the global nuclear power infrastructure will help effectively to enhance its security. This relates above all to the provision of nuclear fuel cycle services and also to strengthening of the non-proliferation regime, as was reaffirmed by the G8 leaders at the St. Petersburg summit of 15–17 July 2006.

I am sure that the IAEA will continue to make a significant contribution to the development of the peaceful utilization of atomic energy and will actively facilitate the development and introduction of ecologically safe and economically efficient nuclear technologies to meet humankind's growing energy needs.

I wish that your work may be successful and fruitful.

(signed) V. Putin