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**General Assembly
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Seventy-fifth year****The rule of law at the national and international levels****Letter dated 23 June 2020 from the Permanent Representatives of
the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Russian Federation to the
United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the
President of the Security Council**

We have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the Declaration of the Russian Federation and the Islamic Republic of Iran on the promotion of international law, signed in Moscow on 16 June 2020 by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Sergey Lavrov, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mohammad Javad Zarif (see annex).

We should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 83, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Majid **Takht Ravanchi**
Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran

(Signed) Vassily **Nebenzia**
Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation



Annex to the letter dated 23 June 2020 from the Permanent Representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

[Original: English and Russian]

Declaration of the Russian Federation and the Islamic Republic of Iran on the Promotion of International Law

1. The Russian Federation and the Islamic Republic of Iran reiterate their full commitment to the principles of international law as they are reflected in the United Nations Charter and the 1970 Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. The principles of international law are the cornerstone for just and equitable international relations featuring win-win cooperation and establishing common space of equal and indivisible security and economic cooperation.

2. The Russian Federation and the Islamic Republic of Iran share the view that the principle of sovereign equality is crucial for the stability of international relations. States enjoy their rights on the basis of independence and on an equal footing, and assume their obligations and responsibilities on the basis of mutual respect. States have the right to participate in the making of and applying international law on an equal footing, and have the obligation to comply with international law in good faith and in a coherent and consistent manner.

3. The Russian Federation and the Islamic Republic of Iran reaffirm the principle that States shall refrain from the threat or use of force in violation of the United Nations Charter against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State and therefore condemn unilateral military interventions.

4. The Russian Federation and the Islamic Republic of Iran fully support the principle of non-intervention in the internal or external affairs of States and condemn as a violation of this principle any interference by States in the internal or external affairs of other States with the aim of forging change of legitimate governments.

5. The Russian Federation and the Islamic Republic of Iran consider as a violation of this principle any action or attempt in whatever form or under whatever pretext to destabilize or to undermine the stability of another State or of any of its institutions.

6. The Russian Federation and the Islamic Republic of Iran condemn extraterritorial application of national law by States not in conformity with international law as another example of violation of the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States.

7. The Russian Federation and the Islamic Republic of Iran regard as a part of the principle of non-intervention in the internal or external affairs of States the sovereign and inalienable right of a State to determine its own political, economic, cultural and social system, to develop its international relations and to exercise permanent sovereignty over its natural resources in accordance with the will of its people, without outside intervention, interference, subversion, coercion or threat in any form whatsoever.

8. The Russian Federation and the Islamic Republic of Iran reaffirm the principle of peaceful settlement of disputes and express their firm conviction that States shall resolve their disputes through dispute settlement means and mechanisms

that they have agreed upon to serve the goal of resolving disputes in a peaceful manner in accordance with applicable international law, thus leading to de-escalation of tensions and promotion of peaceful cooperation. It is crucial for the maintenance of international legal order that all dispute settlement means and mechanisms are based on consent and used in good faith and in the spirit of cooperation, and their purposes shall not be undermined by abusive practices.

9. The Russian Federation and the Islamic Republic of Iran share the view that good faith implementation of generally recognized principles and rules of international law excludes the practice of double standards or imposition by some States of their will on other States, and consider that imposition of unilateral coercive measures also known as “unilateral sanctions” is an example of such practice. Unilateral coercive measures, specifically in the form of economic forcible action, also target groups in most vulnerable economic and social situations. Thus, all States shall refrain from promulgating and applying any unilateral coercive measures since they impede the full achievement of economic and social development, and have negative impacts on the enjoyment of all human rights, including the right to development, trade and investment.

10. The Russian Federation and the Islamic Republic of Iran condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations as a global threat to international peace and security that undermines the international order based on international law and reiterate that terrorism should not be associated with any religion, nationality, ethnic group or civilization and that acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable regardless of their motivations, whenever, wherever and by whomsoever committed. They emphasize the need for united efforts and a comprehensive approach in preventing and countering terrorism in accordance with international law, including the UN Charter and stress on inadmissibility of false accusations against instrumentalities of States which could undermine international efforts in combating terrorism. They also support implementation of UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in an integrated and balanced way.

11. The Russian Federation and the Islamic Republic of Iran assert that international obligations regarding immunity of States, their property and officials must be honored by States at all times. Violations of these obligations are not in conformity with the principle of sovereign equality of States and may contribute to the escalation of tensions.

12. The Russian Federation and the Islamic Republic of Iran intend to counter unlawful unilateral approaches of crisis resolution worldwide, as well as to actively promote just multilateral and collective approaches based on generally recognized principles and rules of international law to resolve global and regional pressing issues. The Russian Federation and the Islamic Republic of Iran reject concepts that attempt to undermine the international order based on international law.

13. In line with their relationship of strategic partnership, the Russian Federation and the Islamic Republic of Iran are resolved to further enhance their cooperation in upholding and promoting international law and in establishing of a just and equitable international order based on international law.

Done at Moscow, on 16 June 2020.

On Behalf of the Russian Federation
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Sergey Victorovich Lavrov

On Behalf of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Mohammad Javad Zarif