

**Security Council**

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**Letter dated 18 September 2025 from the Permanent  
Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations  
addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to inform you that the Russian Federation, in its capacity as President of the Security Council for the month of October 2025, will hold an open debate on the theme “The United Nations Organization: looking into the future”. The event will take place on 24 October 2025.

In this regard, I would be grateful for the circulation of the present letter and concept note for the above-mentioned meeting (see annex) as a document of the Security Council.

*(Signed)* Vassily Nebenzia



**Annex to the letter dated 18 September 2025 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

**Concept note for the Security Council open debate on the theme “The United Nations Organization: looking into the future”, to be held on 24 October 2025**

**Introduction**

On 24 October 1945, the Charter of the United Nations entered into force, marking the beginning of a new chapter in global diplomacy and establishing the foundation for future international relations. Guided by political will and wisdom, the founding fathers of the United Nations were determined “to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind”. They demonstrated foresight and responsibility by choosing to set aside their ideological differences and establish a universal organization where all Member States, large or small, would have equal rights and responsibilities. A universal organization with the principles of the sovereign equality of States, non-interference in internal affairs and peaceful settlement of disputes at its core.

The fundamental principles and norms of international law governing international relations were enshrined in the Charter to maintain and strengthen international peace based on freedom, equal rights and self-determination, justice and security, and to develop friendly relations and cooperation among nations.

**Background**

For eight decades, the United Nations has served as a unique and irreplaceable platform for dialogue, diplomacy and cooperation among nations, grounded in mutual respect and sovereign equality of States. Its achievements can hardly be overstated: it has overseen decolonization, supported the independence of over 80 former colonies and embedded the right of peoples to self-determination into international law and practice. Along the way, the United Nations also advanced international law, developed peacekeeping operations, provided humanitarian assistance and contributed to sustainable development. Together, these accomplishments affirm the enduring relevance of multilateralism and collective approaches to global challenges.

Over time, the United Nations has expanded in membership, mandate and scope, addressing new issues while remaining faithful to its founding mission: to promote peace, foster sustainable development and coordinate the efforts of Member States – large and small, rich and poor, powerful and vulnerable alike. Despite ongoing conflicts, deepening inequalities and emerging global threats, the United Nations continues to provide an essential forum for cooperation and joint action in pursuit of the goals enshrined in the Charter.

Nowadays, the Organization faces mounting challenges that test its credibility, adaptability and legitimacy. Bloc confrontation, unilateralism, double standards and selective interpretation of Charter principles under the guise of a so-called “rules-based international order” remain alarming trends of the present time. Such practices erode trust in multilateralism and undermine international law. Attempts to replace universally agreed legal norms with unilateral concepts run counter to both the spirit and the letter of the Charter and the 1970 Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States, which remains central to the full implementation of the Charter. At the same time, efforts to

undermine the intergovernmental nature of the United Nations by artificially elevating non-governmental actors with dubious agendas further complicate its work.

In this context, global solidarity and collective action are becoming more essential than ever. Only by seeking a fair balance of legitimate national interests and fostering the global system of collective security can we realize the vision set forth in the Charter: “to be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of these common ends”. The Charter continues to provide the legal and political foundation for international relations, and there is no viable alternative to this framework. Safeguarding its purposes and principles, in their entirety and interrelatedness, must remain our shared responsibility. The eightieth anniversary is therefore not only a commemoration but also a solemn call for renewed commitment by all Member States to the maintenance of international peace and security.

The open debate provides an opportunity to reaffirm that the United Nations is not a relic of the past, but a unique, indispensable and adaptable mechanism for addressing today’s most pressing challenges. In an increasingly multipolar world, the role of the United Nations must expand rather than diminish. Restoring confidence in the Organization requires Member States to uphold sovereign equality, engage in genuine cooperation and pursue responsible reform of the United Nations system – always with sovereign States retaining the leading role. The Secretary-General’s UN80 Initiative should therefore be carried out strictly within the framework established by Member States and in full conformity with their resolutions and decisions. In doing so, we honour the legacy of the founders and safeguard the role of the United Nations as an essential platform for forging common ground for generations to come. It is also vital to ensure that the Security Council’s prerogatives are not undermined and that the Council retains its primary responsibility in the maintenance of international peace and security, as envisaged by the founders of the United Nations. The Security Council members have a special responsibility to cast aside their disagreements and work collectively to ensure a seamless transition to an equitable world order.

### **Questions for the discussion**

1. What could be done to ensure that the Charter is implemented in its entirety and that its purposes and principles are applied in their interrelatedness?
2. What concrete measures can help to overcome the current crisis of confidence, revive a culture of dialogue and strengthen the spirit of unity within the Organization, particularly in the Security Council?
3. What is the long-term vision of the future of the United Nations after its eightieth anniversary, including against the backdrop of the Secretary-General’s UN80 Initiative?

### **Format**

Open debate. All Member States are invited to participate.

### **Briefers**

The Secretary-General, by videoconference (to be confirmed).