

Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov's opening remarks during talks with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, Moscow, June 21, 2018

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Mr Secretary-General,

Colleagues,

We are glad that we have this opportunity to continue the conversation about Russia-UN cooperation, which began at your meeting with President Vladimir Putin yesterday.

As emphasised by President Putin, we have invariably supported, support, and will continue to support the UN, this unique universal organisation. We think highly of your intention, Mr Secretary-General, to raise the profile of the United Nations in world affairs, particularly in settling regional conflicts. As you noted yourself at the meeting in the Kremlin yesterday, this is largely dependent on the general state of the international system as a whole and the UN member states' readiness to act collectively, jointly, rather than unilaterally, and to pursue the goals enshrined in the UN Charter rather than self-centred, immediate aims.

We note that you have consistently advocated the pooling of efforts by major players to deal with world problems. This is the logic of the UN Charter, specifically its clauses on the creation and powers of the UN Security Council. I hope that based on the values we share we will be able to successfully continue cooperation in the interests of solving international problems.

Welcome!