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**Elimination of unilateral extraterritorial coercive economic
measures as a means of political and economic compulsion**

The rule of law at the national and international levels

**Letter dated 6 May 2025 from the representatives of Belarus and
the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General**

We have the honour to transmit herewith the joint Declaration of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus on the Strengthening of the Role of International Law and Guidelines on the Qualification of Unilateral Coercive Measures as Illegal and on the Ways and Means to Counter, Mitigate and Redress the Adverse Impacts of Such Measures, which was signed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus on 22 November 2024 (see annex).*

We should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 30 and 84, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Pavel **Evseenko**
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Belarus

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

* Circulated in the languages of submission only in line with current liquidity management measures.



**Annex to the letter dated 6 May 2025 from the representatives of
Belarus and the Russian Federation to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General**

**Declaration of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus
on the Strengthening of the Role of International Law and
Guidelines on the Qualification of Unilateral Coercive Measures as
Illegal and on Ways and Means to Counter, Mitigate and Redress
the Adverse Impacts of Such Measures**

The Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus,

Emphasizing the paramount importance of the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter for the maintenance of international peace and security,

Recalling United Nations resolution [2625 \(XXV\)](#) of 24 October 1970 containing the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming the need for universal adherence to and implementation of the rule of law at both national and international levels, as well as our commitment to the international order based on international law,

Convinced that multilateral legal approach is an important element of the existing international order and an effective way to maintain peace and promote development,

Affirming and recognizing the value of each subject of international law as an important participant in international relations and member of the international community,

Considering international law as one of the outstanding achievements of human civilization, helping nations and peoples to preserve peace, stability, confidence in their secure future and trust in each other, protecting the sovereignty of States and human dignity from discrimination and unjust coercion, and protecting nature from predatory exploitation,

Reaffirming the obligation of States to refrain in their international relations from military, political, economic or any other form of coercion towards the political independence or territorial integrity of any State and the exercise by peoples of their right to self-determination, freedom and independence,

Calling upon States and international organizations to eliminate the practice of double standards or the imposition of their will on other subjects of international law,

Recalling General Assembly resolution [3281 \(XXIX\)](#) of 12 December 1974 containing the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, according to which no State may use or encourage the use of economic, political or any other coercive measures against another State to infringe upon its sovereign rights or to benefit therefrom,

Believing that “unilateral coercive measures” refers to coercive measures taken by a State, group or association of States or international organizations in violation of the principles of sovereign equality of States and non-intervention in the internal affairs of States, including the pressure in any form, whether political, judicial, financial or economic, in order to compel another State to change its policy, and which involves harm to that State and to those who support its political course,

Recognizing that unilateral coercive measures in certain cases run counter to Security Council resolutions adopted under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, and violate the prerogatives of the Security Council under the United Nations Charter,

Bearing in mind the importance of free trade for the development of States and well-being of their peoples,

Affirming that unilateral coercive measures create obstacles to the full enjoyment of human rights and impede the full realization of the rights set forth in major international human rights instruments,

have adopted the following Declaration:

Section 1. Enhancing the role of international law

1.1. The Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus declare their adherence to the principles of international law as reflected in the Charter of the United Nations 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 in their entirety and interrelationship are the fundamental basis for just and equitable international relations characterized by mutually beneficial cooperation, creating a community of a united future for humankind and forming a common space of equal and indivisible security and economic interaction.

1.2. The Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus share the view that international law is intended to unite its subjects to ensure their freedom, prosperity, mutual respect and voluntary cooperation, and not to be a tool aimed at the establishment of unjust domination, discrimination, suppression of some States by other States, groups or associations of States or international organizations in violation of the Charter of the United Nations.

1.3. The Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus proceed from the premise that the principle of sovereign equality is essential for the stability of international relations. States enjoy their rights on the basis of independence and equality and assume obligations and responsibilities on the basis of mutual respect. States have the right to participate in the creation, interpretation and application of international law on an equal footing and are bound to observe international law in good faith, uniformly and consistently.

1.4. The Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus reaffirm the principle that States shall refrain from the threat or use of force in violation of the Charter of the United Nations, and therefore condemn the unilateral use of armed force that does not constitute an exercise of the right of individual or collective self-defense under Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations.

1.5. The Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus fully support the principle of non-interference in the internal or external affairs of States and characterize as a violation of this principle any interference by one State in the internal affairs of other States for the purpose of forging change of legitimate governments. The Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus consider the acts committed in any form and under any pretext to disrupt or undermine the stability of another State or any of its institutions to be a violation of this principle.

1.6. The Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus confirm their commitment to the principle of cooperation between States, regardless of differences in their political, economic and social systems, with the goal of maintaining international peace and security and promoting international economic stability and

progress, the general welfare of peoples and international cooperation free from discrimination based on such differences.

1.7. The Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus do not accept the extraterritorial application by States of national jurisdiction and legislation in violation of international law as another example of violation of the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of States.

1.8. The Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus regard as an element of the principle of non-intervention in the affairs of States and as a manifestation of their sovereignty the right to determine their own way of development, their own political, economic, cultural and social systems in accordance with the will of their people without external interference, coercion or threats.

1.9. The Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus reiterate the principle of the peaceful settlement of disputes and express the firm conviction that States are obliged to settle disputes by means and mechanisms for the settlement of disputes freely agreed upon between them, and that all means of dispute settlement should serve the purpose of settling disputes by peaceful means in accordance with applicable international law and should have the ultimate effect of easing tensions and establishing peaceful cooperation between disputing parties. It is essential for the maintenance of the world legal order that all means and mechanisms for the settlement of disputes be consensual and used in good faith and in a spirit of cooperation, in accordance with the principles of the United Nations Charter, and that their purposes not be discredited by any abuse.

1.10. The Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus are of the view that the good faith implementation of the universally recognized principles and rules of international law excludes the practice of “double standards”, unilateral coercion or imposition by some States of their own vision of domestic and foreign policies upon other States. The Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus reject the concepts aimed at undermining the world order based on international law and will therefore oppose any kind of promotion in its place in contemporary international relations of the so-called “rules-based order”, which can entail, inter alia, discrimination against various States and peoples on social, economic, political, cultural, civilizational and other grounds.

1.11. The Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations as a global threat to international peace and security and reaffirm that terrorism should not be associated with any religion, nationality, ethnic group or civilization and that any terrorist acts are criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of their motivation. They note the need for a united effort and a comprehensive approach to prevent and suppress terrorism in accordance with international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, and to address the causes and phenomena that give rise to this social scourge, in particular through the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. They confirm their readiness to combat jointly, in accordance with the international obligations of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus, the spread of terrorist and extremist ideology, as well as to counter recruitment into the ranks of terrorist organizations.

1.12. The Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus state that international obligations concerning the immunities of States, their property and officials should be strictly observed by States. The violations of these obligations contradict the principle of the sovereign equality of States and can aggravate tensions in bilateral and global relations.

1.13. The Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus emphasize the important role of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea in upholding the rule of law with respect to activities in the Oceans. It is of utmost importance that the provisions of this universal treaty are applied consistently and in such a manner that does not impair rights and legitimate interests of States Parties to the Convention, in particular landlocked States Parties, and not to compromise the integrity of the legal regime established by the Convention, including the exercise of the right to freedom of transit.

1.14. The Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus intend to counter illegal unilateral approaches for resolution of crisis situations around the world and to actively promote fair multilateral and collective approaches based on universally recognized principles and rules of international law in order to resolve the pressing global and regional challenges.

1.15. The Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus express concern about the emerging trend of politicization of international justice and the activities of international judicial institutions, in particular having the jurisdiction to decide on issues of international criminal law and of application of unilateral coercive measures. They consider unacceptable the violation by these institutions of generally recognized principles and rules of international law, including those related to the immunity of state officials from foreign and international jurisdiction.

1.16. The Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus advocate for a more equitable and balanced geographical representation of judges, arbitrators and experts in international judicial, arbitral and other bodies entrusted to settle disputes with the assistance of independent third parties, which should ensure equal civilizational, regional-integration, political-legal and socio-economic representation of States in such institutions.

1.17. The Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus state and condemn attempts to abuse universal criminal jurisdiction, which shatter mutual confidence between subjects of international law and international cooperation in the field of international criminal justice.

1.18. The Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus restate the enduring importance for international law of the Nuremberg and Tokyo trials in the context of the condemnation of crimes against humanity and war crimes committed during the Second World War, which require constant and inalterable attention with a view to preventing the commission of such massive crimes in the future and preserving the memory of their numerous victims. They emphasize that the facts of the expulsion and annihilation of the civilian population of the USSR by the Nazis and their collaborators, established in the judgment of the International Military Tribunal in Nuremberg, are regarded as genocide of the peoples of the Soviet Union.

1.19. The Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus advocate for the creation of conditions for the equal and full participation of representatives of all States in the development of contemporary international law, taking into account the diversity of political-legal, socio-economic and regional-integration systems.

1.20. The Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus note the significance of promoting strict compliance in any kind of armed conflict with the rules of international humanitarian law and intend to support the efforts of their respective national bodies to jointly promote the teaching, dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law and create conditions for their proper implementation, including in the context of new challenges to international humanitarian law arising under the expanding use of cutting-edge digital technologies in military activities.

1.21. In line with their relationship of strategic partnership the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus are resolved to strengthen bilateral cooperation to support and enhance the role of international law in strengthening a just and equitable international order based on the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and other fundamental rules of international law reflecting the free will of all States and peoples.

1.22. The Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus will promote the establishment of mechanisms for coordination and consultation between the foreign ministries, other interested government agencies and academia circles of two countries for implementing the provisions of this Declaration both at the bilateral level and within the framework of international organizations, structures and initiatives to which they are parties.

Section 2. Guidelines on the qualification of unilateral coercive measures as illegal and ways and means to counter, mitigate and redress the adverse impacts of such measures

2.1. The Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus declare their commitment to the elaboration of international legal instruments to condemn and prohibit unilateral coercive measures taken in violation of the Charter of the United Nations and rules of international law in general.

2.2. The Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus condemn the arbitrary implementation of unilateral coercive measures, since the implementation of such measures by States, groups or associations of States, international organizations without a relevant decision of the United Nations Security Council or in addition to the measures adopted by this body may deprive the United Nations Security Council measures of their object and purposes, and undermine the integrity and effectiveness of global and regional security systems.

2.3. The Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus declare the inadmissibility of creating obstacles as a result of implementation unilateral coercive measures for access of individuals and legal persons to justice, the exercise of their rights to a fair trial, mechanisms to protect rights, as well as to prosecute and obtain compensation for damage caused by the breach of such rights.

2.4. Referring to the above problems associated with the illegal practice of implementing unilateral coercive measures, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus proclaim the following guidelines concerning the qualification of such measures as illegal, as well as ways and means to counter, mitigate and redress the adverse impacts of their implementation:

- 1) recourse of any State, group or association of States or international organizations to unilateral coercive measures is unlawful, contrary to the United Nations Charter and international law, and will entail international legal responsibility;
- 2) a State, group or association of States or international organizations which compel another State or another subject of international law to implement unilateral coercive measures will entail international responsibility;
- 3) unilateral coercive measures, including those of an extraterritorial nature, implemented by a third State, group or association of States or international organizations in violation of the United Nations Charter and international law should not be recognized and implemented;

4) subjects of international law should refrain from adopting, promulgating and applying unilateral coercive measures that impede the achievement of sustainable development goals in the social and economic, humanitarian and other fields;

5) any decision of a foreign court arising from the application of national laws, orders and regulations imposing unilateral coercive measures on other States or other subjects of international law should not be recognized or enforced by the competent national authorities;

6) State property and assets, as well as consular and diplomatic premises and the property of diplomatic missions and consular posts, shall be immune from and shall not subject to freezing, forfeiture, confiscation or any other form of restriction as a result of unilateral coercive measures. The jurisdictional immunities of States and the immunity of their properties shall be observed and protected against the implementation of unilateral coercive measures;

7) property and assets of individuals and legal entities, including bank accounts, bonds and real estate, shall not be subject to freezing, forfeiture or confiscation, or restriction in any other form as a result of unilateral coercive measures;

8) in the event of economic or financial loss incurred as a result of adoption of unilateral coercive measures, a State, group or association of States that has inflicted such loss on the affected subject of international law, individuals and legal entities, by its actions or extraterritorial application of its national laws, shall be primarily held liable for compensation and damages;

9) no one shall be held administratively, criminally or otherwise liable, deprived of liberty or subjected to any other form of restriction grounded in unilateral coercive measures, as well as decisions taken to implement them, and/or discriminatory laws and policies;

10) individuals and legal entities cannot be held liable for failure to comply with the requirements of illegal unilateral coercive measures or circumvention of such measures;

11) under no circumstances trade in humanitarian goods and commodities such as foodstuffs and agricultural commodities, medicines and medical devices, as well as spare parts, equipment and associated services necessary for the safety of civil aviation, should be subject to direct or indirect unilateral coercive measures;

12) unilateral coercive measures should not even temporarily restrict activities related to tangible or intangible cultural properties, culture, education, scientific research and sport, funds pertaining to the functioning of diplomatic missions and consular posts, contributions to international organizations, funds pertaining to educational and scientific activities, and other activities of a similar character;

13) unilateral coercive measures in the field of culture, restrictions on specific cultural figures on the basis of their nationality, citizenship or political convictions and affiliations (with the exception of restrictions on ideologies of terrorism and extremism, including neo-Nazism), as well as the practice of “cancelling the culture” of specific nations or peoples shall be considered unacceptable;

14) any unilateral coercive measure that adversely affects the entire population of a State and narrows the humanitarian space by hindering the humanitarian needs of that population or impeding the full enjoyment of human rights and freedoms, including its essential economic, social and cultural rights as enshrined in international human rights instruments, shall be considered as a grave violation of international human rights law;

15) in cases of natural and other disasters, humanitarian aid shall not be subject to unilateral coercive measures.

2.5. The Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus intend to be guided by the guiding principles set out in paragraph 2.4 of Section 2 of this Declaration when adopting regulatory legal acts and implementing policies aimed at countering illegal unilateral coercive measures.

Done at Brest on 22 November 2024.

**For the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of
the Russian Federation**

**For the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of
the Republic of Belarus**
