Joint Statement of the Russian Academy of Sciences and the U.S. National Academy of Sciences on the Occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of Russian-American Interacademy Cooperation June 18, 2009 - Moscow

To celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the first interacademy agreement, delegations of the Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS) and the U.S. National Academy of Sciences (NAS), National Academy of Engineering, and Institute of Medicine met in Moscow June 17-18, 2009. The Russian delegation was headed by RAS President Academician Yu.S. Osipov and the U.S. delegation was headed by NAS President Dr. Ralph J. Cicerone. Following the discussion of interacademy activities, the delegations held a scientific symposium on priority fields of Russian-American cooperation.

The members of the Russian and U.S. delegations noted the great contribution of the Russian and American scientists who have participated in interacademy cooperation since 1959 to the development of international science and to the building of trust between the governments and people of the two countries. They noted many examples of successful exchanges, joint studies, and seminars carried out over the past fifty years. They also underscored the importance of continued cooperation bilaterally and with partners throughout the world in addressing global scientific issues. Members of the academies of both countries discussed recent scientific achievements in the fields of energy and climate change, biomedical and agricultural technologies, and international security. The program for the June 17-18 sessions and a list of participants are attached.

The delegations agreed to cooperate in the following areas in the near future:

- Energy: its efficient use and conservation; the nuclear fuel cycle, including technologies for spent fuel reprocessing and storage and for the disposition of radioactive wastes
- Global and regional climate change: in the polar regions, in particular, as well as overall strategies and technologies for adaptation to such change
- Biomedicine: basic research, diagnostics and prevention of infectious diseases (for example, tuberculosis), and detection of chronic diseases at their early stages
- Agrobiotechnology: creation of a joint interacademy working group for analysis of existing data on the environmental impacts and food safety aspects of genetically modified organisms
- International security: nonproliferation of nuclear weapons, technologies, and materials, including revitalization of the joint activities of the Committees on International Security and Arms Control
- Counterterrorism: including causes of terrorism

Given the need for further developing basic research, improving the system for education of scientific and professional personnel, and upgrading the educational level of the general public, the delegations of both academies call on their governments to provide comprehensive assistance and support to the scientific communities of Russia and the United States in addressing these important problems.

Scientific cooperation within the framework of intergovernmental, interacademy, and other agreements, in the form of joint research projects, seminars, exchange visits, and standing bilateral forums (for example, health), is an important factor in effectively using the talents and creative potential of Russian and American scientists.

In conclusion, the academies underscored the critical importance of basic research and the power of international scientific collaboration, which, as it has in the past, will benefit the entire global community.