

# Kucheryavyy Mikhail Mikhailovich

## Russia's Status in the Modern World and Consolidation of Security in the Eurasian Region

**Kucheryavyy Mikhail Mikhailovich** — The Chief of headquarters in the North-West Federal District of the Federal Service for Technical and Export Control (Saint-Petersburg)  
State Counsellor 1st Class of the Russian Federation  
Doctor of Science (Political Science)

### ABSTRACT

In the following article is analyzed the position of Russia as a subject of international relations, including the place of the state in the UN system, participating in a number of contemporary international organizations such as the Collective Security Treaty Organization, BRICS, SCO.

In the article author outlines the prospects of Russia's cooperation in the sphere of international security in the framework of the "eight", as well as information security in the Eurasian region.

### KEY WORDS

subjects of international relations, the United Nations Security Council, CSTO, BRICS, SCO and the Eurasian region, G8, information security

Throughout the history of the world there have been a constant competition, and in certain historical periods even a struggle between the leading nations, including armed conflicts and wars, for the influence in the international community. In the Address to the Federal Assembly on December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2012 the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin emphasized that "In the 21<sup>st</sup> century Russia must be a sovereign and influential nation amid a new balance of economic, civilization and military forces. We must not only develop with confidence, but also preserve our national and spiritual identity, and not to lose our sense of national unity. We must be Russia and stay Russia"<sup>1</sup>.

Since the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century the international status of our country and its role in the global affairs, which diminished to some extent after the collapse of the USSR, have started to improve again.

As before, the major actors recognize Russia as a great world power, which is confirmed by the participation of the Russian Federation in the key international organizations. Being a founding and permanent member of the Security Council, Russia holds a leading position in the UN.

Russia's status of a great world power is sustained by its involvement in founding and active participating in a number of modern international organizations such as the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the Eurasian Economic Community (EurAsEC), The Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

For example, the CSTO was founded in 2002. It unites seven post — Soviet states: Russia, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan. The CSTO deals with the issues of securing air borders, preventing threats of terrorism and fighting against drug trafficking. At the end of 2003 this organization was granted a status of the UN observer, which means that the CSTO is a fully fledged

<sup>1</sup> Putin V. The Address to the Federal Assembly on December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2012// <http://президент.рф/news/17118> (<http://eng.news.kremlin.ru/news/4739>)

international organization and according to chapter 8 of the Charter of the United Nations is recognized as a regional security department.

The above mentioned international institution pays attention to the issues of ensuring information security. "We believe that today information security is a number 1 issue," says the CSTO Secretary General Nikolai Bordyuzha. "No troops, no special forces, no large amount of weapons are required to destabilize situation in a state. They can simply aim their information resources at this state and work using the existing tools to change the situation by influencing the public opinion" [1].

Another example is BRICS — an international informal institution which quickly gains influence in the world. It consists of 5 emerging powers: Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa. Over 40% of world population, over 29% of the Earth's land (without Antarctica) and a fourth of world GDP account for BRICS countries. The first summit of BRICS was held upon Vladimir Putin's initiative in Yekaterinburg in 2009. Nowadays Russian leaders consider this international institution a fundamental factor of modern global development, which will determine this process in the long-term outlook. According to experts, BRICS's influence in the international community will increase both in world politics and in such a crucial area as world economy and international finances.

In particular, the Executive Director of the National Committee for BRICS Studies Georgy Toporaya says that by participating in the BRICS Russia intends to "ensure peace and security on the basis of respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of other states, non-interference in their internal affairs".<sup>1</sup>

A prominent role in ensuring global and regional security belongs to another international organization — the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). Russia is also the founder of the SCO and one

of its most influential members. This authoritative, formally regional, but having a big impact on global politics organization brings together five Asian countries (China, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan) and a Euro-Asian country — Russia. The leaders of this organization, China and Russia, have key positions in international politics and economy.

The Head of the Centre for Strategic Issues of Northeast Asia and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the RAS Institute of Far Eastern Studies Sergey Luzyanin writes: "Within the next few years in the field of security an Afghan factor can become a key one for the SCO. We need an updated Afghan strategy which will take into consideration the forthcoming changes in this country: withdrawal of coalition forces, possibility of the civil war resumption, establishment of a new "Northern Alliance" in the Republic ", etc. The specific character of the SCO position consists in preparing for the long-term social and economic programs of assistance to Hamid Karzai's administration and the emphasis on addressing the relevant issues in the region. This SCO program is advisable to carry out under the aegis of the United Nations"[8].

The entry and consolidation of Russia as a full and active member in the Group of Eight most industrialized countries has become an important event in the world politics. In this regard, the famous Russian researcher of the G8 Vadim Lukov writes: "The Russia's integration into the "club" of leading world's industrial powers has become a unique process in the contemporary political history. A recent opponent, whose existence in a way brought to life the "great seven", chose to join this mechanism itself, thus hastening its profound transformation" [7, p. 266].

Russia's participation in the G8 enables our country to discuss security issues of the Eurasian region at the global level and successfully defend regional interests in the "club of world leaders." In 2006 our country was to preside at the Group of Eight for the first time, and all the heads of CIS member states were first invited to the

<sup>1</sup> Toporaya G. BRICS: an attempt to come to an agreement about long-term strategy// [http://russiancouncil.ru/inner/?id\\_4=1506#top](http://russiancouncil.ru/inner/?id_4=1506#top)

summit in St. Petersburg. This approach allowed to present the Eurasian region in the club of world leaders and contributed to regional stability and sustainable development of the region. In 2014 the Russian Federation is to head the Group of Eight again, and on the summit in Sochi, as should be expected, the Eurasian region will be properly presented again, and the fundamental issues of its development will be discussed.

As part of the Group of Eight Russia cooperates with the leading industrial countries of the modern world in many areas and participates in the discussion and search of ways to meet various challenges of the world politics. Among these the issues of international security are of crucial importance. This informal international institution pays close attention to the informatization of the modern world and global information security. It should be emphasized that it was on the G8 summit in Okinawa in 2000 when Okinawa Charter on Global Information Society was ratified.<sup>1</sup>

Russia's cooperation, as a member of the G8, in the field of international security has also certain significance for ensuring Russia's national security. "Our analysis shows — Yury Lilein writes — that the Group of Eight is the only Western institution where Russia can work on matters related to global security with no restrictions. The interaction of the most powerful countries of the West with the Russian Federation within the Group of Eight reflects the general trend of the development of these relations. The West tends to restrain resurgent Russia to some extent. The examples of such policies can be found in the Group of Eight. At the same time, where it is possible and acceptable for themselves, the Western countries seek to use Russia's growing power and influence to strengthen their own positions, primarily in the field of international security" [6, p. 14].

Thus, Russia's high international status of a great world power in today's inter-

national community is confirmed by its significant involvement in the processes of global development at the highest level as well as by its participation in the most elite and influential international institutions and organizations, both global and regional, where the Russian Federation is placed in the forefront. Having such unique opportunities, Russia is actively involved in the processes of ensuring international security. Lately, in these activities our country has been paying more and more attention to global security.

An important trend of international security and another factor that determines the high status of our country in the international community is a bipartite interaction in this field with the leading world powers. So, the President of the Russian International Affairs Council Igor Ivanov claims: "Today Russia relies on strategic partnership with the leading NATO countries: Germany, France, Italy and others. We managed to start the process of "reset" in Russian-American relations, and, in particular, to sign a historic treaty START-3. I want to remind you that START-3 has become the first agreement on the reduction of nuclear arsenals of Russia and the United States for a long time, and it marked the beginning of the restoration of old, but highly effective mechanisms of consultations on nuclear weapons between Moscow and Washington" [3, p. 34].

Thus, Russia and the United States have accumulated the valuable experience in creating highly successful and effective mechanisms of consultations on nuclear weapons issues. Signing and coming into force START-3 should be considered as an important result of these consultations. At present, the above mentioned experience can be useful for organizing mutually beneficial cooperation in other areas of international and national security, especially in those which have an innovative character and require new innovative approaches.

First of all, these areas include information security. In our opinion, today in Russian-American relations there is a positive trend towards the creation of such mechanisms. They can become a step forward

<sup>1</sup> Okinawa Charter on Global Information Society//<http://www.iis.ru/library/okinawa/charter.ru.html>

in international relations and will make a valuable contribution to the formation of informational diplomacy and international law.

On May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013 the new U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry visited Moscow for the first time. One of the key targets of the visit was the preparation for the planned meeting of the presidents of Russia and the United States in June. During this visit the questions of mutual interest were specified. "One of them is fighting against cyber threats. At the end of April ... Moscow was visited by Special Assistant to the U.S. President for Information Security Michael Daniel and Cybersecurity Coordinator of the Department of State Chris Peytner. According to "KommersantB", they initialed a number of bilateral intergovernmental agreements on confidence-building measures in cyberspace (it is a question of creating a "hot line" in case of cyber incidents and a special working group for information security of the Presidential Commission). The talks were held for about two years. If the presidents ... sign these documents, it will be a real breakthrough — no agreements of the kind have been signed so far" [2, p.6].

Nowadays, having advanced information and communication technologies, Russia, along with the United States, makes a decisive contribution to the formation of global information security. It offers favorable prospects for information security in the Eurasian region.

The level of information and communication technologies development in the country today is directly related to its capabilities to provide its own security as well as very prestigious contribution to the maintenance of global and regional security. The development of new technologies can enable the state to take a higher position in the leading countries ratings in terms of development of informatization and information and communication technologies. These ratings are beginning to have a significant impact on the status of the state in the international community.

However, it is not only their status which matters. These days the level of informa-

tization is one of the real indicators of the country's ability to implement sustainable internal development, successfully defend its foreign policy interests and ensure its national security on the whole.

"Telecommunications, information technology, digital media are an area which is subject to continuous, rapid and drastic changes all over the world. Every second in every country, in the heart of the world's technological innovation Silicon Valley, California, as well as in research centers and in world corporations the marketing wars are waged for an original idea, a breakthrough solution, a new proposal, a new buyer. Penetrating all aspects of everyday human activities the industry of communication and new technologies is one of the most significant in terms of the impact on our private and professional lives, social sphere, economy, image and status of the country in the international community".<sup>1</sup>

Due to the rise of Russia's status in the international community, which dates back to the beginning of this century, our country has to develop the same trends and at the same rate as other great powers and highly developed industrial states and in some areas even outpace them. It is necessary to take into account the ever increasing competition in the international community, and especially in the group of its leaders. In addition, the leaders themselves are divided in the old great powers and the new rising countries-giants. "The old states — writes S. Karaganov — and their institutions (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) is an apparently outdated club of developed nations, the same as the IMF) will be afraid of quickening loss of their status and position. The new leaders, such as China, India, enjoying their newly regained full sovereignty after the centuries of the Western suppression, will be wary of its limitations" [4].

Under these circumstances the transformation of the security policy in ac-

<sup>1</sup> Development of Industry of Infocommunication Technologies (ICT) in Russia// CRN IT-BUSINESS. August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012. 01 // [http://www.crn.ru/news/detail\\_print.php?ID=68520&print=Y](http://www.crn.ru/news/detail_print.php?ID=68520&print=Y)

cordance with the latest requirements and conditions of global development, at both international and national levels, is one of the strategic goals of Russia's development as well as maintenance of its status in the international arena. It should be taken into account that in the field of security policy there have been some important objective changes connected with the expansion of its information component.

Information security is a rather complex phenomenon that must be considered when developing the security policy as a whole. It can be divided into three main dimensions: branch, national and international.

Special dimension is connected with information security as a process to ensure proper functioning of the information sector. In this case information security is more of a technical nature. It is primarily connected with the maintenance of stable functioning of the information infrastructure. Protection is provided against technical failures, unintended effects that are harmful to stable operation, unauthorized access, different kinds of malware, etc.

National dimension of information security has more varied character. In this regard, Pavel Sharikov says: "Information technologies have been widely used in almost all spheres of national security, which makes the protection of information resources a very important issue. Effects on information or information infrastructure have sometimes disastrous consequences for the sphere where they are applied" [9, p.96]. Thus, information security can be considered as an important element of national security.

These days, information resources and information space of the state can be influenced from abroad by the subjects of the global information space, which can be located not only in the neighboring countries, but also on other continents. According to the Russian researcher Sergey Kortunov "economic globalization and informatization of international relations create unprecedented opportunities for development, but at the same time they make the global system vulnerable to global terrorism, WMD, information warfare"

[5, pp.93–116]. Due to the process of globalization, the importance of the international dimension of information security is increasing. The threats posed to the national security from the global information space are becoming more serious in military and political terms and more sophisticated in terms of technology.

One of the most important aspects of security policy transformation in modern Russia is the organic inclusion of a process of information securing as one of the basic system elements. This activity should have an integrated nature and combine all three major dimensions of information security: branch, national and international. The correlation between these dimensions is dynamic and can change depending on the situation related to the internal and external development of the country. The transformation of the security policy of the Russian Federation shall take into account the problems of regional security in Eurasia, including such a new area as information security.

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