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## **RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

### **1. Title, rank and position of the Legal Adviser**

The Legal Adviser's title is the Director of the Legal Department of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation. At present the Director of the Legal Department is also a member of the Collegial Board of the MFA dealing with most significant matters of the foreign policy. The Director daily contacts the Deputy-Minister for the Foreign Affairs and in urgent cases can report directly to the Minister.

### **2. Principal functions**

In general principal functions of the Department are to provide advise on matters of the international law relating to foreign policy, to make proposals and report on matters of codification and progressive development of the international law, to deal with international law aspects of maintenance of international security, pacific settlement of disputes, issues of succession, continuity, recognition; to consider legal aspects of armed conflicts, international humanitarian law; diplomatic and consular law. The Department provides for maintenance of the Ministry's registrar of international treaties, acts as depositary; reports on matters of conclusion, suspension of international treaties, on the status and interpretation of treaties, reservations and objections thereto. The Department maintains the treaty database; participates in drafting treaties including on state boundaries, demarcation; in formulation of Russia's position on protection of human rights, on legal assistance to Russian citizens abroad, on citizenship, status of aliens. Within the Department's competence are issues of the law of the sea, space law, Arctic and Antarctic, environmental law. The Department covers legal aspects of various international organizations activities including UN, OSCE, CIS, EU, NATO, ICAO, WIPO, etc.; advises on investment and dual taxation treaties; on status of IOs in Russia. It provides legal opinion on any document originating from the Ministry containing matters of international law.

### **3. Number of lawyers including overseas staff**

Professional staff of the Legal Department (approx. 45 pers.) varies in age and rank. Gender balance is approx. 50/50, where each professional staff member has high educational legal background and possesses knowledge of foreign languages.

### **4. Organisation of the Legal Office**

The Department is divided in a number (6) of divisions covering separate branches of international law: international public law, international private law, law of treaties, legal aspects of multilateral cooperation, general issues of international law, legal aspects of state boundaries.

### **5. Place within the Department of Foreign Affairs**

The Legal Department is one of the functional departments of the MFA.

## **6. Main contacts with Government**

During exercise of its functions the Department contacts relevant departments of the ministries and agencies within the Government of the Russian Federation, the Russian Parliament (the State Duma and the Federal Council) as well as its subsidiary bodies, the administrative organs of the regions of the Russian Federation and local self-governance authorities.

## **7. Relations with lawyers in private practice, academics and legal institutions**

The Legal Department promotes contacts with the Russian Association of International Law, various Russian scientific and educational institutions, dealing with matters of international law. A number of the Department's officials lecture in the Moscow State Institute for International Relations and Diplomatic Academy on numerous aspects of international law.

## **8. Bibliography**

Bibliography on the Legal Department itself is not available, nevertheless, its opinion on the use of force has been recently published in ICLQ, vol. 52, part. 4, Oct. 2003, 1059-1063.