

[Congratulatory Remarks]

Support for Multilateral Cooperation in Building a Unified Community



Olga YEPIFANOVA
Deputy Chairperson of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation

Dear friends!

On behalf of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, I would like to thank the organizers of the Jeju Forum for their invitation.

In the seventeen years since its first meeting, the Jeju Forum for Peace & Prosperity has become one of the most important and acknowledged forums held in Asia, and Jeju Special Self-Governing Province has truly become an island symbolic of universal peace. The Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation fully supports the cause of the Jeju Forum and believes that only through high-level political dialogue on a broad range of topics we can guarantee peace and prosperity for our people.

Esteemed participants of the forum,

Mankind has always looked towards the future in hope, and eminent intellectuals have always dreamed of a world of co-prosperity. And yet, the beginning of such a beautiful age is being delayed for a variety of reasons. Some problems have been solved—positive changes are underway—but humanity also faces a continuous set of serious challenges.

International relations today are going through an age of fundamental change. A new and polycentric

model of world order is forming. This process has its hardships, and as geopolitical conflicts accumulate, there is less room for constructive dialogue among nations. The problem lies in the desire of certain Western countries to maintain control of the world order by imposing pressure upon emerging powers. This results in the devaluation of international law and weakens multinational organizations, leaving military strength as the only viable option for many countries to secure their autonomy. Thus, the world has yet to become a more stable and safer place.

There are also an increasing number of threats in the world today. These threats have become so frequent that the international community feels the necessity to take emergency measures. All concerned parties must begin serious discussions to re-strategize and reinforce this faltering international security as soon as possible.

The role of meetings such as the Jeju Forum is critical to the process. The Jeju Forum's principal subject is none other than the pursuit of prosperity and peace. The subject speaks for all our countries' fundamental interests. It is also for this express purpose that the Federal Assembly of Russian Federation serves the nation.

We support constructive, predictable, and mutually beneficial cooperation. We are convinced that such cooperation is grounded on equality, respect for national interests, and adherence to the principles of non-interference in domestic affairs.

We are taking initiatives in agendas of international unification, with many countries supporting our approach. It is logical that we see the necessity to exchange ideas on key subjects to bring opposing stances closer together, to broaden common ground, and to lessen areas of disagreement. While there may remain areas of disagreement, a nation's pursuit of its interests should not result in aggressive foreign policies. Rather, they should be based on respect and take mutual benefits into consideration.

I am certain that the Jeju Forum will make a great contribution in strengthening multilateral cooperation, in constructing a unified future community, and in reaching meaningful conclusions at the fourth Oriental Economic Forum scheduled in September.

I bid all nations of the world peace and prosperity.

Thank you.

