**STATEMENT**

**by the participants in the 10th Nevsky International Ecological Congress**

25–26 May 2023 St. Petersburg

We, the participants in the 10th Nevsky International Ecological Congress with its motto ‘Ecology: A Right, Not a Privilege’,

***Recognizing*** that a clean, healthy, and supportive environment is essential for the enjoyment of human rights and the realization of all components of sustainable development,

***emphasizing*** that the sustainable development agenda has a unifying nature based on a scientifically grounded balance between environmental aspects and socioeconomic development, and requires collective efforts from all peoples and states in accordance with the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and without compromising the population’s quality of life,

***affirming*** that illegitimate methods of political pressure, illegal unilateral restrictions and sanctions, as well as politicization and protectionism hinder international efforts to improve the quality of the environment and combat climate change,

***acknowledging*** the importance of developing cooperation to exchange and expand access to the best available technologies, successful experience, and practices in matters concerning environmental protection,

***emphasizing*** that the expansion of mutually beneficial cooperation to ensure the environmental security of states should be based on the universally recognized principles and norms of international law, primarily the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations,

***highly valuing*** the work of the Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States to develop models of legislation in matters concerning environmental safety and the creation of conditions to coordinate interaction in this regard;

***call to:***

***expand*** cooperation and the coordination of foreign policy on issues concerning environmental sovereignty, security, and socioeconomic development within such authoritative international organizations as BRICS, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Eurasian Economic Union, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the League of Arab States, and MERCOSUR,

***support*** the central coordinating role of specialized international legal instruments, such as the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the UN Environment Programme, in addressing global environmental and climate issues and preventing them from being politicized and included in the agenda of secondary issues,

***promote*** a caring, science-based, positive outlook on environmental issues, while avoiding alarmist approaches for sustainable development in such areas as trade, finance, energy, transport, and industry,

***consider*** the best available scientific data on the current state of environmental components and their impact on economic and social systems, and ***promote*** activities to increase the capacity of scientific institutions,

***intensify*** international cooperation in order to freely expand access to and ensure the unhindered exchange of scientific and technical information on environmental protection and climate change issues,

***work on creating a system*** for the joint coordination of measures to prevent, provide early warning, exchange information, and provide mutual assistance in the event of man-made accidents,

***promote*** the implementation of international projects and programmes for the conservation of rare and endangered animal and plant life, as well as ecological systems and populations,

***promote*** the activities of parliamentarians around the world to ensure environmental safety and the implementation of generally recognized norms of international law on such issues in the national legislation of their states,

***promote*** a unifying agenda based on collective efforts to combat climate change and environmental degradation,

***pursue*** a proactive climate and environmental agenda in international relations.

A clean, healthy, and supportive environment is an essential part of sustained and sustainable development for all. The goals and objectives of protecting the environment and combating climate change can only be achieved through open and equal cooperation based on the principle of multilateralism.