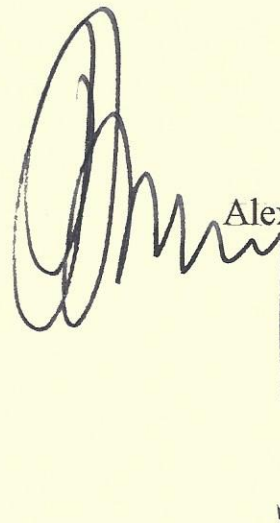


the very beginning, Russia has cautioned that the document constituted an attempt to use the terrorists' atrocities or other aspects of the conflict to justify an external military interference. Having been aware of all the dangers of this course, Russia and China imposed a veto on the entire resolution. In our view, the identification of those who are guilty of crimes requires an objective and impartial approach.

Even though we do not see eye to eye on every aspect of this particular crisis in the Middle East, we believe that we can achieve effective coordination on a range of important issues. It is vital for our Western partners to admit that the Middle East's problems should be overcome based on international law through an inclusive national dialogue and respect for the independence and territorial integrity of all states. Having said this, Russia agrees that it is extremely important in these processes to ensure equal rights and freedoms for various religious and ethnic groups. For that, violence has to be put an end to first. The same is true as regards foreigners fighting in Syria on the side of the terrorist groups.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'A' followed by several loops and a long vertical stroke at the end.

Alexander Yakovenko
Ambassador