

Постоянный представитель
Российской Федерации
при Организации
Объединенных Наций



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№ 1706/n

New York, “27” May 2020

Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to your letter dated 21 May 2020, circulating the draft resolution entitled “International Day to Protect Education from Attack”, issued as document A/74/L.66 under agenda item 117, for adoption under a silence procedure in accordance with the decision of the General Assembly 74/544, further extended by the decision of the General Assembly 74/555.

While not seeking to break the silence procedure, we wish to place on record the following statement.

The Russian Federation is not in a position to support the language in the third preambular paragraph that refers to the International Criminal Court and its Rome Statute, and dissociates itself from the consensus on this paragraph.

With regard to the seventh preambular paragraph, it is our view that by means of expression “noting” efforts aimed at promoting and protecting educational institutions during armed conflicts,

H.E. Mr. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande
President of the 74th Session
of the United Nations General Assembly
New York

including the efforts of Member States which are signatories to the Safe School Declaration, the General Assembly neither welcomes nor endorse the Safe School Declaration itself, which has a limited number of signatories. At the same time we wish to express our concern that the Declaration and the accompanying Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict do not mirror the exact language of international humanitarian law as envisaged in the Geneva Conventions and Protocols thereto which risk complicating the application of international humanitarian law.

We would like to kindly ask you to enclose the present letter to your subsequent note on the outcomes of the silence procedure as an official explanation of position of the Russian Federation.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Vassily Nebenzia