

**DRAFT**

# **The Constitution of Russia**

**Sulakshin Center  
Moscow 2019**

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## **To the reader**

This is a draft of the new Constitution of Russia. It has been developed by the authors for the benefit of the majority of our nation and for the purposes of our country's rehabilitation. This is a product of the labor of numerous people<sup>1</sup>. Russia must become different: a country with a true popular rule and real human liberties, a fair, labor-oriented, moral-based country, identical with its Russian civilization and a history of more than 1,000 years, truly social, independent and respected globally.

The new Constitution may be adopted only in accordance with the effective constitutional procedure<sup>2</sup> :

## **“Chapter 9. Constitutional Amendments and Review of the Constitution**

### **Article 134**

Proposals on amendments and review of the provisions of the Constitution of the Russian Federation may be submitted by the President of the Russian Federation, the Council of the Federation, the State Duma, the Government of the Russian Federation, the legislative (representative) bodies of the subjects of the Russian Federation, and also by groups numbering not less than one fifth of the number of the members of the Council of the Federation or of the deputies of the State Duma.

### **Article 135**

1. Provisions of Chapters 1, 2 and 9 of the Constitution of the Russian Federation may not be revised by the Federal Assembly.

2. If a proposal on the review of the provisions of Chapters 1, 2 and 9 of the Constitution of the Russian Federation is supported by three fifths of the total number of the members of the Council of the Federation and the deputies of the State Duma, then according to federal constitutional law a Constitutional Assembly shall be convened.

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<sup>1</sup> The national idea of Russia. In 6 vol. Scientific Expert, 2012.

<sup>2</sup> The Constitution of the Russian Federation (adopted by national vote on December 12, 1993).

3. The Constitutional Assembly shall either confirm the invariability of the Constitution of the Russian Federation or draft a new Constitution of the Russian Federation, which shall be adopted by the Constitutional Assembly by two thirds of the total number of its members or submitted to a referendum. In case of a referendum the Constitution of the Russian Federation shall be considered adopted, if over half of the voters who came to the polls supported it and under the condition that over half of the electorate participated in the referendum.

### **Article 136**

Amendments to the provisions of Chapters 3-8 of the Constitution of the Russian Federation shall be adopted according to the rules fixed for adoption of federal constitutional laws and come into force after they are approved by the bodies of legislative power of not less than two thirds of the subjects of the Russian Federation.

### **Article 137**

1. Amendments in Article 65 of the Constitution of the Russian Federation determining the structure of the Russian Federation shall be introduced on the basis of the federal constitutional law on the admission to the Russian Federation and the creation of new subjects of the Russian Federation within it, on changes in the constitutional-legal status of a subject of the Russian Federation.

2. In case changes are made in the name of a Republic, territory, region, city of federal importance, autonomous region or autonomous area, the new name of the subject of the Russian Federation shall be included in Article 65 of the Constitution of the Russian Federation.»

## **The Constitution of Russia**

Adopted by national vote on \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_

### **Preamble**

We, the Russian people and all brother peoples of Russia that have united in labor, feats and victories in the course of our common age-old history into one Russian Nation;

declaring our common Homeland Russia that has succeeded through the centuries and generations in the united sacred Russian land to be our absolute supreme value;

proclaiming a future based on the commitment to the supreme values of Russia for our country and for all of us;

being confident that human happiness, the well-being and prosperity of each and every person arises from labor, freedom and responsibility, conscience and morality, love and comradeship, justice and unity, as well as family.

believing that our fundamental principle is that all people should care about the benefit of every single person and that every single person should care about the benefit of all people;

respecting every people living in Russia, their culture, language, religious denomination and traditions;

relying on the principles of popular rule, the inextricable connection between human and civil rights and obligations, social justice and equal dignity of all people;

admitting our common responsibility for our Homeland to the past, present and future generations;

honoring the memory and traditions of our ancestors, who have entrusted us with preserving our Homeland, love and respect for the same, faith in the goodness, justice and sublime human spirit;

realizing the historical contribution of the Russian civilization to the global development and our responsibility for the destinies of the world and mankind;

striving to ensure the well-being, prosperity and perpetual existence of the Russian Nation and Russia itself, to guarantee respectable, highly reputed and responsible state authorities;

being equal in rights and realizing our duties towards our common and united Russia;

declaring our responsibility to God, our own conscience and people;

OF OUR FREE WILL, DO ESTABLISH THE ORGANIZATIONAL  
SYSTEM OF OUR COUNTRY IN THE CONSTITUTION OF  
RUSSIA.



# **Section 1. Value-based principles of the Russian constitutional system**

## **Chapter 1. General provisions**

### **Article 1. Subject matter of constitutional regulation**

1. The Constitution of Russia is the primary ideological, political and regulatory document, which establishes the organizational system of the country.

2. The Constitution of Russia establishes the supreme values of Russia, the principles of life of the Russian Nation, the state system and administrative structure of Russia, the unified sovereign public administration in Russia. The Constitution of Russia expresses the will of the Russian Nation and may be amended by the same in accordance with the procedure prescribed by the Constitution of Russia.

3. The Constitution of Russia is binding on all state authorities and officials, Russian citizens and their associations, foreign citizens and stateless persons permanently or temporarily residing or staying in Russia as well as foreign juridical persons operating in Russia.

4. Violation or improper implementation of the Constitution of Russia shall be prosecuted in accordance with Russian laws.

### **Article 2. Key constitutional terms**

“security” means the ability of entities and objects to maintain their condition, both at present and in the course of their future development, in the face of damaging impacts, while minimizing the probability of such impacts and the damage caused by the same.

“supreme values of Russia” means the qualities and characteristics of the Russian Nation, Russian territory, governmental power and public administration, as stipulated in the Constitution of Russia, that are critical to the country’s viability.

“guarantee” means a statutory obligation of the guaranteeing entity to provide material or other resources required to exercise the guaranteed right.

“state ideology” means the ideology based on the supreme values of Russia and the mindset of the Russian Nation, which encourages the activity of a person, society, the Russian Nation and the state and is established, supported and protected by the state.

“state policy” means a system of values and goals, governmental and administrative programs, resolutions and actions intended and implemented to achieve Russia’s goals in pursuance of relevant regulations.

“public administration” means the activities of state authorities which include setting goals based on the supreme values of Russia, creating and/or using resources to implement the supreme values of Russia and achieve Russia’s goals as well as for the purposes of operating management.

“state authorities” means federal executive bodies, state authorities of the constituent entities of Russia, local state authorities and other authorities established in accordance with the laws of Russia, laws of the constituent entities of Russia and municipal regulations.

“national sovereignty” means the ability and possibility of the state to make independent decisions for the benefit of the Russian Nation and to perform its functions defined by the Constitution of Russia.

“duty” means a statutory type and measure of a person’s due behavior, whereby the person shall bear moral responsibility for failure to perform or improper performance of his duty.

“viability” means the ability of the state, society or a person to exist in time and develop on a sustainable basis while performing their key functions.

“historical cultural heritage of Russia” means the aggregate of accumulated cultural values left by the ancestors for the succeeding generations and embodied in material objects (historic and cultural landmarks, the country’s history); in traditions, customs, rituals, festivals, crafts; in spiritual values, as historical memory or information recorded on any media on the written, oral, graphic cultural products that constitute the culture of the Russian people and all brother peoples of Russia throughout the history.

“Russian Nation” means the community of Russian citizens who have been united into a single civilization on the basis of common values, language, culture, history, traditions, area of residence, who recognize themselves as an actor of state-building and social development and have adopted the Constitution of Russia.

“popular self-government” means the activities that the population of a certain area performs independently and on their own responsibility, whether directly or via popular self-government bodies, to address the issues of popular self-government.

“obligation” means a statutory type and measure of an entity’s due behavior, whereby the entity shall bear legal liability for failure to perform or improper performance of its obligation.

“special regime” means an operating procedure established by a federal constitutional law for the state and other entities where a security threat arises; such regime provides for restrictions of human and civil rights and liberties and special (additional) obligations for entities in contrast to the standard regime of peacetime.

“responsibility of the state” means the duty of state authorities, civil servants and state officials, based on their powers, to make decisions and take action in order to achieve success in all areas of the country’s life as well as the duty to be subject to law enforcement for failure to perform or improper performance of their obligations.

“liability” means the duty of a person to suffer restrictions and privations with respect to his personal freedom or property for failure to perform or improper performance of his obligations.

“undermining the supreme values of Russia” means substitution of, discrediting or other actions or omissions intended to deny or detract from, the supreme values of Russia.

“right” means a type and measure of an entity’s possible behavior secured by Russian laws, guarantees, powers of state authorities and/or obligations of other entities.

“development” means the variability of the qualities and characteristics of an entity controlled by the state, which meets the goals of public administration.

“Russian civilizational identity” means the distinct features of territorial administration, management of all areas of life, the system of state authorities and public administration in Russia, which have developed from its historical experience and which ensure maximum viability of Russia.

“social standards” means statutory norms and standards, which ensure the implementation of the human and civil rights in the social sphere and prescribe the procedure for granting such rights.

“country” means the territory that belongs to the Russian Nation and is united by means of public administration based on the same sovereign governmental power.

“Russian territory” means the land surface, inland waters, territorial sea, subsoil and aerial domain within the national borders as well as artificial vehicles and structures in the global ocean and aerospace, diplomatic missions and consular posts under the jurisdiction of Russia.

“Russia’s goals” means the desired qualities and conditions of the products created by state authorities, society or individuals, which arise out of the supreme values of Russia.

“human potential” means the qualities and characteristics of Russia’s population.

### **Article 3. Historical state succession**

Russia shall be the successor of the Russian statehood in all its forms and under all names that have existed throughout the history of the Russian civilization.

### **Article 4. Safeguarding and protection of the Constitution of Russia**

1. The state shall secure the application of the Constitution of Russia via state authorities in accordance with Russian laws.

2. The state shall safeguard the Constitution of Russia using all existing lawful means and methods, including education, upbringing, culture, propaganda and mass media.

3. The state shall protect the Constitution of Russia by taking comprehensive measures aimed at countering any illegal activities and behaviors that infringe the supreme values of Russia or the rule of law.

### **Article 5. Sanctions for violation of the Constitution of Russia**

1. State officials and civil servants shall be liable in accordance with Russian laws for failure to perform or improper performance of constitutional provisions.

2. Deputies of the People’s Assembly of Russia shall be liable in accordance with a federal constitutional law and regulations of the chambers of the People’s Assembly for failure to perform or improper performance of constitutional provisions.

## Chapter 2. Russia's values

### Article 6. The supreme values of Russia

1. The supreme values of Russia shall be the common and permanent foundations of the Russian Nation's identity, the goals and activities of state authorities at all levels, popular rule, citizens, citizen associations and juridical persons.

2. The supreme values of Russia shall constitute the basis for the contents and application of federal laws and other legal enactments and shall be secured by the system of justice.

3. The absolute supreme value shall be the existence of Russia itself as the Homeland of the Russian Nation.

4. The supreme values of Russia shall be:

a) unity, indivisibility, territorial integrity and national sovereignty of Russia;

b) Russia's responsibility for the destinies of the world and mankind;

c) the universal good, the public good, the benefit of all legitimate social groups and the benefit of every person in harmonious accord;

d) joint and personal care of the Russian Nation's wealth aimed at preserving and accumulating the same;

e) Russian civilizational identity;

f) unity, friendship and solidarity of the Russian people and all brother peoples of Russia;

g) service of the state to the Russian Nation;

h) population preservation;

i) human life, dignity and freedom;

j) patriotism and love for the Homeland;

k) opposition to racial, national, religious, linguistic and social discrimination;

l) love and family bonds, giving birth to and the upbringing of children, ties between generations;

m) a combination of tradition and progress;

n) collectivism and mutual aid;

o) social justice;

p) humanism and mutual respect between people;

- q) altruism and compassion;
  - r) harmonious development of personality;
  - s) honor, conscience and morality;
  - t) ideological and spiritual motivation of the person and society based on their world view, orientation towards the ideal;
  - u) non-acquisitive attitude and dominance of spiritual and moral motives over material interests in human behavior;
  - v) commitment to labor;
  - w) willingness to create.
5. The supreme values of Russia shall be equal; none of the supreme values of Russia shall prevail in public administration.
6. In the event of conflict between the supreme values of Russia, the absolute supreme value shall govern their application. None of the supreme values of Russia shall be fully disregarded.

#### **Article 7. Historical cultural heritage**

1. The historical cultural heritage shall be protected by the state.
2. The state shall prevent, in accordance with Russian laws, any perversion of history.

#### **Article 8. Ideology**

1. The supreme values of Russia shall constitute the common state ideology that shall unite the Russian Nation. The state shall maintain the state ideology via upbringing, education, science, culture, traditions, mass media and protect it from any internal or external infringements.
2. Russia acknowledges the variety of ideologies which reflect the world view of specific citizen groups.
3. No ideology shall be inculcated by force or be aimed at undermining the supreme values of Russia.

#### **Article 9. Protection of the supreme values of Russia**

1. Any activities of Russian citizens or their associations, juridical persons, foreign citizens or stateless persons permanently or temporarily residing or staying in Russia as well as foreign juridical persons operating in Russia, which are aimed at undermining the supreme values of Russia, shall be prohibited.

2. The protection of the supreme values of Russia from any internal or external infringements shall be the responsibility of the state, juridical persons, citizen associations and every Russian citizen.

### **Chapter 3. The state and religion**

#### **Article 10. A person, religious associations and the state**

1. The Russian state shall:

a) not interfere in a person's relationship with religion or his religious affiliation, in the religious, atheistic or agnostic upbringing of children that is given to them by their parents or persons acting as parents in accordance with their beliefs and with due regard to the children's freedom of religion;

b) not vest religious associations with the functions of state authorities or state-owned juridical persons;

c) not interfere in the activities of religious associations unless such activities infringe the Constitution of Russia, the supreme values of Russia, human and civil rights and obligations or Russian laws;

d) assist religious associations in their activities of social importance.

2. A religious association shall:

a) be established and exist in accordance with a federal law and religious statutes;

b) not perform any functions of state authorities or state-owned juridical persons;

c) assist state authorities in their activities of social importance.

3. The autonomy of religious associations in their relations with the state shall not restrict the rights of members of such associations to participate, on equal terms with other citizens, in public administration, elections to state authorities, the activities of public associations.

#### **Article 11. Religious associations and the supreme values of Russia.**

1. The state shall encourage the activities of Russian religious associations aimed at strengthening the Russian civilizational identity and implementing the supreme values of Russia.

2. The state shall engage in a social partnership with religious organizations while respecting them and encouraging their activities of social importance with respect to charity, caretaking and social aid, education, science, upbringing, morality, patriotism, which may involve using mass media in accordance with a federal law.

## **Chapter 4. National security and development**

### **Article 12. Security in Russia**

1. The state shall be responsible for the security of the Russian territory as well as of every person, the Russian Nation and the state itself.

2. In order to ensure its security, Russia shall establish the Armed Forces of Russia and the security agencies of Russia.

3. Russia shall ensure the development, safe testing, production, storage and use of weapons for any warfare for the purposes of national security and defense of the Russian Nation and Russian citizens in accordance with the international obligations undertaken by Russia.

4. The state shall monitor and forecast external and internal security threats (that may arise out of intentions, decisions, actions, events or processes), take action to minimize or prevent them, minimize the damage they may cause and mitigate the consequences should such threats materialize.

### **Article 13. National sovereignty**

1. Russia shall secure its national sovereignty using all available national resources.

2. State sovereignty shall extend to all tangible and intangible assets, human activities and results thereof throughout the Russian territory. The state shall hold sovereign rights to and have jurisdiction over the continental shelf and the exclusive economic zone of Russia in accordance with the procedure prescribed by a federal law and the rules of international law recognized by Russia.

3. State authorities and officials shall exercise their powers provided for by Russian laws independently from any other agencies, physical or juridical persons unless otherwise provided for by a federal constitutional law or federal laws.



4. Any actions aimed at seizure or illegal forcible retention of governmental power, illegal election or appointment to an official position, assumption of the powers of state authorities or officials shall be prosecuted in accordance with a federal constitutional law.

#### **Article 14. Russian civilizational identity**

1. The state shall act as the guarantor of Russian civilizational identity.

2. The state shall be responsible for maintaining and protecting Russian civilizational identity.

3. The state shall support Russian civilizational identity with respect to the language, religious denominations, traditions, culture, education and upbringing, mode of life; economic, social and political relations; the system of the state, state authorities and public administration.

#### **Article 15. The state and development**

1. The state shall be responsible for development in all areas of the country's life and activity in accordance with Russia's goals by exercising the powers and using the state resources provided for by the Constitution of Russia.

2. Key development goals in all areas of the country's life and activity shall be set out in the Doctrine on the Security and Development of Russia, which all national development plans and programs shall comply with. The draft Doctrine on the Security and Development of Russia shall be developed by the Government of Russia on the basis of the supreme values of Russia and Russia's goals and be revised at least once in five years.

#### **Article 16. Self-sufficiency of Russia**

To ensure self-sufficiency, the state shall promote the growth of employment and demographic potential; the development of science, education, culture, economy, nationally important infrastructure for defense, energy, transport, information and communications; the improvement of the overall quality of public administration.

### **Article 17. Russia's goals**

1. Russia's goals shall be established by a federal constitutional laws and doctrines of Russia.
2. Russia's goals shall be made public.

### **Article 18. Information security**

1. The state shall provide the information security of Russia and the Russian Nation with respect to all information threats.
2. Russia hereby proclaims information transparency. The list of restricted information and the procedure for restricting information shall be established by a federal law.
3. In order to ensure internal and external security, Russia shall regulate the circulation of certain types of information products on the basis of the Constitution of Russia and in accordance with the procedure prescribed by a federal law. Political censorship shall be prohibited.
4. Propaganda of immoral and asocial behavior, production and circulation of information products on any media containing mass information that may damage morality, information aimed at undermining the supreme values of Russia or any other mass information specified in federal constitutional laws or federal laws shall be prohibited.
5. No propaganda or campaigns arousing racial, national, religious, linguistic or social hatred or hostility shall be allowed. Propaganda of racial, national, religious, linguistic or social superiority shall be prohibited. Propaganda aimed at unleashing an aggressive war shall be prohibited.
6. The procedure for state and public oversight of the activities of mass media shall be established by a federal law.

## **Chapter 5. Human and civil rights and obligations in Russia**

### **Article 19. Basic regulation of human and civil rights and obligations**

1. Human and civil rights and liberties in Russia are related to the obligations and responsibility of a person as a member of society.

2. Russia hereby acknowledges and guarantees human and civil rights and liberties. The state shall be responsible for recognizing, respecting, protecting and enabling the exercise of human and civil rights and liberties.

3. Human and civil rights and liberties shall be directly applicable. The procedure regulating the performance of obligations by, and responsibility of, every person shall be established by Russian laws.

4. No legal enactments abolishing or detracting from the supreme values of Russia or human and civil rights and liberties shall be adopted or published in Russia save where the Constitution of Russia is amended.

5. No person shall be forced to waive his rights and liberties.

6. The capacity of every person to acquire and exercise rights and perform obligations in their entirety shall arise when the person reaches majority (the age of eighteen), unless otherwise provided for by the Constitution of Russia, a federal constitutional law or a federal law.

7. The obligations and responsibility of every person and citizen shall be inalienable and be performed or borne personally, unless otherwise provided for by a federal constitutional law.

8. No person shall be forced to perform any obligations not stipulated by the Constitution of Russia, federal constitutional laws or federal laws.

9. Every person shall be liable in accordance with Russian laws for failure to perform or improper performance of his obligations.

## **Article 20. Human rights and liberties**

1. Human rights and liberties shall be inalienable and indefeasible.

2. A person may choose freely between good and evil and shall be responsible therefor to God and his own conscience.

3. Human rights and liberties shall include:

- a) the right to life;
- b) the right to freedom;
- c) the right to recognition and protection of the person's dignity;
- d) the right to physical integrity, inviolability of the home, personal privacy, secrecy of personal messages;
- e) the freedom of movement;

- f) the right to travel outside Russia and enter Russia freely;
- g) the right to ethnic and religious self-identification;
- h) the freedom of religion;
- i) the freedom of thought and opinion;
- j) the freedom of speech and the right to information;
- k) the freedom of business activities not prohibited by federal laws;
- l) the right to property;
- m) the right of equal access to vital natural resources;
- n) the right to labor;
- o) the right to rest;
- p) the right of abode;
- q) family rights;
- r) the right to health protection and medical assistance;
- s) the right to a healthy environment;
- t) the right to education;
- u) the freedom of creativity;
- v) the right of access to culture;
- w) the freedom of self-fulfillment;
- x) the right to social security;
- y) the right of association;
- z) the right to peace;
- aa) the right to psychological comfort.

4. The listing of human rights and liberties in this Article shall not be construed as denying or impairing any other human rights and liberties stipulated in other articles of the Constitution of Russia, federal constitutional laws or federal laws or universally recognized rights and liberties.

### **Article 21. Human duty and obligations**

1. Human duty and obligations shall be inalienable and indefeasible.

2. Every person shall respect, and shall not infringe, the rights and liberties and lawful interests of other persons. Abuse of rights shall be prohibited.

3. Every person residing or staying in Russia shall obey the Constitution of Russia, federal constitutional laws, federal laws and other

legal enactments effective in Russia, and respect the supreme values of Russia.

4. Every person shall pay statutory taxes and charges.

5. It shall be the duty and obligation of every person to take care of his close relatives.

6. Every person shall preserve nature and the environment and treat natural resources with due care.

7. Every person shall preserve the historical cultural heritage of Russia.

8. Labor shall be the duty of every person.

9. It shall be the duty of every person to take care of his health, lead a healthy life and develop his spiritual culture.

10. The listing of a person's obligations in this Article shall be without prejudice to any other obligations stipulated in other articles of the Constitution of Russia, federal constitutional laws or federal laws.

## **Article 22. Civil rights and liberties**

1. Civil rights and liberties in Russia shall include:

a) The right to participate in the formation of state authorities and public administration, to oversee the activities of state authorities and officials;

b) The right of equal access to civil service;

c) The right to participate in the administration of justice;

d) The right to popular self-government;

e) The freedom of assembly;

f) The right to petition state authorities, juridical persons, public associations.

2. The listing of civil rights and liberties in this Article shall not be construed as denying or impairing any other civil rights and liberties stipulated in other articles of the Constitution of Russia, federal constitutional laws or federal laws.

## **Article 23. Civil duty and obligations**

1. It shall be an obligation of a Russian citizen to maintain and protect the national sovereignty, unity, indivisibility and territorial integrity of Russia. A Russian citizen shall obey the Constitution of Russia, federal constitutional laws, federal laws and other legal enactments effective in

Russia. A Russian citizen shall respect and protect the national symbols of Russia and implement the supreme values of Russia.

2. It shall be the sacred duty and obligation of a Russian citizen to defend the Homeland for the purposes of external and internal security of Russia. A Russian citizen shall perform his military duty. If military service is contrary to his beliefs or religion, a Russian citizen shall have the right to perform alternative civilian service instead.

3. A Russian citizen shall participate in elections and referendums. Participation in the activities of the Chamber of Supreme Values of Russia and electoral commissions shall be the duty of a Russian citizen.

4. A Russian citizen shall utilize the natural resources of Russia efficiently and sparingly.

5. It shall be the duty of a Russian citizen to promote and maintain accord between the peoples of Russia regardless of their racial, ethnic, religious, linguistic and other distinctions.

6. It shall be the duty of a Russian citizen to seek continuous personal improvement, develop his self-consciousness and sense of responsibility for his behavior and promote harmonious social life to ensure Russia's advancement towards greater achievements.

7. It shall be the duty of Russian citizens to participate in the administration of justice as jurors or other trial participants.

8. The listing of civil obligations in this Article shall be without prejudice to any other obligations stipulated in other articles of the Constitution of Russia, federal constitutional laws or federal laws.

#### **Article 24. Equal human and civil rights, obligations and responsibility**

1. All persons shall be equal before the law, hold equal rights and liberties, perform equal obligations and bear equal responsibility in Russia.

2. The state shall guarantee the exercise of human and civil rights and liberties, the defense and restoration of infringed rights and liberties as well as the responsibility of every person regardless of his gender, race, skin color, ethnicity, language, origin, financial or official status, place of residence, relationship with religion, beliefs, affiliation with public associations, social status or other circumstances. The rights and liberties of persons who belong to the same interest group shall

not be restricted in any manner on the basis of race, ethnicity, religion, language, social status or otherwise.

3. Persons who belong to the same interest group and are in need of state support as well as persons vested with public authority may be granted benefits or preferences based on the supreme values of Russia and the principle of social justice and in accordance with federal constitutional and federal laws.

### **Article 25. Human right to life**

1. Every person shall have the right to life. The right to life shall not be restricted or impaired on any grounds.

2. The state shall be responsible in accordance a federal constitutional law for the safeguarding and protection of every person's life from the time of his conception to the time of his death.

3. Suicide shall be condemned by society. The state shall assist in the rehabilitation of persons who have temporarily lost their will to live, and encourage the activities of public associations involved in such rehabilitation.

4. Death penalty shall be prohibited.

5. Euthanasia shall be allowed in Russia in exceptional cases. A Russian citizen may undergo euthanasia with his consent and by court order in accordance with the procedure prescribed by a federal constitutional law.

### **Article 26. The right to create a new human life**

1. Every person shall have the right to create a new human life.

2. A new human life shall be created by means of natural conception and childbearing.

3. The creation of a new human life in any other manner shall require the written consent of both spouses.

4. The creation of a new human life by implanting the embryo conceived by the wife to another woman — a surrogate mother — shall require a written consent of the surrogate mother.

5. The creation of a new human life by means of cloning or in any other artificial manner shall be prohibited.

6. Abortion shall be allowed with the consent of the woman if her own or her embryo's life or health is threatened due to a conception

resulting from rape or otherwise as specified in a federal constitutional law.

7. The state shall assist in reducing the risks of incompatibility between a man and a woman for medical reasons where the right to create a new human life is exercised.

### **Article 27. Human freedom**

1. Every person shall be free to live at his own discretion unless it is contrary to the supreme values of Russia, the Constitution of Russia and Russian laws.

2. Every person shall bear moral responsibility for his actions or omissions to society and legal responsibility to the state.

3. Russian citizens shall have the right to seek their self-fulfillment in labor on equal terms, with due regard to their state of health, interests and abilities, and without any discrimination based on race, ethnicity, religion, language, social status or otherwise.

### **Article 28. Human dignity**

1. Every person shall have the right to the recognition and protection of his dignity during his life and memory of himself after his death. Human dignity shall be protected by the state. The right to the recognition and protection of human dignity shall not be restricted or impaired on any grounds. Every person shall have the right to claim safeguarding and protection of his dignity from the state.

2. No person shall be exposed to torture, violence or other cruel or humiliating treatment or punishment. No person shall be exposed, without his voluntary consent, to experiments involving direct physical or mental influence on humans.

3. The right to respect for human dignity shall not be restricted or impaired on any grounds.

### **Article 29. Restriction of human and civil rights and liberties**

1. Human and civil rights and liberties may be restricted by a federal law solely to the extent provided for by the Constitution of Russia and required for the purposes of the supreme values of Russia, national defense and security, the protection of rights and lawful interests of other persons.



2. Where a special regime applies, specific restrictions may be imposed on human and civil rights and liberties in accordance with a federal constitutional law to provide the security of citizens and national defense, provided that the limits and timeframes for such restrictions are stated; also, additional responsibilities may be placed on physical and juridical persons.

3. Special regimes may be introduced in all or part of Russia in accordance with the procedure prescribed by a federal constitutional law provided that there are sufficient grounds for introducing such regime.

### **Article 30. Protection of human and civil rights and liberties**

1. Every person is hereby guaranteed state protection (including judicial protection) of his rights and liberties. The right to judicial protection shall not be restricted or impaired on any grounds.

2. The state shall not infringe human and civil rights and liberties and shall defend and restore infringed rights and liberties, specifically, by establishing government agencies and appointing officials authorized to defend and restore human and civil rights and liberties or by vesting the existing government agencies or officials with such authority.

3. Every person shall have the right to defend his rights and liberties in any manner not prohibited by a federal constitutional law or federal laws. The right to self-defense is hereby guaranteed. Weapons may be used for the purposes of self-defense in accordance with a federal law.

4. Every person shall have the right to petition, in accordance with Russia's international treaties, international agencies for protection of rights and liberties where all available domestic remedies are exhausted.

5. The rights of persons affected by wrongdoing shall be secured. The state shall ensure that any aggrieved party has access to justice and can receive compensation for the damage caused.

6. Every person shall be entitled to be indemnified by the state for any damage caused to him by illegal actions or omissions of state authorities or officials or by abuse of power, in which case the state shall indemnify the person for the damage caused and recover all costs from the guilty party in accordance with the procedure prescribed by a federal law.

### **Article 31. Regional human rights commissioners**

1. In accordance with the charter or law of a constituent entity of Russia, a regional human rights commissioner as well as dedicated commissioners may be appointed to ensure that human and civil rights and liberties are protected by the state, respected and observed by state authorities and officials in the constituent entity.

2. In exercising their powers, regional human rights commissioners shall be independent from, and not accountable to, any state authorities or officials.

3. The activities of regional human rights commissioners shall be complementary to the existing remedies for the protection of human and civil rights and liberties and shall not cancel, or result in the revision of, the competences of the state authorities responsible for the protection and restoration of infringed rights and liberties.

4. The activities of regional human rights commissioners and their offices shall be financed out of the budgets of Russia's constituent entities.

5. The introduction of a special regime in all or part of Russia shall not terminate or suspend the activities or restrict the powers of regional human rights commissioners.

### **Article 32. Russian citizenship**

1. Russian citizenship shall be uniform and equal regardless of the grounds on which it is acquired or the person's place of residence. No citizenship of a constituent entity of Russia shall be introduced. If a Russian citizen resides outside Russia, this shall not terminate his citizenship.

2. A Russian citizen shall not have a foreign or dual citizenship. If a Russian citizen acquires citizenship in a foreign country, his Russian citizenship shall be suspended by resolution of the President of Russia.

3. The primary document identifying Russian citizenship shall be the Russian national passport.

4. Russian citizenship shall be acquired by birth, by conferment or restoration of citizenship or otherwise. Russian citizenship shall be acquired and terminated in accordance with a federal law.

5. A Russian citizen shall not be stripped of his citizenship or his right to change the same.

6. A Russian citizen shall not be expelled from Russia or extradited to another country.

7. Russia shall guarantee protection and patronage for its citizens staying outside Russia.

### **Article 33. Foreign citizens and stateless persons**

1. Foreign citizens and stateless persons shall enjoy rights and liberties, perform obligations and bear responsibility on equal terms with Russian citizens save as otherwise provided for by the Constitution of Russia, a federal law or an international treaty signed by Russia.

2. Russia shall grant political asylum to foreign citizens and stateless persons in accordance with the rules of international law recognized by Russia.

3. Russia shall not extradite any persons persecuted for political convictions, discriminated against on the grounds of race, ethnicity, religion, language or social status, or for actions or omissions not recognized as a crime in Russia. Persons accused or convicted of a crime may be extradited or transferred to another country for the purposes of serving punishment pursuant to a federal law or an international treaty signed by Russia.

### **Article 34. Family in Russia**

1. The state shall protect the family as the basis for preservation and development of the Russian Nation as well as marriage, fatherhood, motherhood and childhood.

2. A family shall be built on an equal relationship between a man and a woman based on mutual love and respect and formalized as a marital union.

3. Every person shall have the right to create and preserve a family.

4. Taking care of and bringing up children shall be a right and obligation of both parents equally. Parents shall have the right to bring up their children in accordance with their own worldview unless it is contrary to the supreme values of Russia.

5. The right of the child to retain his family shall take priority in the event of divorce between parents.

6. It shall be the duty of children to respect their parents, and it shall be equally the responsibility of the children and the state to take care of parents. Able-bodied children who have reached the age of 18 shall take care of their parents who are unfit for work.

7. It shall be the duty of every person to take care of his other close relatives.

8. The state shall promote the preservation of families and improvement of their material well-being; for this purpose, the state shall support families by granting them allowances, benefits and other types of family aid. The procedure and grounds for providing such families with state support shall be governed by a federal law.

9. In order to support families, the state shall establish and develop a network of child-care institutions, utility organizations and services as well as catering facilities.

### **Article 35. Minority rights**

1. The state shall respect the rights and lawful interests of political, social, ethnic, cultural and linguistic minorities as well as the disabled and protect them from discrimination.

2. Any physiological, physical or mental abnormality of a person that is not recognized as a disability under Russian laws shall not result in classifying such person among a minority.

3. The state shall protect the rights and lawful interests of minorities, the rights and liberties of persons belonging to minorities and shall take measures to achieve the equality of persons belonging to a minority and those belonging to the majority in all areas of economic, social, political and cultural life.

### **Article 36. Freedom of thought and opinion**

1. Every person is hereby guaranteed the freedom of thought and opinion. The freedom of thought and opinion shall not be restricted or impaired on any grounds.

2. No person shall be forced to share or renounce his ideas or opinion.

3. Any persecution for ideas or opinion shall be prohibited.

### **Article 37. Freedom of speech and right to information**

1. Every person is hereby guaranteed the freedom of speech.

2. Every person shall have the right to share his opinion freely in writing, orally, in the form of images or otherwise.

3. Every person shall have the right to search, obtain, produce and share information freely in any lawful manner. The freedom of mass media is hereby guaranteed. The right to obtain information on the activities of state authorities shall be guaranteed in accordance with a federal law.

4. Any persecution for sharing an opinion shall be prohibited unless such opinion contains information which promotes immorality, is aimed at undermining the supreme values of Russia, threatens national security, incites violence, provokes discord, is humiliating or disparaging, discloses restricted information, is in breach of restrictions related to civil service, unless otherwise provided for by a federal law in accordance with information security requirements.

### **Article 38. Public associations**

1. Every person shall have the right of association. No person shall be forced to join or stay in any association. The freedom of activity for public associations is hereby guaranteed.

2. Public associations consisting of Russian citizens may participate, via their representatives, in public administration, specifically, by proposing bills, forming state authorities at all levels, nominating candidates for elective positions in state authorities, giving them mandates and recalling their elected representatives from elective state authorities, exercising public oversight in areas of social importance.

### **Article 39. Interest groups**

1. All persons, citizen associations and juridical persons shall have the right to unite into interest groups and develop their own ideology.

2. Interest groups may be created in the form of public associations, workers' associations or otherwise as provided for by Russian laws.

3. Interest groups may be created on the basis of a geographical area, industry, business or otherwise to defend the group's common interests and achieve common goals.

4. Interest groups consisting of Russian citizens and citizen associations may participate in public administration in any manner provided for by Russian laws in accordance with a federal constitutional law.

## **Article 40. Right to justice and alternative options for conflict resolution**

1. All persons shall be equal before the court.

2. Resolutions and actions or omissions of state authorities, officials and public associations, as well as information the same are based on, may be appealed against at court. Failure to adopt a federal constitutional law, federal law or other regulation necessary for the implementation of human and civil rights and liberties shall also be appealed against at court.

3. No person shall be denied the right to have his case considered, within a reasonable period of time, at the court and by the judge that have jurisdiction over such case in accordance with a federal constitutional law. Compensation for late consideration of cases by court shall be established by a federal law.

4. A person accused of a crime shall have the right to have his case considered by a jury if he is threatened with imprisonment for more than five years in connection with the charges brought against him.

5. Every person shall be guaranteed the right to obtain qualified legal assistance. As contemplated by a federal constitutional law and federal laws, the services of a lawyer (defense attorney), consultancy and legal assistance shall be provided free of charge.

6. No person shall be convicted again of a crime that he has already been convicted of in accordance with Russian or foreign laws.

7. No proof obtained in violation of a federal constitutional law or federal law shall be used in the investigation of offences or in the administration of justice.

8. A person may be lawfully arrested, taken into or held in custody only by court order or in accordance with the procedure prescribed by a federal constitutional law. The person shall not be detained for more than 48 hours prior to the court judgment; upon expiry of 48 hours, the person shall be immediately released.

9. Every person held in custody on charges of a crime shall have the right to use the assistance of lawyer (defense attorney) from the time of being detained, taken into custody or accused, and the right to request the court to consider promptly whether his detention was lawful. The term of pre-trial detention shall not exceed one year. In

exceptional cases, it may be extended by court order in accordance with a federal constitutional law.

10. No person shall be liable for an action, which was not recognized as an offense at the time when it was performed. If the liability for an offense was canceled or mitigated after the offense was committed, the new law shall apply.

11. Out-of-court dispute settlement or resolution shall be subject to the person's desire or consent. No person shall be forced by anyone to use out-of-court dispute settlement or resolution against his will.

12. The parties to a dispute shall choose, at their own discretion, any manner of dispute settlement or resolution consistent with law, whether provided for by a federal constitutional law or federal law or not.

### **Article 41. Presumption of innocence**

1. Every person accused of an offense shall be deemed innocent until his guilt is legally established in the course of court proceedings, whereby the person shall be provided with all legal remedies unless otherwise provided for by a federal constitutional law.

2. The burden of proving the offense and rebutting the defense of the person accused or suspected of a crime shall lie with the accuser. The accused person shall not be obliged to prove his innocence.

3. Any insoluble doubts about the person's guilt shall be construed in his favor.

### **Article 42. Witness immunity**

1. No person shall be compelled to be a witness against himself, his spouse or close relatives; the scope of close relatives for these purposes shall be defined by a federal constitutional law. The accused or suspected person's confession of committing an offense shall be solely voluntary and shall not be the only proof of his guilt.

2. A federal constitutional law may provide for other grounds for refusal to testify.

3. The state shall guarantee the protection of witnesses.

### **Article 43. Guarantees for the convicted and the imprisoned**

1. No person shall be exposed to a humiliating or excessively cruel punishment.

2. No person shall serve a sentence in conditions destroying his human dignity or endangering his life or health.

3. Every person convicted of a crime shall have the right to have his sentence reviewed by a higher court in accordance with the procedure prescribed by a federal constitutional law, and the right to petition for pardon or mitigation of sentence.

## **Section 2. The Russian Nation**

### **Chapter 6. Source of authority in Russia**

#### **Article 44. Popular rule**

1. Russia shall be a federal, law-based, secular and religiously tolerant, social and moral-based state.

2. The only source of authority in Russia shall be the Russian Nation. The Russian Nation shall exercise its power by means of referendums, elections, assembly as well as via state authorities, popular self-government bodies, the Chamber of Higher Values of Russia and through interaction with its representatives in the elective state authorities.

3. State authorities and officials shall be subject to public oversight by making their plans public and being accountable for the same.

4. A Russian citizen shall have the right and obligation to participate in the formation of state authorities, oversight of the state authorities and officials as well as in public administration.

5. Russian citizens shall have the right to elect and be elected to state authorities and participate in referendums and assemblies. Citizens held to be legally incompetent by court shall have no right to elect or be elected. Citizens serving a sentence in places of confinement shall have no right to elect or be elected.

6. Russian citizens shall have equal access to civil service.

7. Russian citizens shall have the right to participate in the administration of justice.

8. Russian citizens shall have the right to popular self-government.



9. Russian citizens shall have the right to contact in person, file individual or collective petitions to state authorities and officials, juridical persons including public associations. A federal law shall establish the timeframes and procedure for issuing a reply to any reasonable petition, the liability of state authorities and officials for failure to comply with the established procedure or to reply in due time.

10. Russian citizens shall have the right to hold peaceful unarmed meetings, rallies and demonstrations, marches and pickets.

#### **Article 45. Guarantees of popular rule**

1. The right of Russian citizens to form state authorities, control state authorities and officials and participate in public administration shall be secured by the state and subject to judicial protection.

2. Popular rule shall be guaranteed by establishing:

a) the election procedure and requirements for candidates to and persons holding elective positions in state authorities, whereby it shall be ensured that the elected persons serve their electors in good faith;

b) the status and procedure for giving a mandate to the elected representatives in the elective state authorities, oversight and evaluation of their activities, possibility of early recall;

c) the procedure and timeframes for addressing petitions from citizens;

d) that any plans of the persons holding elective positions in state authorities are transparent and made available to the public, that such persons report to their electors on a regular basis, that other information on the situation in all areas of the state's responsibility is publicly available;

e) opportunities for lawful protest activities and political opposition;

f) the procedure for law initiation by the people and the referendum procedure;

g) popular self-government;

h) the procedure for adopting a new Constitution of Russia;

i) the formation and operating procedure of the Chamber of Higher Values of Russia as well as for other forms of public oversight in accordance with a federal constitutional law.

## **Article 46. The Chamber of Higher Values of Russia**

1. The Chamber of Higher Values of Russia shall be a special public and state authority, which shall assess whether federal laws, legal practice and the activities of federal state authorities are consistent with the supreme values of Russia.

2. To be eligible as a member of the Chamber of Higher Values, a person shall: be a Russian citizen; have reached the age of 40; have particular achievements in state-building, economy, science, culture, art and education, promotion of rule of law, health and safety, protection of human and civil rights and liberties, upbringing, development of sports; have received government awards for a significant contribution to homeland defense and security, for vigorous charitable activities or other services to society and the state.

3. The Chamber of Higher Values shall be established and operate in accordance with a federal constitutional law. Candidates for membership in the Chamber of Higher Values shall be nominated by local legislative bodies. The lists of candidates shall be prepared by the legislative bodies of the constituent entities of Russia individually for each constituent entity. The presidium of the Chamber of Higher Values consisting of 11 members shall be randomly selected from the list of Russian citizens proposed by the constituent entities and be approved by the President of Russia for a term of three years. The members of the Chamber of Higher Values' panels shall be randomly selected from the list of Russian citizens proposed by the constituent entities and be approved by the President of Russia for a term of one year. The same person shall not participate in the panels for two consecutive terms.

4. The Chamber of Higher Values shall:

a) issue an opinion on whether the activities of federal state authorities are consistent with the supreme values of Russia, both on its own initiative and as requested by federal state authorities.

b) examine whether federal laws and legal practice are consistent with the supreme values of Russia, both on its own initiative and upon complaints filed by citizens.

5. The Chamber of Higher Values shall have the right to obtain information on the activities of state authorities and to receive a reply to its requests. It shall be mandatory for representatives of state authorities at all levels to attend the meetings of the Chamber of Higher Values

if invited. It shall be mandatory for officials to reply to any questions and requests of the Chamber of Higher Values.

6. On the basis of the issues considered by its panels, the Chamber of Higher Values shall prepare an annual report on the status and implementation of the supreme values of Russia, which shall be published and made available to the general public.

7. Federal state authorities and officials shall be guided by the opinions of the Chamber of Higher Values and pay due regard to the statements of the annual report of the Chamber of Higher Values in their activities in accordance with a federal constitutional law.

### **Article 47. Referendum**

1. Critical issues of the country's life shall be put to a national vote — the referendum of Russia.

2. The referendum shall be a form of direct popular rule. The referendum procedure and the scope of issues that may not be voted on at the referendum shall be defined by a federal constitutional law.

3. The referendums of a constituent entity of Russia and local referendums may be held to solve public and social issues within the authority of the relevant constituent entity of Russia or municipal entity.

4. A resolution adopted at the referendum shall be universally binding and shall not require further approval.

5. In the event of conflict between a resolution passed at the referendum and the resolutions of state authorities, the resolutions of the referendum shall prevail and be effective.

6. An issue put to the vote at the referendum shall be worded in such a manner as to exclude multiple interpretations, to ensure that the question allows only unambiguous answers and to prevent the resolution to be adopted at the referendum from having uncertain legal consequences.

7. Russian citizens shall have an obligation to participate in the referendum in person. A Russian citizen shall vote for or against the issue(s) put to the vote at the referendum.

8. Failure to participate in the referendum without a valid reason shall entail liability in accordance with Russian laws; the list of valid reasons for not participating in the referendum shall be defined by Russian laws.

## **Chapter 7. Population preservation and nation-building in Russia**

### **Article 48. Nation-building and ethnic relations in Russia**

1. The Russian Nation shall be one and comprised of the Russian people and all brother peoples of Russia.

2. The Russian Nation shall have a common Homeland, a common state, common supreme values of Russia, a common language — the Russian language, a common history, a common culture, a common attitude to the freedom of religion. The state shall strengthen national unity via education, upbringing, culture, propaganda, mass media.

3. Russia shall respect the right of all brother peoples of Russia to maintain the language, culture and religion of their ancestors.

4. The state shall monitor and control ethnic relations, promote respect and tolerance to other peoples.

### **Article 49. Population preservation in Russia**

1. National development plans and programs, the resolutions and actions of state authorities and officials shall aim to preserve the population: to improve health, strengthen the family, increase birth rate, reduce abortions, increase life expectancy, reduce mortality.

2. The state shall manage demographic development by influencing:

a) the ideological and spiritual condition of the Russian Nation and Russian civilizational identity —via education, upbringing, culture, propaganda and mass media;

b) the quality of state demographic policy;

c) the standard and quality of life of the Russian Nation.

### **Article 50. Guaranteed rights of native minorities**

1. Native minorities shall be guaranteed that the state will support the environmental safety of their historical areas of residence, economic activities and industries, as well as the preservation and development of their authentic culture.

2. The state shall guarantee that the rights of native minorities and persons belonging to the same are protected.

## **Chapter 8. Russian community**

### **Article 51. Members of the Russian community**

1. Members of the Russian community, which comprises Russian citizens and persons related by origin to Russia in all its historic forms, may identify themselves, at their option, as belonging to the Russian civilization.

2. Members of the Russian community shall behave with dignity and respect the Russian Nation, the Russian history, culture and traditions, and shall not endanger the security of Russia with their actions.

### **Article 52. Russia's policy towards the Russian community abroad**

1. Russia shall deem the Russian community abroad to be an area of its responsibility and a civilizational priority of its foreign policy, acknowledging that some former Russian citizens (subjects) were forced to leave Russia for political or ideological reasons.

2. Russia shall protect the members of the Russian community abroad from any discrimination based on race, ethnicity, religion or language, promote their communication with Russian citizens and citizen associations and the development of their social and cultural life, specifically, by teaching the Russian language, literature, history and culture within the Russian communities abroad as well as the languages, literature, history and culture of all brother peoples of Russia.

3. Members of the Russian community living abroad as well as Russian citizens, foreign citizens and stateless persons permanently residing in Russia shall be issued a document in accordance with a federal law to certify that they belong to the Russian community and enable them to secure Russia's support.

4. The state shall encourage the relocation of members of the Russian community living abroad back to Russia and grant them Russian citizenship using a simplified procedure in the event of relocation, take measures to preserve the historical cultural heritage abroad, support the members of the Russian community involved in the foreign activities of Russian non-profit juridical persons.

## **Chapter 9. Popular self-government**

### **Article 53. Right to popular self-government**

1. Russian citizens shall have the right to unite into popular self-government groups in their place of residence on their own initiative.

2. Popular self-government shall be recognized and guaranteed by the state. Popular self-government groups shall be independent within their authority. Popular self-government bodies shall not be part of the system of state authorities.

3. Popular self-government may be exercised in the form of assemblies, neighborhood or house committees, partnerships of homeowners or otherwise.

4. The establishment and activity of popular self-government groups or authorities, whose goals or actions endanger national security or are aimed at creating paramilitary groups, provoking hostility, infringement of human and civil rights or non-performance of human and civil obligations, or violating Russian laws, shall be prohibited.

### **Article 54. Competence of popular self-government groups**

1. The competence of popular self-government groups in the relevant area of residence shall include:

a) urban amenities in the area of residence;

b) public order;

c) environmental protection and landscaping;

d) creating conditions for comfortable residence, including management of infrastructure, utilities, transport, trade and domestic services; matters of education, healthcare, upbringing, rest and leisure, culture, amateur performances, creative activities, charity, outdoor advertising.

2. An area of residence shall mean a building section, building or group of buildings as well as other neighboring areas defined by the population in accordance with a federal law where it is reasonable for the population to exercise popular self-government.

3. The principles and goals of popular self-government groups shall be initiative, autonomy, mutual aid, promotion of an adequate standard of living, preservation and development of human potential.

### **Article 55. Interaction between popular self-government bodies and state authorities**

1. Popular self-government shall be independent and interact with state authorities.

2. State authorities shall take into account the interests of popular self-government groups regardless of their forms of organization and whether they have the rights of juridical persons.

3. State authorities shall promote popular self-government.

4. In order to acquire the rights of juridical persons, popular self-government groups shall be registered upon application filed by their members in accordance with a federal law.

5. Popular self-government groups and authorities shall have the right to petition state authorities and officials as well as juridical persons, specifically, via public associations. A federal law shall establish the timeframes and procedure for issuing a reply to any reasonable petition, the liability of state authorities and officials for failure to comply with the established procedure or to reply in due time.

## **Section 3. Social and humanitarian system of Russia**

### **Chapter 10. Society**

#### **Article 56. Society in Russia**

1. The Russian society shall be independent, organize itself, develop a public ideology and interact with the state.

2. The Russian society shall be built and develop on the basis of the following fundamental principles:

- a) consolidation based on solidarity;
- b) unity in diversity;
- c) mutual respect, cooperation and mutual aid;
- d) commitment to social accord and prosperity;
- e) equality in human and civil rights, liberties, obligations and responsibility;
- f) settlement of conflicts and differences via public dialogue.

3. Society shall form the ideas of, develop, promulgate and require the state to implement, social values based on the supreme values of Russia.

4. Public interests shall be represented and protected by citizen associations and mass media.

#### **Article 57. Society and the state**

1. Society shall interact with the state by means of elections, by nominating its candidates for elective positions in state authorities, evaluating the state's activities, introducing initiatives, being engaged in a dialogue, issuing demands and exercising other forms of popular rule.

2. Information on the activities of state authorities shall be disclosed to citizens, citizen associations and juridical persons at request or otherwise as provided for by Russian laws. Access to the information on the activities of state authorities shall be restricted where such information is classified as restricted information in accordance with the procedure prescribed by a federal law.

3. Society shall have the right to protest against the actions or omissions, resolutions, plans or intentions of state authorities and officials without using violence and in accordance with the procedure prescribed by a federal law.

4. Society shall have the right to claim a report from each state authority or official within their responsibility.

#### **Article 58. The state and society**

1. The state shall promote social progress, social justice, public morals and public welfare.

2. The state shall promote social accord and unity, recognizing the diversity and strengthening mutual trust and respect.

3. The state shall promote social activity and guarantee the independence of society in its actions and omissions; secure the right of society to interact with the state, to obtain information on the activities of state authorities, to receive a reply to a petition; guarantee that any protest claims are considered and that protest actions may be performed in accordance with a federal law.

4. State policy shall aim to achieve the universal good and meet public interests.



5. The state shall take care to safeguard social values and public morals.

6. The state shall maintain records of public opinion.

## **Chapter 11. Social justice**

### **Article 59. Achieving social justice**

1. Social justice shall be secured by society, the state, interest groups, every Russian citizen in accordance with Russian laws

2. Social justice shall be secured by means of knowledge, respect and commitment to promote the interests of every person and interest group as well as by finding the right balance between conflicting interests.

3. Social justice shall be aimed at finding a balance between what a person expects from society and the state and what he receives from the same, as well as between what society and the state require from a person and what they receive from him, which shall be mutually acceptable to the person, society and the state.

The person's expectations and society's and the state's requirements shall include both tangible and intangible assets, services and encumbrances.

4. Every person and interest group in Russia as well as society shall have the right to form and declare publicly their own expectations and to have them reasonably treated by the state, society, interest groups and other persons.

5. Social justice shall be aimed at finding the best balance between what a person expects and what he receives, between what a person claims and what he gives, on equal terms for all persons.

6. The state, society, interest groups, every person shall actively form their ideas of what they expect to receive and what they are required to give, on a moderate, adequate, reasonable and moral basis.

### **Article 60. Basis of social justice**

1. Social justice shall be based on:

a) public morals;

b) equal rights of every person to the recognition and protection of his dignity;

- c) legitimate interests of citizens, citizen associations, juridical persons, society;
  - d) results of labor;
  - e) gratitude of society and the state to the person for his activities of social importance;
  - f) mercy towards the weak and the needy.
2. In the face of limited resources and conflict of interests, the universal good shall be achieved by finding a balance between the public good, the benefit of interest groups and the benefit of every person.
3. In the face of limited resources and conflict of interests, the public good shall be achieved by finding a balance between the benefit of interest groups and the benefit of every person.
4. In the face of limited resources and conflict of interests, the universal good shall be achieved by finding a balance in the benefit of all persons belonging to that group.

#### **Article 61. Social standards**

1. Social standards shall aim to achieve social justice and secure an adequate standard of living for Russian citizens and be established in order to:
- a) define the guaranteed patterns and standards for the consumption of key material assets and services by citizens;
  - b) pursue a uniform social policy in different territorial units (federal districts, constituent entities of Russia and municipal entities);
  - c) be used as standards for allocating social spending in budgets of different levels;
  - d) evaluate the standard of living and the progress of social policy;
  - e) be used in the development of social programs;
  - f) state the reasons for and allocate targeted social aid to the population in need thereof;
2. Social standards shall be established by federal laws.
3. The system of social state standards shall encompass all areas involving social relationships, including remuneration and employment relationships, promotion of employment and assistance to the unemployed, pension benefits, provision of medicines and convenience goods, housing, utility and domestic services, education and professional training, science, health and fitness, culture, social insurance,

social aid and social services to the population, environmental safety, protection of the social rights of citizens.

## **Chapter 12. Social well-being of a person**

### **Article 62. Psychological comfort**

1. Every person shall have the right to peace of mind and confidence in the present and future.
2. State authorities shall assist a person in achieving peace of mind and confidence in the present and future.
3. State authorities or officials concealing any facts or circumstances that endanger human life or health shall be held liable in accordance with Russian laws.
4. Persons who find themselves in a psychologically difficult life situation shall be provided with state support.

### **Article 63. Information on future plans**

1. Every person shall have the right to know the goals, plans and forecasts related to the development of Russia, a constituent entity of Russia, a municipal entity, his employer, as well as any threats to development.
2. The state shall guarantee that such development goals, plans and forecasts as well as any threats or risks to development are made public.

### **Article 64. Overcoming an injustice, trouble or disaster**

1. Every person, citizen association or juridical person seeing injustice shall have the right to require the state, society, interest groups and every person to restore justice in accordance with the procedure prescribed by a federal law.
2. The state shall ensure that every person is able to exercise his right to appeal to state authorities in connection with an injustice, trouble or disaster, assist the person in overcoming the same and encourage the activities of relevant public associations.

## Chapter 13. Security of a person

### Article 65. Economic security

1. The state shall guarantee every Russian citizen an adequate standard of living required by him to sustain and develop himself and his dependent family members, on the basis of statutory social standards and social justice.

2. Every person shall have the right to use his abilities and property freely to perform any economic activities not prohibited by a federal law. The freedom of choosing an economic activity and the manner of performing the same is hereby guaranteed.

### Article 66. Non-economic security and safe environment

1. The state shall ensure that every person is protected from unlawful violence, hazardous (adverse) mass information effects, negative impact of human activities, adverse condition of the environment, adverse sanitary and epidemiological situations, natural and man-made disasters and consequences thereof.

2. Every person shall have the right to claim state protection from any slavery or bondage, physical or spiritual violence or compulsion, any illegal dependence or restriction, any illegal command or subjection.

3. Every person shall have the right to physical integrity, personal and family privacy, protection of his honor and good name. No arbitrary interference in a person's private life shall be permitted.

4. Every person shall have the right to the privacy of correspondence, telephone conversations, mail, telegraphic or other messages. This right may be restricted only by court order.

5. Any collection, storage, use or dissemination of information on a person's private life without his consent shall be prohibited except for the purposes of search and investigation operations performed in accordance with a federal constitutional law or federal law.

6. State authorities and officials shall ensure that every person can view any documents or materials that directly affect his rights, obligations or responsibility.

7. Every person shall have the right to identify and indicate his ethnicity and religious affiliation. No person shall be compelled to

identify or indicate his ethnicity and religious affiliation. A Russian citizen may identify and indicate his ethnicity and religious affiliation for the purposes of the state registration of his civil status documents, correcting, amending, restoring or canceling entries in the same. The state shall provide opportunities for every person to exercise the right to identify his own ethnicity and religious affiliation.

8. Every person legally staying in Russia shall have the right to move freely and choose a place of temporary or permanent residence. The registration of a person in the place of his temporary or permanent residence shall not be provided on a permissive basis or give rise to any restriction of this right.

9. Every person shall have the right to travel outside Russia freely. A Russian citizen shall have the right to return to Russia without let or hindrance.

10. The Russian Nation and every person shall have the right to peace. It shall be the responsibility of the state to maintain, and facilitate the exercise of, the right to peace.

11. Genocide shall be prohibited.

### **Article 67. Protection after death**

1. The state shall guarantee a respectful attitude to a deceased person and his remains in accordance with a federal constitutional law.

2. The remains of the deceased and his burial place shall be protected by the state indefinitely.

3. The state shall guarantee that the remains of the deceased are buried according to the cultural and religious traditions in accordance with the will of the deceased or his close relatives.

## **Chapter 14. Labor and other sources of entitlement to benefits**

### **Article 68. Labor**

1. Labor shall be the primary source of income and benefits consumed by a person in Russia, the source of development for society and the state. The state and society shall encourage labor, promote the value, importance and prestige of labor.

2. Every person shall have a freedom of labor. Every person shall have the right to make free use of his ability to work, choose a profession and career, upgrade his skills and improve qualifications.

3. Labor shall be encouraged via financial and non-financial incentives.

4. Forced labor shall be prohibited except in accordance with an effective court sentence or otherwise as provided for by a federal constitutional law.

5. Every employee shall have the right to work in safe and hygienic conditions, to be remunerated for his labor without any discrimination and in the amount no less than the minimum wage rate prescribed by a federal law based on the principle of social justice, and to be protected from unemployment.

6. Every person shall have the right to have individual and collective labor disputes with the employer and to settle such disputes using the ways of dispute resolution provided for by a federal constitutional law, including the right to strike.

7. Entrepreneurship shall be recognized as an activity of social importance.

8. The care taken of and the upbringing of children in a family by their parents until the child reaches the age of six shall be recognized as an activity of social importance and treated as labor. The period spent by an unemployed parent on taking care of and bringing up a child shall be included in the parent's employment record in accordance with the procedure prescribed by Russian laws.

9. It shall be the responsibility of the state to ensure that citizens able to work are employed in line with their preferences, education, skills and qualifications, and have opportunities to upgrade their skills and improve qualifications, in order to minimize unemployment.

### **Article 69. Economic rent**

1. Economic rent shall be limited in Russia and regulated by the state in accordance with a federal constitutional law and federal laws.

2. The owner of any extracted natural resources shall be entitled to the income generated from the sale of such resources ("natural resource rent"). The owner shall reimburse physical and juridical persons

for their costs associated with the extraction of natural resources and ensure the prescribed level of marginal profit.

3. The beneficiary of natural resource rent generated from renewable natural resources shall be encumbered with an obligation to recover these natural resources.

4. The beneficiary of natural resource rent generated from non-renewable natural resources shall be encumbered with the obligations to organize and/or perform reasonable and sparing extraction of such resources and to perform the required land rehabilitation upon completion of the development in accordance with a federal law and other obligations provided for by a federal law.

5. The income generated from the use of property or finance (property income and interest on loans) by the owner and/or holder thereof shall be limited by the state in accordance with a federal constitutional law and federal laws via progressive taxation and direct and indirect regulation of income and profit margins.

#### **Article 70. Inheritance**

1. The state shall guarantee the right to inherit private property. Inherited property shall be subject to a tax assessed on the basis of the heir's financial status.

2. The state shall encourage the preservation and use of inherited property in accordance with its intended purpose.

#### **Article 71. Social redistribution**

The state shall redistribute, in accordance with Russian laws, the income of physical and juridical persons via progressive taxation, which shall provide revenue for state budgets at all levels and non-budgetary state funds, in order to achieve social justice, provide social welfare and aid for the needy members of the Russian society, pay out pensions, manage income inequality in the Russian society.

#### **Article 72. Service to the state**

1. A citizen's labor for the benefit of society and the state ("service to the state") shall be his duty. Citizens shall do their service to the state by means of civil service or other service of equal status.

2. Service to the state may be done in the Armed Forces of Russia, security and law enforcement agencies, other paramilitary state organizations, in civil service or official positions. The remuneration, incentives and other terms of service to the state shall be established by a federal constitutional law and a federal law.

### **Article 73. State benefits**

1. The state shall establish state benefits for specific activities of social importance: motherhood, studies at higher education institutions, postgraduate studies and other studies specified in a federal law. Persons who have rendered notable services to the state shall be provided with financial support.

2. Convicts, persons serving punishment, persons engaged in community work and reformed criminals shall be entitled to state benefits. Places of confinement shall provide opportunities for community work.

## **Chapter 15. Rest**

### **Article 74. Right to rest**

1. Every person shall have the right to rest. The state shall create conditions for leisure, tourism, fitness and sports activities of Russian citizens.

2. A person working under an employment contract shall be guaranteed the working hours, weekends and public holidays and paid annual leave provided for by a federal constitutional law. The owner of a juridical person's property, employer, a representative of the hirer shall provide opportunities for the employees to rest.

3. The state shall oversee compliance with the Russian laws on employees' rest by the owners of a juridical person's property, employers, representatives of the hirer.

4. The state shall encourage Russian citizens to use their time of rest to lead a healthy life.

### **Article 75. Public holidays**

Public holidays (non-working days) shall be established by a federal constitutional law.



## **Chapter 16. Home**

### **Article 76. Right of abode**

1. Every person shall have the right to an adequate and comfortable home. No person shall be dispossessed of his home in an arbitrary manner.

2. State authorities shall encourage housing development and guarantee the exercise of the right of abode by developing public and private housing stock, assisting citizens in obtaining an adequate and comfortable home.

3. Low-income persons and other persons in need of home as specified in a federal constitutional law shall be provided with a residential property out of public or private housing stock within a reasonable time free of charge or for an affordable fee in accordance with the standards set out in the federal constitutional law. Citizens in need of social protection shall be provided with a residential property within a reasonable time free of charge or for an affordable fee in accordance with Russian laws.

### **Article 77. Inviolability of home**

The state shall guarantee the inviolability of home. No person shall have the right to enter a home in any manner against the will of its inhabitants. Entry into a home shall only be permitted in the event of an emergency or otherwise as contemplated by a federal constitutional law, provided that the legality of such entry is subsequently verified by court.

## **Chapter 17. Mercy and charity**

### **Article 78. Mercy**

1. Mercy shall be supported by society and the state.
2. The state shall promote humanity and mercy in society.

### **Article 79. Charity**

1. The state shall encourage the involvement of physical and juridical persons in charitable activities and provide opportunities for the

development of charity. All needy persons shall have equal rights to charitable assistance.

2. Charitable activities shall be deemed activities of social importance.

3. The state shall reward and encourage charitable activities via tax benefits, subsidies, informational support, special national awards and otherwise in accordance with Russian laws.

## **Chapter 18. Human potential of Russia**

### **Article 80. Creation, development and preservation of human potential**

1. Human potential shall include state of health, psychological comfort, established ideological and spiritual worldview, good manners, culture, education and qualification, skills and creative abilities.

2. Human potential shall be developed on the basis of the supreme values of Russia.

3. The state shall create conditions for the preservation and development of human potential for every Russian citizen. Russian citizens who do not have an adequate standard of living shall be provided with state support.

### **Article 81. Guarantees of human potential preservation and development**

1. Human potential shall be preserved and developed.

2. Every person, society and the state shall be responsible for preserving and developing human potential.

3. State authorities and officials shall not make any decisions or perform actions or omissions that reduce human potential. State authorities and officials shall be held liable in accordance with Russian laws for making any decisions or performing actions or omissions that reduce human potential.

## **Chapter 19. Health**

### **Article 82. Right to health protection and medical assistance**

1. Every person shall have the right to health protection and medical assistance.

2. The state shall guarantee health protection for every person and give priority to preventive healthcare and medical screening of the population.

3. Russian citizens shall be provided with timely, high-quality and free medical assistance in public healthcare institutions at the expense of the relevant state budget or non-budgetary state funds.

### **Article 83. The state and healthcare**

Russia shall finance federal programs for health protection and improvement, federal programs aimed at preventing diseases and reducing their incidence or at increasing the lifetime of population; take measures to develop and support the public and private healthcare systems; encourage activities that promote health improvement, development of fitness and sports, environmental, sanitary and epidemiological safety. The state shall guarantee Russian citizens the availability of a free minimum set of medication.

### **Article 84. Health and healthy lifestyle**

1. It shall be the duty of every person to look after his health and lead a healthy life.

2. Russia shall restrict manifestation of an unhealthy or immoral way of life, including a sedentary lifestyle, lechery, unhealthy diet, drug addiction, smoking and alcohol abuse, deviant behavior. Any propaganda or advertising of the above shall be prohibited in accordance with federal constitutional and federal laws. Bestiality and homosexual sodomy shall be prohibited.

3. The state shall create conditions and infrastructure for a healthy lifestyle and promote a healthy and moral lifestyle. All Russian citizens shall be guaranteed equal access to the infrastructure intended for a healthy lifestyle, including fitness and sports facilities.

## Chapter 20. Upbringing

### Article 85. The state and upbringing

1. The state shall provide moral and spiritual upbringing of Russian citizens in accordance with the supreme values of Russia.
2. The integrity of upbringing shall be ensured throughout the person's life via the interaction of the state, educational system, family, colleagues, public associations, religious associations, army, penal system as well as via mass media and outdoor advertising.
3. The state shall provide the moral and patriotic upbringing of young people.

### Article 86. Upbringing and mass media

1. The state shall encourage mass media to provide moral and spiritual upbringing for, and promote the intellectual development of, Russian citizens in accordance with the supreme values of Russia.
2. Mass media shall be restricted or prohibited, in accordance with a federal law, from disseminating any information that may damage the morality of Russian population.

### Article 87. Upbringing and education

Any educational institution shall engage in upbringing. Education and upbringing shall be inseparable.

## Chapter 21. Education

### Article 88. Goals of education

1. Education shall ensure an all-round development of personal abilities and be provided in order to pass down knowledge, impart skills, form a person's worldview and develop his personality.
2. Education shall aim to foster patriotism, commitment to labor, collectivism, mutual support and mercy in citizens; to develop a person's civilizational identity and bring him up as a free and responsible citizen in accordance with the supreme values of Russia.
3. Along with scientific development, education shall be used to spread knowledge and culture in society.

### **Article 89. Right to education**

1. Every person shall have the right to education. Secondary (complete) general education shall be mandatory. Parents and persons acting as parents shall ensure that their children receive a secondary (complete) general education.

2. Russian citizens who have received a higher education at the expense of state funds shall be subject to mandatory job placement upon graduation in accordance with a federal law.

3. Education shall be controlled and overseen by the state. The state shall control and oversee public and private educational institutions for the purposes of education as well as intellectual, moral and physical development of students.

### **Article 90. Guarantees of education**

1. The uniform general school shall provide a foundation for the universal basic education. School shall not be divided into school types based on education quality.

2. The state shall be responsible for education. The state shall guarantee Russian citizens basic general education, secondary (complete) general education, primary and secondary professional education in public educational institutions and other state-owned juridical persons; such education shall be generally accessible, free-of-charge and of proper quality. Generally accessible and free higher education based on competitive admission is hereby guaranteed.

3. The state shall guarantee the right of parents to provide their children with further education relevant to their worldview.

4. The state shall promote the continuity of education, provide opportunities for upgrading skills and improving qualifications, education and self-education of every person throughout his life.

5. The state shall establish mandatory educational standards. The activities of any educational institutions including institutions of religious education shall comply with mandatory educational standards.

6. The state shall monitor the employers' requirement of professional staff and facilitate satisfying such requirement by regulating education and mandatory job placement of Russian citizens in accordance with Article 89, part 2 of the Constitution.

## **Chapter 22. Culture**

### **Article 91. Right of access to culture**

Every person shall have the right to be involved in the cultural life, use cultural institutions and gain access to historical cultural heritage.

### **Article 92. The state and culture**

1. The state shall identify the objectives of Russia's cultural development, work out measures to preserve and develop the Russian culture and the cultures of all brother peoples of Russia.

2. The state shall be responsible for the personal culture of Russian citizens and the preservation of Russia's historical cultural heritage.

3. The state shall guarantee citizens access to culture by regulating the terms of such access and providing an adequate number of cultural institutions.

4. The state shall cooperate with educational institutions, sports and workers' associations and teams to encourage, guide, support and promote the fitness and sports activities of population.

5. The state shall use the historical cultural heritage of Russia in education, upbringing, propaganda, outdoor advertising.

## **Chapter 23. Creative activities and science**

### **Article 93. Freedom of creativity**

1. Russian citizens shall be guaranteed the freedom of scientific, technical, artistic and other creative activities as well as teaching the same, for the purposes of self-fulfillment, personal development and the development of Russia, unless otherwise provided for by a federal law. Every person shall have the right to engage in any creative activities in line with his interests and abilities.

2. Every person shall have the right to engage in professional and non-professional creative activities, unless otherwise provided for by a federal law. The state shall create the required facilities, support creative organizations and unions, ensure that educational events are accessible to all population categories.

#### **Article 94. Scientific development**

1. The state shall be responsible for developing all types and branches of basic and applied science to ensure Russia's security, development and leadership in global science.

2. Scientific activities shall be deemed to be activities of social importance and the basis for developing the country and enhancing the efficiency of public administration. Scientific activities shall not be treated as entrepreneurship. The development of basic science shall be guaranteed by the state.

3. Scientific research shall not be in conflict with the supreme values of Russia or ethical requirements.

4. The state shall promote science in society by supporting the educational activities of research companies and other juridical persons.

#### **Article 95. Intellectual activities**

1. The state shall encourage intellectual and creative activities, invention and rationalization.

2. The state shall protect intellectual property rights, including the right of a person to receive compensation if his intellectual property is used by other persons.

#### **Article 96. State support of innovation**

1. The state shall encourage innovation based on the achievements of Russian basic and applied science.

2. The state shall promote venture capital funds, participate in arranging and financing venture research.

3. The state shall stimulate demand for innovation.

#### **Article 97. Art**

1. Russia shall recognize the freedom of arts and other forms of artistic expression.

2. The state shall encourage artistic expression oriented towards the supreme values of Russia and facilitate the dissemination of artistic products.

## Section 4. Economic system of Russia

### Chapter 24. The state and economy

#### Article 98. State regulation of economic activities

1. The state regulation of economic activities shall be based on the following key principles:

a) economic activities recognized as an indispensable material basis for the implementation of human and civil rights and obligations and for the state's responsibility;

b) public interest prevailing over personal interest in economic activities;

c) balance between the long-term and short-term goals of economic activities, balance between the interests of the present and future generations;

d) economic activities based on personal labor contribution prevailing over economic activities not based on personal labor contribution (activities generating passive income);

e) responsibility of specific state authorities and officials for the results of the distribution and redistribution of material assets created in the course of economic activities.

f) resource efficiency and reasonable use of any resources in economic activities.

g) stimulating the growth of added value and limitations placed on profits for the public benefit; reasonable consumption and self-limitation of consumption;

h) balance between the national interests and the interests of economic entities;

i) unconditional implementation of social justice, specifically, in labor relations and in the redistribution of material assets created in the course of economic activities;

j) development of Russian economic entities as a priority and concentration of capital and resources in Russia.

2. The primary goal of the state regulation of economic activities shall be to achieve the self-sufficiency of Russia, which will enable financial independency, military, food, energy and environmental



security, the preservation and development of human potential in line with the declared Russia's goals. Economic development shall be a means of implementing the supreme values of Russia. Any economic activity that jeopardizes the implementation of the supreme values of Russia shall be restricted or prohibited.

3. The state regulation of economic activities that serves the public good, the interests of the Russian Nation and the economic development of the country shall be based on the aggregate of Russia's economic success factors consistent with its civilizational identity and other factors.

4. In order to ensure a balanced economic development, the state shall develop, adopt and implement long-, mid- and short-term development programs as well as the Doctrine on the Economic Development of Russia.

5. The state shall implement the Doctrine on the Economic Development of Russia by taking such measures as investment, tax, tariff, antimonopoly and other regulation to encourage the appropriate activities of economic entities, as well as by defining the liability of economic entities for misconduct. The state shall support any forms of self-organization of economic entities aimed at establishing the culture and ethics of economic activities, developing entrepreneurship and competition to achieve the public good. The state shall encourage economic activities involving personal labor contribution of citizens.

6. The state may participate in economic activities, specifically, by establishing juridical persons, holding, using and disposing of property or otherwise as provided for by Russian laws. A federal law may provide for economic activities to be performed solely by state-owned juridical persons ("state monopoly").

7. The state shall be responsible for developing the infrastructure facilities required for essential services and for economic, business and social development, regardless of their form of ownership, while ensuring advanced development of such infrastructure in the context of balanced regional development.

8. The economic activities of foreign citizens, foreign juridical persons and foreign states in Russia shall be performed in accordance with the procedure prescribed by a federal law and shall not damage

Russia's national sovereignty, economic interests, environment, culture or citizens.

### **Article 99. Participation of the state in economic activities**

The state shall perform the following functions in economic activities:

a) develop an economic policy and ensure that it is implemented consistently with the social and demographic policies and the policy on the preservation and development of Russia's human potential;

b) ensure occupational safety by laying down mandatory requirements for safety, oversight and control, maintenance of agencies responsible for forecasting and preventing emergencies and mitigating the consequences thereof;

c) support the activities of juridical persons related to providing essential services, where non-state-owned juridical persons cannot achieve adequate social efficiency;

d) support the activities of juridical persons related to providing the population with convenience goods in order to maintain competition, set acceptable standards of service and price levels and provide the population with convenience goods in times of crisis;

e) invest in high-risk projects and/or projects with a long payback period which are necessary for Russia but are not attractive enough for private equity investment.

### **Article 100. Unity of economic space**

1. Federal state authorities shall ensure the unity of economic space and free movement of human resources, legally distributed products and services as well as financial assets in Russia.

2. The movement of human resources, products and services as well as financial assets may be restricted in accordance with a federal law if required for the purposes of Russia's security.

### **Article 101. Competition and natural monopolies**

1. State authorities shall support competition by stimulating increase in the number of economic entities and preventing monopoly abuse.

2. The state shall protect competition from unscrupulous practices.

3. In order to achieve the public good, the state shall create natural monopolies owned exclusively by the state. The state shall regulate the activities of natural monopolies on the basis of balance of interests and equality of all economic entities and consumers.

**Article 102. Achieving Russia's goals and state funds for public consumption**

1. The state shall be responsible for achieving Russia's goals.
2. The state shall be responsible for the fair distribution of national income via tax regulation, social welfare and otherwise. In order to provide state support for Russia's goals, the state shall establish state funds for public consumption in the form of state non-budgetary funds in accordance with the procedure prescribed by Russian laws.

## **Chapter 25. Economic resources**

**Article 103. Human resources**

1. The state shall ensure the quantitative and qualitative reproduction of human resources required to achieve Russia's goals, and employee qualifications.
2. The state shall manage the migration of human resources within the country, emigration and immigration, and offer opportunities for physical persons to participate in relocation programs run by employers.

**Article 104. Fixed assets**

The state shall take measures to preserve and renovate fixed assets, specifically, by offering incentives to their owners.

## **Chapter 26. Property in Russia**

**Article 105. Forms of property and title to property**

1. The purpose of property shall be to secure the human and civil rights and obligations of citizens, citizen associations and juridical persons, the powers and responsibility of the state, sustainable existence, and to achieve Russia's goals.

2. The state shall recognize and protect, on equal terms, all forms of public and private property. Forms of property shall be defined by a federal constitutional law.

3. Public property shall secure guarantees and constitute the material basis for the exercise of rights and performance of obligations by citizen associations and non-profit juridical persons (“non-commercial property”), for the powers and responsibility of the state (“state-owned property”).

4. State-owned property shall secure guarantees and constitute the material basis for the exercise of the state’s powers and responsibility. State-owned property shall include assets recognized as the wealth of the Russian Nation and other tangible and intangible assets which are held, used and disposed of mainly to achieve the universal good and would be used with much lower social efficiency if made any other form of property.

5. Foreign states may acquire real estate in Russia solely to accommodate their diplomatic missions and consular posts. The procedure for sale and purchase of real estate in Russia shall be established by a federal constitutional law.

6. Private property shall secure guarantees and constitute the material basis for the exercise or performance of human and civil rights and obligations by citizens and economic entities. Proprietary rights shall be exercised freely unless this prejudices national and public interests or infringes the rights or legitimate interests of other persons.

7. A federal constitutional law shall establish different regulatory regimes for the private property that is used for the purposes of entrepreneurship (“entrepreneur’s property”) and for the private property that citizens use to satisfy their personal needs as necessary and appropriate (“personal property”).

8. A federal constitutional law may impose restrictions on foreign citizens, stateless persons and foreign juridical persons acquiring title to real estate in Russia.

### **Article 106. Wealth of the Russian Nation**

1. Tangible and intangible assets, including those of historical, cultural or spiritual value, vital natural resources, federal-level infrastruc-

ture for defense, transport, energy, communications and information shall be deemed to be the wealth of the Russian Nation in accordance with a federal constitutional law.

2. The wealth of the Russian Nation shall be exclusive federal property. The income from using the wealth of the Russian Nation shall be credited to the federal budget and state funds for public consumption and be used for the benefit of the whole Russian Nation in line with Russia's goals and in accordance with the procedure prescribed by a federal constitutional law.

### **Article 107. Exclusive federal property**

1. Vital natural resources of Russia shall be deemed to be the wealth of the Russian Nation.

2. Vital natural resources shall include water, air, forest, subsoil and mineral resources (excluding common types), endangered species of animals and plants.

3. Vital natural resources in their natural condition shall be exclusive federal property. Such resources shall not be privatized or transferred into the ownership of the constituent entities of Russia and municipal entities.

4. Extracted mineral resources classified as vital natural resources shall be federal property. The procedure for alienation thereof shall be established by a federal constitutional law.

5. Vital natural resources shall be used in accordance with the procedure and under the terms established by a federal constitutional law or a federal law.

6. All citizens shall have equal access to vital natural resources.

7. The state shall minimize the damage caused to natural resources by economic activities.

### **Article 108. Title to non-vital natural resources**

1. Non-vital natural resources may be held as private, public or other property.

2. Non-vital natural resources may be owned, used and disposed of by their owners freely to the extent this does not cause harm to the environment or infringe the rights or legitimate interests of other persons.

3. Foreign citizens, stateless persons and foreign juridical persons may own and use non-vital natural resources in accordance with a federal constitutional law or a federal law.

### **Article 109. Title to land**

1. Land may be held as private, public or other property. Physical and juridical persons may own land lots as private property. The terms of and procedure for use and disposal of land lots shall be established by a federal constitutional law.

2. Lands located outside the boundaries of population centers and intended for agriculture shall be deemed to be agricultural lands. Agricultural lands may be used only for agricultural production, protective forest planting, for research and educational purposes and for other purposes related to agricultural production.

3. Farmlands, such as arable lands, hay-fields, pastures, perennial plantations, as part of agricultural lands shall have priority of use and be subject to special protection. The state shall expropriate land lots if their owners violate the rules of using the same.

4. Foreign citizens, stateless persons and foreign juridical persons may not hold title to land lots located in border areas, the list of which shall be approved by the President of Russia, or in other areas of Russia subject to special protection in accordance with federal laws. Foreign citizens, stateless persons and foreign juridical persons may not hold title to farmlands.

### **Article 110. Intellectual property**

1. Protected intellectual products and means of identification treated as such (“intellectual property”) shall be subject to intellectual property rights, including the exclusive right, which shall be a property right, as well as personal non-property rights and other rights.

2. Intellectual property shall be protected and may be restricted in accordance with a federal constitutional law.

### **Article 111. Privatization and nationalization**

1. Privatization and nationalization shall be performed in accordance with the supreme values of Russia and Russia’s goals in such

a manner as to maintain balance between the national, public and personal interests.

2. The state shall regulate the ratio of the total amount of state property to the total amount of non-state-owned property for the benefit of the Russian Nation.

3. The owner of any state property may transfer it into the ownership of physical or juridical persons in accordance with the procedure prescribed by a federal constitutional law.

4. The transfer of any property owned by physical or juridical persons into the ownership of the state (“nationalization”) shall be performed pursuant to a federal constitutional law, provided that the owner of such property shall be compensated for its value and other losses.

### **Article 112. Protection of property**

1. The right to property shall be protected by a federal constitutional law.

2. No person shall be dispossessed of his property other than by court order. No expropriation of property by the state shall be permitted save as otherwise stipulated by a federal constitutional law and provided that prior just compensation is paid to the owner.

3. Any transactions that result or have resulted in any person being dispossessed of his personal property, where such dispossession jeopardizes or has jeopardized the exercise of human and civil rights and liberties vested in the owner of such property or his dependent persons, shall be null and void. Any encumbrances, including taxes and charges, on personal property shall be created with due regard to the financial status of the owner and his dependent persons and shall not compel the owner to enter into the aforesaid transactions.

## **Section 5. Russian territory**

### **Chapter 27. Russian territory and the world**

#### **Article 113. Integrity and inviolability of the Russian territory**

1. Russia shall secure the integrity and inviolability of its territory using all methods consistent with the rules of international law recognized by Russia, including the use of military force.

2. Any international treaties that result in the Russian territory being reduced, Russia's jurisdiction on the continental shelf or in its exclusive economic zone being infringed, or Russia recognizing foreign territorial claims or waiving its own lawful and reasonable territorial claims, shall be ratified only by resolution of the referendum of Russia.

3. The execution of any international treaty indicated in part 2 of this Article without holding the referendum of Russia may be subject to parliamentary investigation and give rise to the deposition of the President of Russia if the implementation of such treaty endangers the security or defense capabilities of Russia.

#### **Article 114. Geopolitical neighborhood**

1. Russia shall respect the national sovereignty and interests of the states recognized by Russia in accordance with the established procedure.

2. Where the interests of other states are in conflict with the supreme values of Russia, Russia shall use its best efforts to settle the differences by way of negotiation except where such manner of settlement endangers its security and territorial integrity.

3. Russia shall rely on the principle of good neighborliness in its relations with the states with which it has a common land border and/or sea border, to the extent this does not conflict with the interests of Russia.

4. The state shall pay particular attention to the situation in the zones of Russia's interests throughout the world, including states allied or friendly to Russia, locations of international sea and air transportation routes connected with the Russian transport infrastructure, the



Arctic region, Antarctica and other regions that are essential for Russia's security.

#### **Article 115. Historical territories of Russia**

Russia shall be open to dialogue on the reunification of its historical territories based on the free will of the nations and states whose destinies are historically linked to Russia. For these purposes, Russia shall use diplomatic, political, economic and other peaceful means and methods.

### **Chapter 28. Territorial development of Russia**

#### **Article 116. Interconnection and developed condition of the territory**

The state shall be responsible for the interconnection and developed condition of its territory, which is based on the settlement of population, distribution of productive forces, timely and advanced development of nationally important infrastructure for defense, transport, energy, communications, information, essential services.

#### **Article 117. Regional development**

1. The state shall be responsible for the improvement of social and economic indicators of Russia's constituent entities and federal districts.

2. Federal districts shall consist of several constituent entities of Russia and be intended to optimize the interaction between federal and regional state authorities and between the constituent entities of Russia in public administration. The boundaries of a federal district shall be defined in accordance with the procedure prescribed by a federal law.

3. The goals of Russia's regional state policy shall be to provide a regulatory, administrative and resource basis for Russia's geopolitical interests and territorial integrity, ensure a balanced existence and development of the constituent entities of Russia in the social and economic fields, achieve a balanced population density in Russia, coordinate national interests, programs and projects implemented at all levels in the constituent entities of Russia.

4. Regional development shall be pursued by means of a regional state policy.

5. The regional state policy shall be implemented in accordance with the Doctrine on the Regional Development of Russia.

### **Article 118. Territorial development**

1. The constituent entities of Russia shall ensure a balanced existence and development of the constituent entity and its component municipal entities in the social and economic fields, a balanced population density in the constituent entity, coordination of the national interests, programs and projects implemented in the constituent entity.

2. The constituent entities of Russia shall establish municipal entities subject to the analysis of socio-economic situation in the constituent entity and on the basis of the available state resources of the constituent entity.

3. A municipal entity shall ensure a balanced existence and development of the municipal entity in the social and economic fields, a balanced population density in the municipal entity, coordination of the national interests, programs and projects implemented in the municipal entity.

### **Article 119. Territorial justice**

The state shall grant every person, regardless of his place of residence, equal rights to satisfy his needs and equal opportunities to exercise his rights and liberties.

## **Chapter 29. Natural resources of Russia**

### **Article 120. Ownership and use of natural resources**

Land, mineral resources, water, forests and other natural resources located within the Russian territory shall be deemed to be the wealth of the Russian Nation and be used to address issues of public interest.

### **Article 121. Sparing use of natural resources**

1. The state shall use land, mineral resources, water resources, plant and animal life on a scientifically grounded, efficient and sparing

basis, prevent pollution of air space and water resources, ensure the reproduction of natural wealth and improvement of the environment, preserve the genetic diversity of plant and animal life and minimize the damage caused to the environment by human activities, all to the benefit of the present and future generations.

2. Juridical persons shall use natural resources sparingly and efficiently. The state shall encourage the development of resource-efficient and non-pollutant technologies.

3. Physical and juridical persons shall be liable for failure to comply with environmental requirements and the requirements for sparing and efficient use of natural resources in accordance with Russian laws.

4. For the purposes of sparing and efficient use of natural resources, a federal law may create encumbrances on private property in the form of requirements to use the most cost-effective and non-pollutant technologies or to conserve natural resources.

### **Article 122. Environmental protection**

1. Every person shall have the right to a healthy environment that will enable him to enjoy maximum physical health and psychological comfort, to obtain true information on the environmental condition and to be indemnified for any damage caused to his health or property by an environmental offense.

2. The state shall provide environmental safety and protection throughout the Russian territory. State authorities and officials shall provide citizens, citizen associations and juridical persons with information on the environmental condition at their request free of charge.

3. Citizens, citizen associations and juridical persons may participate, under the terms and in accordance with the procedure prescribed by Russian laws, in the development, adoption, implementation, monitoring and control of the resolutions of state authorities and officials that affect the environment. State authorities and officials shall involve citizens, citizen associations and juridical persons in the development, adoption, implementation, monitoring and control of the resolutions that affect the environment.

4. The right of citizens, citizen associations, interest groups, non-profit juridical persons to hold a referendum or a public hearing on

environmental issues and to exercise public oversight of environmental protection shall be guaranteed by a federal law.

**Article 123. Global responsibility of Russia for natural resources**

1. Russia shall be aware of the global importance of the natural resources it owns, including land, mineral resources, water, air, plant and animal life.

2. Russia shall expect the neighboring and other foreign states to take a responsible approach to using common natural resources. The state shall have the right to claim, in accordance with the rules of international law, compensation for any damage caused to Russia's natural resources by other states.

**Section 6. The state and public administration in Russia**

**Chapter 30. Basic principles of the state system**

**Article 124. Russia as a federal state**

1. Russia shall be comprised of the capital city and equal constituent entities of Russia.

2. The constituent entities of Russia shall be comprised of municipal entities established by them.

3. The federal system of Russia shall be based on its territorial integrity, the indivisibility of national sovereignty, the unified system of state authorities and legislation, the sole official language, the established areas of responsibility of federal state authorities, the state authorities of constituent entities and local state authorities.

4. The constituent entities of Russia shall have equal rights and obligations in their relations with federal state authorities.

**Article 125. Russia as a law-based state**

1. Russia shall recognize and implement the principles of legality and rule of law. State authorities and officials shall act only on the

basis of and within their powers and in the manner prescribed by the Constitution of Russia and Russian laws. The protection of human and civil rights and the lawful interests of citizens in Russia shall be guaranteed by the state.

2. The state shall promote the independent institutions of society, democracy, exercise of human and civil rights and liberties, implementation of federal laws and other regulations; aim to defeat rule skepticism and improve legal literacy and legal culture among the population.

3. The decisions of state authorities and officials shall be based on the will of the majority expressed via a free vote. The rights of the minority shall be protected.

### **Article 126. Russia as a secular and religiously tolerant state**

1. Russia shall be a secular and religiously tolerant state, where religious institutions and the state shall not interfere in the internal affairs of each other. No religion, atheistic or agnostic worldview shall be made mandatory.

2. Religious associations shall be independent and equal before the law.

3. The establishment and activity of religious associations, whose goals or actions endanger national security or are aimed at violating the territorial integrity of Russia, creating paramilitary groups, provoking hostility, infringement of human and civil rights or non-performance of human and civil obligations, or violating Russian laws, shall be prohibited.

4. The state shall recognize the contribution of Orthodox Christianity and other religious denominations to the development of Russian civilizational identity and Russia itself, interact with religious associations and support their activities of social importance specified by a federal law.

5. Every person shall be guaranteed a freedom of religion, including the right to follow, individually or collectively with others, any religion not prohibited by a federal law or not to follow any religion, freely choose, change, have and disseminate religious, atheistic or agnostic beliefs and act in line with the same. No privileges, restrictions or other forms of discrimination based on relationship with religion shall be permitted.

6. Every person shall have the right to express his relationship with religion and may not be compelled to follow or renounce a religion, to identify or indicate his relationship with religion.

### **Article 127. Russia as a social state**

1. Russia as a social state shall be committed to achieve social justice. Social state policy shall aim to provide an adequate standard of living, free and all-round development and self-fulfillment of every citizen and the Russian Nation.

2. In the event of conflict of interest, the state shall ensure a balance between the interests of all Russian citizens, citizen associations, juridical persons and society based on the principle of social justice.

3. The state shall aim to maintain and increase the wealth and well-being of the Russian Nation in accordance with social standards, while establishing and maintaining an order whereby social justice determines the activities of all citizens, citizen associations and juridical persons.

4. The state shall aim to minimize inequality among citizens with respect to their social conditions and opportunities, even if they have different levels of income and different financial status, live in different localities, are employed in different industries or have other distinctions.

5. In order to maintain a balance of interests in society when redistributing public goods, the state shall:

a) create state funds for public consumption, ensure the growth and fair distribution of the assets held by these funds and assist juridical persons in establishing such funds;

b) establish progressive taxation of the income of physical and juridical persons;

c) guarantee social welfare at the expense of the state, employers and employees.

6. The state shall support all forms of social partnership and social responsibility of citizens, citizen associations and juridical persons and participate in social partnership.

7. The state shall regulate the concentration of financial, property and productive capital and guarantee that it does not damage public interests.

8. If the material well-being of the Russian Nation (whether at the federal level or in specific constituent entities of Russia or municipal entities) declines to critically low levels specified by a federal law, the state shall adopt financial, organizational and other measures, allocating the required resources.

9. Russia shall protect the labor and health of every person, establish minimum wage and pension rates, provide state support for the family, motherhood, fatherhood, childhood, disabled persons and elderly citizens, develop a system of social services, establish state pensions, allowances and other forms of social protection.

### **Article 128. Russia as a moral-based state**

1. Russia as a moral-based state shall be committed to ensure, using all available and lawful methods, that the supreme values of Russia are achieved and prevail in social relations.

2. State institutions, state-building, the goals and activities of state authorities and officials shall be based on the importance and value of every person regardless of his age, race, ethnicity, religion, language, profession, social status, individual characteristics, gender or place of residence.

3. The state shall regulate the activities of mass media to protect public morals.

### **Article 129. Governmental power in Russia**

1. Governmental power shall be exercised at the federal level, at the level of the constituent entities of Russia and municipal entities.

2. At the federal level, governmental power shall be exercised by federal state authorities: the President of Russia, the People's Assembly of Russia, the Government of Russia, the State Bank of Russia, courts, the Office of the Prosecutor General of Russia, the All-Russian Electoral Commission.

3. At the level of the constituent entities of Russia, governmental power shall be exercised by state authorities established by the constituent entities.

4. At the level of the municipal entities, governmental power shall be exercised by state authorities established by the municipal entities.

5. The powers of federal state authorities shall be defined by the Constitution of Russia and Russian laws.

6. The powers of the state authorities of constituent entities shall be defined by the Constitution of Russia, the laws of Russia and the laws of constituent entities.

7. The powers of local state authorities shall be defined by the Constitution of Russia and the laws of Russia as well as by the laws of constituent entities and municipal regulations.

### **Article 130. Unity of governmental power in Russia**

1. Federal legislative bodies, the legislative bodies of the constituent entities of Russia and local legislative bodies shall constitute Russia's uniform legislative branch, unified via mechanisms for mutual information sharing, coordination, negotiation of the procedures for development and follow-up of resolutions.

2. Federal executive bodies, the executive bodies of the constituent entities of Russia and local executive bodies shall constitute Russia's uniform executive branch, unified via mechanisms for implementing the supreme values of Russia, mutual information sharing, coordination, negotiation of the procedures for development and follow-up of resolutions.

3. General courts, commercial courts, other specialist federal courts and specialist courts of the constituent entities of Russia and justices of the peace shall constitute Russia's uniform judicial branch.

4. The powers of oversight and supervision shall be exercised by the Office of the Prosecutor General of Russia, the Accounts Chamber of Russia and the supervisory and accounting bodies of the constituent entities of Russia and municipal entities.

### **Article 131. Languages in Russia**

1. The sole official language, the language of administrative procedures and documentation throughout the Russian territory shall be the Russian language. The alphabet shall be the Russian Cyrillic alphabet.

2. The language of education, science, mass media, outdoor advertising throughout the Russian territory shall be the Russian language.

3. The state shall support and protect the Russian language.

4. Every person shall have the right to use his native language in communication, further education, upbringing and creative activities.



Native languages may be used in mass media and outdoor advertising along with the Russian language in accordance with a federal law. The state shall guarantee every person the right to preservation of his native language and provide conditions for the study and development thereof.

#### **Article 132. National symbols of Russia**

1. The national symbols of Russia shall be:
  - a) the national flag of Russia;
  - b) the national coat of arms of Russia;
  - c) the national anthem of Russia;
  - d) the national motto of Russia.
2. The description of Russia's national symbols and the procedure for use thereof shall be established by federal constitutional laws.
3. Disrespect for the national symbols of Russia shall entail liability in accordance with the procedure prescribed by Russian laws.
4. The use of national symbols in violation of the procedure established by federal constitutional laws shall be prosecuted in accordance with Russian laws.

#### **Article 133. Capital of Russia**

1. "The capital of Russia" means a territorial unit, which is not a constituent entity of Russia and is the location of federal state authorities, the representative offices of the constituent entities of Russia and the diplomatic missions of foreign states in Russia.
2. The capital of Russia shall be the city of Moscow.
3. The boundaries and status of the capital, the system of the capital's state authorities and their powers, the manner of representation of the capital's population in the state authorities shall be established by a federal law.

### **Chapter 31. Federal system of Russia**

#### **Article 134. Administrative structure of Russia**

1. The constituent entities of Russia shall be the Adyge, Altai, Amur, Arkhangelsk, Astrakhan, Bashkir, Belgorod, Bryansk, Buryat,

Crimea, Vladimir, Volgograd, Vologda, Voronezh, Gorno-Altai, Dagestan, Jewish, Trans-Baikal, Ivanovo, Ingush, Irkutsk, Kabardino-Balkarian, Kaliningrad, Kalmyk, Kaluga, Kamchatka, Karachayev-Circassian, Karelian, Kemerovo, Kirov, Komi, Kostroma, Krasnodar, Krasnoyarsk, Kurgan, Kursk, Leningrad, Lipetsk, Magadan, Mari, Mordvin, Moscow (excluding the city of Moscow), Murmansk, Nenets, Nizhny Novgorod, Novgorod, Novosibirsk, Omsk, Orenburg, Orel, Ossetian, Penza, Perm, Primorye, Pskov, Rostov, Ryazan, Samara, Saratov, Sakhalin, Sverdlovsk, Smolensk, Stavropol, Tambov, Tatar, Tver, Tomsk, Tuva, Tula, Tyumen, Udmurt, Ulyanovsk, Khabarovsk, Khakas, Khanty-Mansi, Chelyabinsk, Chechen, Chuvash, Chukotka, Yakut, Yamal-Nenets and Yaroslavl lands.

2. Each constituent entity of Russia shall be entitled to elect its own name, which shall be stipulated in the constituent entity's charter, and use such name along with its constitutional name.

3. The boundaries between the constituent entities of Russia may be altered only with their consent and in accordance with a federal law.

### **Article 135. Changing the administrative structure of Russia**

1. The administrative structure of Russia may be altered by admitting or establishing a new constituent entity of Russia.

2. A new constituent entity may be admitted into Russia via the voluntary accession of a foreign state of part thereof into Russia pursuant to an international treaty.

3. A new constituent entity may be established in Russia by uniting two or more neighboring constituent entities of Russia.

4. The terms of and procedure for admitting and establishing new constituent entities of Russia shall be established by a federal constitutional law.

5. The constituent entities of Russia shall not be permitted to secede from Russia.

### **Article 136. Russia's federal responsibility**

1. Russia represented by federal state authorities and officials shall be responsible for:

a) the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of Russia;

b) the viability of Russia, a focused and steady demographic, social, economic, regional and political development of Russia, the preservation and development of Russia's human potential;

c) the implementation and protection of the Constitution of Russia and the supreme values of Russia set forth by the same, the achievement of Russia's goals;

d) identifying the status of and protecting the national border, territorial sea, aerial domain, exclusive economic zone and continental shelf of Russia;

e) security in the field of defense capabilities, crime control, public order, protection of the population in emergencies; the operation of engineering systems; population preservation, demographic development, the preservation and development of human potential, healthcare and opportunities for a healthy lifestyle; education, upbringing, culture, science, mass media; social, economic and regional development; food supply; stable statehood and effective political system and public administration in Russia;

f) the development of science, education and industry of importance for national defense; the production, sale and purchase of armaments, military hardware and other military property, technology and dual-use products;

g) the development and implementation of foreign policy, military activities, international relations and international treaties of Russia, issues of war and peace, external economic relations of Russia, coordinating the external economic relations of the constituent entities of Russia;

h) forecasting the social, demographic, economic, regional and political development of Russia; the development of Russia's human potential; preparing, implementing and following up on scientifically grounded plans and programs for national development;

i) establishing the basic principles of Russia's legal system; adopting and amending the Constitution of Russia, federal constitutional and federal laws, doctrines of Russia and other federal legal enactments, overseeing the implementation thereof throughout the Russian territory;

j) the federal system; establishing the system of federal legislative, executive, supervisory, judicial and other authorities, the procedure

for their organization and activities; establishing the basic principles of governmental power at the level of the constituent entities of Russia and at the level of municipal entities; establishing federal state authorities;

k) providing defense attorneys and notaries;

l) regulating human and civil rights and obligations and protecting human and civil rights and liberties;

m) citizenship in Russia;

n) ethnic relations; regulating and protecting the rights of ethnic minorities, protecting the ancestral territories and traditional way of life of native minorities;

o) federal property (including the wealth of the Russian Nation) and management thereof;

p) regulating economic activities on the basis of social justice, innovation and efficiency;

q) the unity of market; financial, currency, banking, credit, tax, price and customs regulation, the regulation of money creation by the state and banks; federal economic services; federal banks, including the State Bank of Russia;

r) federal budget, federal taxes and charges, federal funds of social, economic and regional development, state funds for public consumption, basic principles of taxation in the constituent entities of Russia;

s) the nationally important infrastructure for transport, energy, communications and information; activities in space, the global ocean, atmosphere and lithosphere;

t) innovation and global leadership in science and technology;

u) court system; supervision by public prosecutors; constitutional procedural, criminal, criminal procedural and penal laws; resolutions on amnesty and pardon; civil, civil procedural, arbitration procedural and administrative procedural laws; basic legal regulation of property relations;

v) standards, benchmarks, measurement and timekeeping systems;

w) the safety of products and the processes of production, use, storage, transportation and sale thereof as well as waste disposal;

x) meteorological service; survey and mapping; geographical names; official statistics and accounting;

- y) the national awards and honorary titles of Russia;
- z) federal civil service, the basic principles of civil service in the constituent entities of Russia and municipal entities;
- aa) the management of, and establishing the procedure for, the production and distribution of poisonous substances, psychoactive and narcotic drugs and fissionable materials;
- ab) establishing and following up on the procedure for holding, using and disposing of land, mineral, water, air, forest and other natural resources; environmental protection and environmental safety; special protection areas; the protection of Russia's historical cultural heritage.

2. The state of Russia represented by federal state authorities and officials may exercise authority in other areas of the country's life which are outside the jurisdiction of the constituent entities of Russia, municipal entities and popular self-government in accordance with the Constitution of Russia.

### **Article 137. Responsibility of the constituent entities of Russia**

A constituent entity of Russia represented by its state authorities and officials shall be responsible for the following areas of the country's life:

a) a steady demographic, social, economic, territorial and political development of the constituent entity, the preservation and development of Russia's human potential;

b) the implementation and protection of the Constitution of Russia and the supreme values of Russia set forth by the same, the achievement of Russia's goals;

c) security in the field of defense capabilities, crime control, public order, protection of the population in emergencies; the operation of engineering systems; population preservation, demographic development, the preservation and development of human potential, healthcare and opportunities for a healthy lifestyle; education, upbringing, culture, science, mass media; social, economic and territorial development; stable statehood and effective political system and public administration in Russia; food supply;

d) forecasting the social, demographic, economic, political development of the constituent entity; forecasting territorial development and

the development of Russia's human potential; preparing, implementing and following up on scientifically grounded plans and programs of regional development;

e) adopting and amending the charter and other regulations of the constituent entity, overseeing the implementation thereof throughout the constituent entity;

f) the administrative system; providing the governmental power in the constituent entity in accordance with the basic principles of governmental power in the constituent entities of Russia established by a federal law; establishing the basic principles of governmental power in the municipal entities located in the constituent entity; establishing the state authorities of the constituent entity;

g) providing defense attorneys and notaries;

h) the protection of human and civil rights and liberties;

i) ethnic relations; protecting the rights of ethnic minorities, protecting the ancestral territories and traditional way of life of native minorities;

j) the property of the constituent entity and management thereof;

k) regulating economic activities on the basis of social justice, innovation and efficiency;

l) budget, taxes and charges; funds of social, economic and territorial development of the constituent entity; state funds for public consumption of the constituent entity; basic principles of taxation in the municipal entities;

m) the operation of transport, energy, communications, information and utility infrastructure critical for the constituent entity;

n) the quality of consumer goods and services;

o) the national awards and honorary titles of the constituent entity;

p) civil service in the constituent entity;

q) the use of land, mineral, water, forest and other natural resources; environmental protection and environmental safety in the constituent entity; special protection areas; the protection of Russia's historical cultural heritage;

r) the external economic relations of the constituent entity;

s) other regional matters.

### **Article 138. Responsibility of municipal entities**

A municipal entity of Russia represented by local state authorities and officials shall be responsible for the following areas of the country's life:

a) a steady demographic, social, economic, territorial and political development of the municipal entity, the preservation and development of Russia's human potential;

b) the implementation and protection of the Constitution of Russia and the supreme values of Russia set forth by the same, the achievement of Russia's goals;

c) security in the field of defense capabilities, crime control, public order, protection of the population in emergencies; the operation of engineering systems; population preservation, demographic development, the preservation and development of human potential, healthcare and opportunities for a healthy lifestyle; education, upbringing, culture, science, mass media; social, economic and territorial development; stable statehood and effective political system and public administration in Russia; food supply;

d) forecasting the social, demographic, economic, political development of the municipal entity; forecasting territorial development and the development of Russia's human potential; preparing, implementing and following up on scientifically grounded plans and programs of regional development;

e) adopting and amending the charter and other municipal regulations, overseeing the implementation thereof throughout the municipal entity;

f) providing the governmental power in the municipal entity in accordance with the basic principles established by a federal law and the laws of the constituent entity of Russia; establishing local state authorities;

g) the promotion of popular self-government;

h) the protection of human and civil rights and liberties;

i) ethnic relations; protecting the rights of ethnic minorities, protecting the ancestral territories and traditional way of life of native minorities;

j) municipal property and management thereof;

l) budget, taxes and charges; funds of social, economic and territorial development of the municipal entity; state funds for public consumption of the municipal entity;

m) the operation of transport, energy, communications, information and utility infrastructure critical for the municipal entity;

n) municipal service;

o) the quality of consumer goods, products and services;

p) the use of land, mineral, water, forest and other natural resources; environmental protection and environmental safety in the municipal entity; the protection of local historical and cultural monuments;

q) other local matters.

2. The governmental power at the level of municipal entities shall be exercised with due regard to the historical and other local traditions. The boundaries of municipal entities may be altered subject to a resolution adopted by the population of the relevant territories at a local referendum.

### **Article 139. State authorities of a constituent entity of Russia**

1. The state authorities of a constituent entity of Russia shall include: the legislative body of the constituent entity; the chief state official of the constituent entity; the supreme executive body of the constituent entity; other state authorities of the constituent entity established by the constituent entity in accordance with the Constitution of Russia, federal constitutional and federal laws, the charter and laws of the constituent entity.

2. The legislative body of the constituent entity of Russia shall be the supreme and sole permanent state legislative body of the constituent entity. The name of the legislative body shall be established by the charter of the constituent entity with due regard to its historical, ethnic and other traditions. The structure of the constituent entity's legislative body shall be established by a federal law and the charter of the constituent entity.

3. A constituent entity of Russia shall have a system of executive state authorities headed by the chief state official of the constituent entity. In accordance with the Constitution of Russia, federal state authorities and the state authorities of constituent entities shall constitute the uniform executive branch.



4. The chief state official of a constituent entity of Russia shall be the head of the supreme executive body of the constituent entity. The structure of the constituent entity's executive bodies shall be established by the chief state official of the constituent entity in accordance with a federal law and the charter of the constituent entity. The chief state official shall be elected by the population of the constituent entity in accordance with federal laws, the charter and laws of the constituent entity.

5. The supreme executive body of a constituent entity of Russia shall be a permanent executive body of the constituent entity. The name of the supreme executive body of a constituent entity, its structure, formation procedure as well as the title and operating procedures of the constituent entity's chief state official shall be established by a federal law, the charter and laws of the constituent entity with due regard to its historical, ethnic and other traditions of the constituent entity.

6. The state authorities of the constituent entities of Russia and officials shall be liable in accordance with Russian laws for violation of the Constitution of Russia, federal constitutional and federal laws.

#### **Article 140. Local state authorities**

1. Local governmental power shall be exercised throughout the Russian territory in urban and rural settlements, municipal and urban districts. Municipal entities shall be assigned the status of an urban settlement, rural settlement, municipal district or urban district by virtue of the laws of the relevant constituent entity of Russia in accordance with a federal law. The boundaries of municipal entities shall be established and altered by virtue of the laws of the relevant constituent entity of Russia in accordance with a federal law.

2. Local state authorities shall include: the local legislative body; the head of the municipal entity; the local executive body; other local authorities and elective state officials provided for by the charter of the municipal entity. Local state authorities shall be deemed to be state authorities which are part of the state authorities of Russia.

3. The formation procedure, area of responsibility and operating procedures of local state authorities as well as other matters related to the organization and activities of such authorities shall be established by the charter of the municipal entity in accordance with a federal

law and a law of the constituent entity. A local referendum may be held in accordance with a federal law and a law of the constituent entity to decide on the structure of local state authorities. The names of the local legislative body and the local executive body and the title of the head of the municipal entity shall be established by the law of the constituent entity with due regard to historical and other local traditions.

4. The deputies of the local legislative body and elective state officials shall be elected by secret ballot on the basis of the universal and equal suffrage in accordance with federal laws, the laws of the constituent entities of Russia and municipal regulations.

5. The head of the municipal entity shall be in charge of the local executive body.

6. Local state authorities and officials shall adopt municipal regulations on the matters within the jurisdiction of municipal entities in accordance with the Constitution of Russia, federal laws and the laws of the constituent entities of Russia. Municipal regulations shall be mandatory throughout the municipal entity.

#### **Article 141. Delineation of responsibility between state authorities**

1. A federal law and a law of the constituent entity of Russia adopted in accordance with the same shall establish the procedure for delineation of responsibility between federal state authorities and the state authorities of the constituent entities of Russia, between federal state authorities and local state authorities, and for the creation of mechanisms, unified for all constituent entities of Russia, for public administration, the regulation of interaction and interdepartmental budget management, the coordination of development plans and programs, the adoption of resolutions which affect the interests or responsibility of the two levels of state authorities.

2. A law of the constituent entity of Russia and a legal enactment of the local legislative body adopted in accordance with the same shall establish the procedure for delineation of responsibility between the state authorities of the constituent entities of Russia and local state authorities, and for the creation of mechanisms, unified for all municipal entities of Russia, for public administration, the regulation of

interaction and interdepartmental budget management, the coordination of development plans and programs, the adoption of resolutions which affect the interests or responsibility of the two levels of state authorities.

### **Article 142. Delegation of authority**

1. Federal executive bodies may, by mutual agreement, delegate part of their powers to the executive bodies of the constituent entities of Russia, in which case they shall provide the required material and financial resources for the same. A federal law shall establish the terms of and procedure for the partial delegation of powers, including the procedure for related financing, liability, the grounds and procedure for early termination of such delegation of powers and other matters.

2. Federal executive bodies shall not delegate any of their powers to the executive bodies of the constituent entities of Russia where such delegation jeopardizes:

- a) the implementation and protection of the Constitution of Russia and the supreme values of Russia established by the same or the achievement of Russia's goals;
- b) the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of Russia;
- c) the viability of Russia, the steady social, demographic, economic, regional and political development of the country, the preservation and development of Russia's human potential;
- d) the security of Russia.

3. The executive bodies of the constituent entities of Russia may, by mutual agreement, delegate part of their powers to federal executive bodies, in which case they shall provide the required material and financial resources for the same.

4. The executive bodies of the constituent entities of Russia may, by mutual agreement, delegate part of their powers to local executive bodies, in which case they shall provide the required material and financial resources for the same.

5. Local executive bodies may, by mutual agreement, delegate part of their powers to the executive bodies of the relevant constituent entity of Russia, in which case they shall provide the required material and financial resources for the same.

## **Chapter 32. Principles of public administration in Russia**

### **Article 143. General principles of public administration**

Public administration shall be based on the principles that the state is responsible to the Russian Nation for the results of public administration, public administration is scientifically grounded, the information on the activities of state authorities is publicly available, state resources are used sparingly and efficiently, state planning and development forecasting is performed, any administrative decisions take account of the balance of interests, and on other principles established by the Constitution of Russia and doctrinal regulations.

### **Article 144. Responsibility for the results of public administration**

1. State authorities and officials shall exercise their powers for the benefit of the Russian Nation.

2. State authorities and officials shall be liable in accordance with Russian laws for failure to perform or improper performance of their obligations.

3. Society may issue a public censure to state authorities and officials upon evaluation of their performance and initiate, along with other state authorities and officials, the imposition of sanctions on the same in accordance with Russian laws.

### **Article 145. National development forecasting, planning and programming**

1. The state shall forecast, plan and manage national development in accordance with Russia's goals.

2. In order to provide scientific grounds for the forecasting, planning and management of national development, state authorities shall use the assistance of scientific experts in public administration and create relevant institutes for these purposes.

3. The results of national development forecasting and planning shall be used when adopting, issuing, abolishing or amending doctrinal regulations, approving the budgets at all levels, making other decisions related to public administration.

4. National development forecasts, plans and programs shall be prepared for the state as a whole, for individual areas of public and national importance, economic sectors, constituent entities of Russia and federal districts, in order to coordinate the development of individual regions, industries and the state as a whole, and to ensure a comprehensive analysis of the demographic situation, scientific and technological potential, the accumulated national wealth, social structure, the international standing of Russia, the status of natural resources and other factors as well as the potential for changes in such factors. National development forecasts, plans and programs shall be transparent and public.

5. National development forecasts, plans and programs shall be developed for the long, medium and short term in accordance with a federal law.

6. Development forecasts shall include quantitative indicators and qualitative characteristics of development and be prepared in several scenarios taking account of the probable impact of internal and external political, social, economic, environmental and other factors.

7. On the basis of forecasts and plans, competent state authorities shall prepare development programs containing draft administrative resolutions.

8. The results of implementation of federal development programs for the past year shall be submitted by the Government of Russia to the President of Russia and to the chambers of the People's Assembly of Russia, and by the supreme executive bodies of the constituent entities of Russia to the legislative bodies of the relevant constituent entities by no later than February of the current year and be made public.

#### **Article 146. Balance of interests in the preparation, adoption and implementation of administrative state decisions**

1. When preparing administrative decisions, the state shall equally respect the interests of the majority and minority, national, public and personal interests and ensure that all such interests are met while achieving a balance between the same; for these purposes, the state may redistribute the available and potential public goods.

2. The state shall guarantee that all administrative decisions will be adopted and implemented for the benefit of the whole population, all interest groups and every person.

3. When developing, adopting and implementing administrative decisions, Russia shall respect and take account of the interests of other states, their nations and citizens to the extent that this does not damage the interests of Russian citizens, the Russian Nation or the state.

#### **Article 147. Effectiveness of public administration**

1. The state shall ensure that the most qualified and moral persons of impeccable reputation are trained and recruited to hold official and civil service positions in accordance with Russian laws.

2. The state shall monitor the effectiveness of public administration by comparing the established development goals (including Russia's goals) and the actually achieved results, ensure mandatory and public periodic reporting of executive state authorities and officials; on the basis of such reports, legislative state authorities, interest groups and public associations may hold such state authorities and officials liable for failure to perform or improper performance of their obligations.

#### **Article 148. Combating corruption**

1. Civil servants and state officials shall not use their authority for the purposes of unjust enrichment, substitute national and public interests with more narrow group or personal interests, engage in other corrupt practices.

2. Corrupt practices shall be punished in accordance with Russian laws.

3. Civil servants and state officials shall prevent any conflict of national, public and personal interests, shall not perform any acts that discredit or damage the state, disgrace or dishonor themselves, undermine their reputation or compromise their professional and moral qualities.

4. Civil servants in administrative positions and state officials shall be subject to a partial restriction of their personal privacy during their office in accordance with the procedure prescribed by a federal constitutional law.

5. No regulations shall be adopted for the benefit of one group against the interests of other groups in Russia.

### **Article 149. Good faith and value orientation of the officials of executive state authorities**

1. Civil servants and state officials shall perform their obligations in good faith, with a high level of professionalism, relying on the principles of public administration.

2. The behavior of civil servants and state officials shall be consistent with the supreme values of Russia and comply with the Constitution and Russian laws.

## **Chapter 33. The President of Russia**

### **Article 150. Status of the President of Russia**

1. The President of Russia shall be the head of state, the Supreme Commander, the head of the Government of Russia and shall exercise the executive power in accordance with a federal constitutional law.

2. The President of Russia shall identify the key areas of the state's domestic and foreign policy, represent the state in and outside the country.

3. The President of Russia shall be responsible for:

a) the implementation and protection of the Constitution of Russia and the supreme values of Russia set forth by the same, the achievement of Russia's goals;

b) Russia's success in all areas of life;

c) the security of Russia, preventing and countering any external aggression against Russia;

d) the exercise of the powers vested in the Government of Russia in accordance with Articles 174, 175 and other provisions of the Constitution.

4. The President of Russia shall not engage in other gainful activities, including entrepreneurship, or be a member of the governing body or supervisory board of a profit-making organization.

5. The same person may not hold the position of the President of Russia or the Vice President of Russia for more than two terms in total.

6. The procedure for election and the operating procedures of the President of Russia and the Vice President of Russia as well as the pro-

cedure for deposition of the President of Russia shall be established by a federal constitutional law and federal laws.

### **Article 151. Powers of the President of Russia**

1. The President of Russia shall:

a) form the Government of Russia and dismiss the Government of Russia and federal ministers;

b) nominate, and call for the resignation of, the chairman of the State Bank of Russia to be considered by the Congress of People's Representatives, suspend the chairman of the State Bank of Russia from office until the Congress of People's Representatives decides on whether he should resign;

c) nominate, and call for the resignation of, the chairman and half of the auditors of the Accounts Chamber of Russia to be considered by the Congress of People's Representatives, suspend from office the chairman and the proposed half of the auditors of the Accounts Chamber until the Congress of People's Representatives decides on whether they should resign;

d) nominate the judges of the Constitutional Court of Russia, the Supreme Court of Russia, the Supreme Commercial Court of Russia and the Prosecutor General of Russia to be considered by the Assembly of Lands, call for the resignation of the Prosecutor General to be considered by the Assembly of Lands, suspend the Prosecutor General from office until the Assembly of Lands decides on whether he should resign, appoint the judges of other federal courts;

e) nominate, and call for the resignation of, the deputy chairman and half of the auditors of the Accounts Chamber of Russia to be considered by the Assembly of Lands, suspend from office the deputy chairman and half of the auditors of the Accounts Chamber until the Assembly of Lands decides on whether they should resign;

f) form the Secretariat of the President of Russia;

g) appoint and dismiss presidential plenipotentiaries;

h) appoint and dismiss the high command of the Armed Forces of Russia;

i) appoint and recall Russia's diplomatic envoys to foreign states and international organizations;



j) establish deliberative and advisory bodies to support the exercise of his powers;

k) dissolve the legislative bodies of the constituent entities of Russia, dismiss the chief state officials of the constituent entities as provided for by a federal law.

2. The President of Russia shall:

a) call the election of deputies of the Congress of People's Representatives in accordance with the Constitution of Russia, a federal constitutional law and federal laws;

b) dissolve the Congress of People's Representatives as provided for by the Constitution of Russia;

c) call the referendum of Russia in accordance with the procedure prescribed by a federal constitutional law;

d) be entitled to introduce draft federal constitutional laws and draft federal laws to the Congress of People's Representatives;

e) sign and promulgate federal constitutional and federal laws, have the right of veto over the federal laws approved by the People's Assembly of Russia;

f) deliver the annual address of the President and Government of Russia on the situation in the country and key areas of its domestic and external policy to the People's Assembly of Russia;

g) be entitled to attend the meetings of the chambers of the People's Assembly.

3. The President of Russia shall use mediation to settle differences between federal state authorities and the state authorities of the constituent entities of Russia as well as between the state authorities of the constituent entities of Russia. If no agreement is reached, he shall refer the dispute to the relevant court.

4. If legal proceedings are initiated to establish whether any enactments issued by the executive bodies of the constituent entities of Russia comply with the Constitution of Russia, federal constitutional and federal laws or Russia's international obligations, the President of Russia shall be entitled to suspend such enactments.

5. The President of Russia shall:

a) lead Russia's foreign policy;

b) conduct negotiations and sign Russia's international treaties;

c) sign instruments of ratification;

d) receive the letters of credence and letters of recall of the diplomatic envoys to be accredited.

6. In the event of aggression or an immediate threat of aggression against Russia, the President of Russia as the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces of Russia shall impose martial law in the whole or any part of the Russian territory, of which he shall promptly notify the chambers of the People's Assembly of Russia. The rules of martial law shall be established by a federal constitutional law.

7. If Russia's security is threatened, the President of Russia shall declare a threat regime, crisis regime or state of emergency, as defined by a federal constitutional law, in the Russian territory or in specific locations in Russia, subject to subsequent approval by the People's Assembly of Russia.

8. The President of Russia shall:

a) resolve issues related to Russian citizenship and political asylum;

b) confer the national awards and honorary titles of Russia, supreme military and special ranks;

c) grant pardon.

9. The President of Russia shall issue regulatory decrees and non-regulatory orders. Presidential decrees and orders shall be mandatory throughout the Russian territory. Presidential decrees and orders shall be consistent with the Constitution of Russia, federal constitutional and federal laws.

### **Article 152. Liability of the President of Russia**

1. The President of Russia shall be liable for improper exercise of his powers and for the unsatisfactory level of Russia's success in the areas within the competence of the President of Russia.

2. There shall be two forms of holding the President of Russia liable:

a) a warning;

b) deposition.

3. In order to retain his honor and dignity as the head of state, the President of Russia may resign voluntarily.

4. A warning may be issued to the President of Russia by:

a) the People's Assembly of Russia:

– upon hearing the annual address of the President and Government of Russia to the People’s Assembly of Russia and the report on implementation thereof, if the established Russia’s goals are found to be inconsistent with the supreme values of Russia or are not achieved;

– if the President of Russia exercises his powers in an improper manner;

– if the President of Russia violates the Constitution of Russia;

– for behavior that does not befit the President of Russia.

b) the Constitutional Court of Russia, if multiple resolutions of the President of Russia are found to be inconsistent with the Constitution of Russia.

5. A warning to the President of Russia shall be issued as a legal enactment of the People’s Assembly of Russia or the Constitutional Court of Russia respectively.

6. The deposition of the President of Russia shall be carried out in accordance with the procedure prescribed by Article 159 of the Constitution of Russia.

### **Article 153. The Vice President of Russia**

1. In the event of temporary disability (a sustained inability to exercise his powers for health reasons), death, voluntary resignation, deposition of the President of Russia, his nomination for election or where the President of Russia is otherwise unable to exercise his authority, his powers shall be transferred to the Vice President of Russia until the causes that prevent the President of Russia from exercising his powers are eliminated or a new President of Russia assumes office.

2. If the Vice President of Russia is unable to exercise his powers, his powers shall be exercised by the minister of security and development of Russia.

3. The person acting as the President of Russia shall not be entitled to dissolve the Congress of People’s Representatives, call the referendum of Russia or propose amendments to the Constitution of Russia.

4. If the Vice President of Russia leaves office before the end of his term, no early election of the President of Russia shall be held, save where the Vice President of Russia acts as the President of Russia. Until the next election, the powers of the person acting as the Vice President of Russia shall be exercised by the chairman of the Congress

of People's Representatives. While the chairman of the Congress of People's Representatives acts as the Vice President of Russia, his office as the chairman of the Congress of People's Representatives shall be suspended.

5. The powers of the President of Russia may be transferred to the Vice President of Russia on the following grounds:

a) if the President of Russia issues a decree on transfer of his authority in connection with his vacation, temporary disability, participation in an election or voluntary resignation;

b) death of the person acting as the President of Russia;

c) the President of Russia is declared missing by court;

d) the President of Russia is held legally incapable by the Supreme Court of Russia;

e) the Assembly of Lands resolves to depose the President of Russia;

f) the President of Russia is nominated for an election;

6. The powers of the President of Russia may be transferred to the chairman of the Congress of People's Representatives on the following grounds:

a) if the person acting as the President of Russia issues a decree on transfer of his authority in connection with his vacation, temporary disability, participation in an election or voluntary resignation;

b) death of the person acting as the President of Russia;

c) the person acting as the President of Russia is declared missing by court;

d) the person acting as the President of Russia is held legally incapable by the Supreme Court of Russia;

e) deposition of the person acting as the President of Russia;

f) the person acting as the President of Russia is nominated for an election;

7. While the President of Russia exercises his powers by himself, the Vice President of Russia:

a) may exercise specific powers of the President of Russia in accordance with a presidential decree;

b) shall coordinate the activities of presidential plenipotentiaries;

c) shall exercise the powers provided for by Article 161, part 3 of the Constitution of Russia;

### **Article 154. Presidential plenipotentiaries**

1. The presidential plenipotentiary to a federal state authority or federal district shall represent the President of Russia and facilitate the exercise of his constitutional powers;

2. The presidential plenipotentiary shall be a civil servant. The Vice President of Russia shall coordinate the activities of presidential plenipotentiaries.

3. The presidential plenipotentiary shall be appointed for a term defined by the President of Russia but no longer than the presidential term of office.

4. The presidential plenipotentiary to a federal state authority may attend its meetings without the special permission of the President of Russia.

5. The status, powers and operating procedure of a presidential plenipotentiary shall be established by a presidential decree.

### **Article 155. Election of the President of Russia and the Vice President of Russia**

1. The President of Russia and the Vice President of Russia shall be elected by Russian citizens at an equal and direct general election by secret ballot for a term of five years.

2. A candidate for the post of the President of Russia or the Vice President of Russia shall: be a Russian citizen no younger than 40 and no older than 65 years of age; have been born in Russia and have lived in Russia for a minimum of 15 years before being nominated as the President of Russia; have done service in the Armed Forces of Russia or other service of equal status in accordance with a federal law (except for female candidates); have a higher education received in a Russian higher educational institution, qualifications and professional experience in politics and public administration; be physically and mentally fit to act as the President of Russia; not own any real estate in foreign countries or accounts in foreign banks.

3. The election of the President of Russia and the Vice President of Russia shall involve a mandatory public debate between all candidates for the aforesaid posts. If a candidate refuses to participate in the public debate, his registration shall be canceled. The refusal of a candidate to participate in the public debate shall be made public. Candidates for the

posts of the President of Russia and the Vice President of Russia shall be nominated by citizens and citizen associations (excluding political parties) by means of gathering signatures.

4. A presidential candidate shall have an electoral program covering all areas of the country's life.

5. The electoral program of a presidential candidate shall be the basis for the first annual address of the President and Government of Russia to the People's Assembly of Russia if this candidate wins the election.

### **Article 156. Annual address of the President and Government of Russia to the People's Assembly of Russia**

1. The annual address of the President and Government of Russia to the People's Assembly of Russia shall be a document outlining national development plans for the next year, which shall include the results of implementation of the previous address, a report on the key figures related to national development and their consistency with Russia's public goals, the key areas of activity of the Government including the development objectives and targets for the next year in line with Russia's goals.

2. The annual address of the President and Government of Russia to the People's Assembly shall be approved by a presidential decree and be mandatory.

3. The annual address of the President and Government of Russia to the People's Assembly shall also be the reporting document of the President and Government of Russia to the People's Assembly. Based on the results of implementation of the previous address of the President and Government of Russia to the People's Assembly, the People's Assembly shall be entitled to issue a warning to the President or dismiss the Government.

### **Article 157. Presidential oath of office**

1. When assuming office, the President of Russia shall take an oath in one of the following variants:

a) "I do swear and pledge to God, the Russian Nation and my own conscience that, during my office as the President of Russia, I shall protect and guarantee the viability of Russia; ensure the well-being of the Russian Nation, the implementation of the supreme values of Russia

and the achievement of Russia's goals; obey and protect the Constitution of Russia; ensure the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of Russia, the national security and development; enhance Russia's global stature; serve the Russian Nation honestly and in good faith".

b) "I do swear and pledge to the Russian Nation and my own conscience that, during my office as the President of Russia, I shall protect and guarantee the viability of Russia; ensure the well-being of the Russian Nation, the implementation of the supreme values of Russia and the achievement of Russia's goals; obey and protect the Constitution of Russia; ensure the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of Russia, the national security and development; enhance Russia's global stature; serve the Russian Nation honestly and in good faith".

2. The oath shall be taken in a solemn ceremony before the deputies of both chambers of the People's Assembly, heads of the constituent entities of Russia, judges of the Constitutional Court of Russia, representatives of the Russian Orthodox Church and other national religious associations, members of the Chamber of Higher Values and representatives of national public associations.

### **Article 158. Presidential term of office**

1. The President of Russia shall assume office as from the date of his oath of office and resign as from the date of a newly elected President taking an oath of office.

2. The newly elected President of Russia shall take an oath within 60 days from the presidential election day.

3. The President of Russia shall leave office before the end of his term in the event of his voluntary resignation or deposition. In this case, a new President of Russia shall be elected within three months of the early resignation of the previous President.

### **Article 159. Deposition of the President of Russia**

1. The Assembly of Lands may depose the President of Russia if:  
a) the Congress of People's Representatives impeaches the President of Russia for treason or other serious or extremely serious crime proven by the relevant findings of the Supreme Court of Russia;

b) the President of Russia is unable, on a sustained basis, to exercise his powers for health reasons;

c) the Congress of People's Representatives impeaches the President of Russia for failure to exercise his powers defined by the Constitution of Russia or gross violation of the Constitution of Russia;

d) the People's Assembly of Russia or the Constitutional Court of Russia issues three warnings to the President of Russia.

2. The resolution of the Congress of People's Representatives to impeach, and the resolution of the Assembly of Lands to depose, the President of Russia shall be adopted by a two-thirds vote of the total (constitutional) number of deputies in each chamber of the People's Assembly as proposed by at least one third of the deputies of the Congress of People's Representatives in accordance with the procedure prescribed by a federal constitutional law.

3. The resolution of the Assembly of Lands to depose the President of Russia shall be adopted within one year of the Congress of People's Representatives impeaching the President.

4. Once deposed by the Assembly of Lands, the President of Russia shall forfeit the right to hold official positions or other positions in state authorities for the rest of his life.

### **Article 160. Deposition of the Vice President of Russia**

The Vice President of Russia shall be deposed on the same grounds and in the same manner as prescribed for the deposition of the President of Russia.

### **Article 161. Secretariat of the President of Russia**

1. The Secretariat of the President of Russia shall be established to support the activities of the President in the office of the Government of Russia.

2. Positions in the secretariat of the President of Russia shall be civil service positions.

3. The Secretariat of the President of Russia shall be headed by the Vice President of Russia.

### **Article 162. Guarantees to the President of Russia and the Vice President of Russia**

1. Persons who have held the posts of the President of Russia and the Vice President of Russia shall be given lifetime guarantees of their



personal security and the security of their personal property after they resign from office, unless deposed. It shall be the responsibility of the incumbent President of Russia to ensure that such guarantees are met.

2. Persons who have held the posts of the President of Russia and the Vice President of Russia may not be extradited outside Russia and/or to a non-Russian court for the administration of justice. Any international treaties that provide for such obligations of Russia shall be null and void.

3. The President of Russia and the Vice President of Russia shall have immunity unless deposed.

## **Chapter 34. The People's Assembly of Russia**

### **Article 163. Status of the People's Assembly of Russia**

1. The People's Assembly of Russia (the parliament of Russia) shall be a federal legislative body representative of the whole Russian Nation.

2. The People's Assembly of Russia shall be a permanent body.

3. The People's Assembly of Russia shall be comprised of two chambers: the Assembly of Lands and the Congress of People's Representatives.

4. The Assembly of Lands shall include one deputy per constituent entity of Russia.

5. The Congress of People's Representatives be comprised of 400 deputies.

6. A deputy of either chamber of the People's Assembly shall be a Russian citizen at least 21 years of age and entitled to participate in elections.

7. The same person may not be a deputy of the Assembly of Lands and a deputy of the Congress of People's Representatives at the same time. A deputy of either chamber of the People's Assembly may not be a deputy of other legislative state authority.

8. The same person may not be a deputy of either chamber of the People's Assembly for more than two consecutive terms.

9. The deputies of the People's Assembly shall perform their functions as a permanent professional job; the deputies of the People's As-

sembly shall not be civil servants or engage in other gainful activities, including entrepreneurship, except for teaching, science and creative activities.

10. The Assembly of Lands shall elect its chairman and two deputy chairmen from its members.

11. The chairman of the Congress of People's Representatives shall be a deputy of the Congress of People's Representatives and be elected at an equal and direct general election by secret ballot simultaneously with the election of other deputies. The Congress of People's Representatives shall elect two deputy chairmen from its members.

12. The chairman and deputy chairmen of the Assembly of Lands, the chairman and deputy chairmen of the Congress of People's Representatives shall preside at the meetings and be responsible for the internal procedures of the respective chambers.

13. The chambers of the People's Assembly shall form committees and commissions, hold parliamentary hearings and conduct parliamentary investigations.

14. It shall be mandatory for representatives of state authorities at all levels to attend the meetings of the chambers of the People's Assembly, parliamentary hearings and investigations, meetings of committees and commissions, if invited by the respective committees, commissions or chambers.

15. The chambers of the People's Assembly shall adopt their own regulations on their internal procedures.

16. The deputies of either chamber of the People's Assembly shall participate and vote at the chamber's meetings in person. A deputy may miss a meeting of the relevant chamber only for good reason.

17. A meeting of either chamber of the People's Assembly shall be deemed quorate if more than half of the total (constitutional) number of the deputies are present.

18. The deputies of the Assembly of Lands may not create factions. The deputies of the Congress of People's Representatives shall be entitled to create factions. Resolutions adopted by factions of the Congress of People's Representatives shall not be mandatory for their members.

19. To ensure their activities, the deputies of either chamber of the People's Assembly shall form the joint office of the People's Assembly.

## **Article 164. Election of the chambers of the People's Assembly**

1. The deputies of the Assembly of Lands shall be elected in the constituent entities of Russia at an equal and direct general election by secret ballot for a term of two to five years in accordance with the charters of the respective constituent entities. A deputy of the Assembly of Lands shall assume office as from the date when the electoral commission of the constituent entity announces the voting results.

2. The Congress of People's Representatives shall be comprised of:

a) 199 deputies elected at an equal and direct general election by secret ballot for a term of five years in the respective territorial districts defined in proportion to population;

b) the chairman of the Congress of People's Representatives elected at an equal and direct general election by secret ballot for a term of five years in the nationwide federal electoral district encompassing the whole Russian territory;

c) 200 deputies elected at an equal and direct general election by secret ballot for a term of five years as candidates nominated by public associations (excluding political parties).

3. Members of political parties shall be elected to the Congress of People's Representatives in accordance with the standard procedure as described in part 2, clause a) of this Article. Party factions in the Congress of People's Representatives shall be formed out of the members of the political parties elected to the Congress of People's Representatives.

4. A candidate for deputy of the Assembly of Lands shall be a Russian citizen who has lived in the relevant constituent entity of Russia for a minimum of 10 years continuously and has worked in the legislative or executive bodies of constituent entities or local state authorities for a minimum of two years.

5. A candidate for deputy of the Congress of People's Representatives in a territorial district shall be a Russian citizen who has lived in that territorial district of a constituent entity Russia for a minimum of 10 years continuously.

6. Deputies of the chambers of the People's Assembly shall be nominated by citizens and citizen associations (excluding political parties).

7. The deputies of either chamber of the People's Assembly may be recalled by the electors of the relevant constituent entity of Russia, territorial district or public association respectively.

8. The formation and operating procedures of the People's Assembly, the procedure for nominating, electing and recalling the deputies of either chamber of the People's Assembly and the chairman of the Congress of People's Representatives shall be established by a federal constitutional law and federal laws.

#### **Article 165. Immunity of the deputies of the People's Assembly**

1. The deputies of the People's Assembly of Russia shall have immunity throughout their term of office. They may not be detained, arrested or searched in connection with exercising their powers of a deputy of the People's Assembly unless caught in the act of committing a crime, or undergo a personal inspection save as otherwise provided for by a federal constitutional law for the purposes of security of other people.

2. A deputy may be stripped of his immunity by the relevant chamber of the People's Assembly as proposed by the Prosecutor General of Russia.

#### **Article 166. Liability of the deputies of the People's Assembly**

In the event of failure to perform or improper performance of his obligations, a deputy of either chamber of the People's Assembly shall be liable in accordance with a federal constitutional law.

#### **Article 167. Competence of the Assembly of Lands**

1. The Assembly of Lands shall:

a) approve the federal constitutional and federal laws approved by the Congress of People's Representatives, including the federal law on the federal budget and tax assessment;

b) settle differences with the Congress of People's Representatives;

c) appraise the annual address of the President and Government of Russia to the People's Assembly of Russia, including the issues proposed by the Assembly of Lands;

d) approve the alteration of boundaries between the constituent entities of Russia;

- e) approve the presidential decrees on introducing special regimes, using the Armed Forces of Russia outside the Russian territory;
- f) resolve to declare or terminate war;
- g) call the election of the President of Russia and the Vice President of Russia;
- h) depose the President of Russia and the Vice President of Russia;
- i) appoint the judges of the Constitutional Court of Russia, the Supreme Court of Russia, the Supreme Commercial Court of Russia as proposed by the President of Russia;
- j) appoint and remove the Prosecutor General of Russia as proposed by the President of Russia;
- k) appoint and remove the deputy chairman and half of the auditors of the Accounts Chamber of Russia as proposed by the President of Russia;
- l) hold parliamentary hearings and investigations, which may involve summoning the representatives of state authorities.

2. The Assembly of Lands shall adopt resolutions on the matters falling within its competence in accordance with the Constitution of Russia.

3. The resolutions of the Assembly of Lands shall be adopted by a majority of votes of the total (constitutional) number of its deputies, unless otherwise provided for by the Constitution of Russia.

4. The Assembly of Lands may not delegate the matters falling within its competence in accordance with the Constitution of Russia to other bodies or persons.

### **Article 168. Competence of the Congress of People's Representatives**

1. The Congress of People's Representatives shall:

- a) approve federal constitutional and federal laws including the federal law on the federal budget and tax assessment;
- b) settle differences with the Congress of People's Representatives;
- c) to pass a vote of confidence or no confidence in the Government of Russia or individual federal ministers in accordance with Article 176 of the Constitution of Russia;

d) appraise the annual address of the President and Government of Russia to the People's Assembly of Russia, including the issues proposed by the Congress of People's Representatives;

e) appoint and remove the chairman and half of the auditors of the Accounts Chamber of Russia as proposed by the President of Russia;

f) appoint and remove the chairman of the State Bank of Russia as proposed by the President of Russia;

g) grant amnesty;

h) impeach the President of Russia and the Vice President of Russia for the purposes of deposition;

i) hold parliamentary hearings and investigations, which may involve summoning the representatives of state authorities.

2. The Congress of People's Representatives shall adopt resolutions on the matters falling within its competence in accordance with the Constitution of Russia.

3. The resolutions of the Congress of People's Representatives shall be adopted by a majority of votes of the total (constitutional) number of its deputies, unless otherwise provided for by the Constitution of Russia.

4. The Congress of People's Representatives may not delegate the matters falling within its competence in accordance with the Constitution of Russia to other bodies or persons.

### **Article 169. Meetings of the chambers of the People's Assembly**

1. The chambers of the People's Assembly of Russia shall meet separately.

2. The meetings held by the chambers of the People's Assembly shall be public. As provided for by a federal constitutional law, the chambers may hold closed meetings.

3. The two chambers shall hold joint meetings to:

a) hear the annual address of the President and Government of Russia to the People's Assembly of Russia;

b) resolve to issue a warning the President of Russia;

c) form a new Government of Russia or fill the vacancies of federal ministers in accordance with Article 173 of the Constitution of Russia;

d) hold joint parliamentary hearings;

e) hear the addresses of foreign heads of state;

f) solve other issues in accordance with the resolutions of both chambers.

4. The Congress of People's Representatives shall hold its first meeting on the thirtieth day from date of voting results being announced by the All-Russian Electoral Commission. The President of Russia may summon a meeting of the Congress of People's Representatives prior to that date. The deputy oldest in age shall open the first meeting of the Congress of People's Representatives.

5. As soon as a new Congress of People's Representatives commences, the deputies of the previous Congress of People's Representatives shall resign from office.

### **Article 170. Dissolution of the chambers of the People's Assembly**

1. Either chamber of the People's Assembly of Russia may be dissolved in the event of persistent or gross violation of the Constitution of Russia.

2. The chambers of the People's Assembly shall not be dissolved simultaneously. If both chambers of the People's Assembly are found to have violated the Constitution of Russia, the Congress of People's Representatives shall be dissolved first; as soon as a new Congress of People's Representatives commences, the Assembly of Lands shall be dissolved.

3. The issue of persistent or gross violation of the Constitution of Russia shall be brought before the Constitutional Court of Russia by the President of Russia, the Prosecutor General of Russia, the Supreme Court of Russia or by either chamber of the People's Assembly of Russia. If the Constitutional Court of Russia accepts the arguments produced, it shall be entitled to dissolve either or both of the chambers of the People's Assembly.

4. The chambers of the People's Assembly shall not be dissolved from the date when the Congress of People's Representatives impeaches the President of Russia to depose him and until the Assembly of Lands adopts a resolution on the issue.

5. The chambers of the People's Assembly shall not be dissolved while a special regime is in place in Russia or within six months before the end of the presidential term of office.

## **Article 171. Parliamentary oversight and parliamentary investigation**

1. The chambers of the People's Assembly of Russia, the legislative bodies of the constituent entities of Russia and local state authorities shall exercise parliamentary oversight to ensure compliance with, the implementation and application of the Constitution of Russia, federal constitutional and federal laws and other federal regulations, the charters, laws and other regulations of the constituent entities of Russia and municipal regulations as well as the implementation and protection of the supreme values of Russia.

2. Parliamentary oversight and parliamentary investigation shall be exercised in accordance with Russian laws.

3. The entities entitled to exercise parliamentary oversight shall be:

a) the chambers of the People's Assembly of Russia;

b) the committees and commissions of the chambers of the People's Assembly;

c) parliamentary oversight commissions established independently or jointly by the chambers of the People's Assembly for the purposes of parliamentary oversight;

d) deputies of the chambers of the People's Assembly within their authority and/or as instructed by the chambers, their committees and commissions, parliamentary oversight commissions;

e) the legislative bodies of the constituent entities of Russia;

f) the committees and commissions of the legislative bodies of constituent entities;

g) the parliamentary oversight commissions of the legislative bodies of constituent entities, established for the purposes of parliamentary oversight;

h) deputies of the legislative bodies of constituent entities within their authority and/or as instructed by the legislative bodies of constituent entities, their committees and commissions, the parliamentary oversight commissions of the aforesaid bodies;

i) local legislative bodies;

j) the committees and commissions of local legislative bodies.

4. Parliamentary oversight shall be exercised in the form of parliamentary investigations, queries and requests, parliamentary hearings, questions put to federal ministers or other officials by the deputies.



5. Parliamentary oversight shall be exercised in respect of state authorities and officials, state-owned juridical persons (including those based abroad), citizen associations (including political parties) and their governing bodies, non-state-owned juridical persons and their governing bodies.

6. The activities of state authorities performing search and investigation operations, agencies for pre-trial investigation and courts, the activities of state authorities and officials involving state secret may be subject to parliamentary oversight to the extent provided for by a federal law.

7. It shall be mandatory for the invited persons to attend parliamentary oversight procedures.

8. Parliamentary investigation shall not extend to:

- a) the administration of justice by court;
- b) the activities of investigative authorities and agencies for pre-trial investigation performed in accordance with criminal procedural laws;

9. The People's Assembly of Russia shall conduct parliamentary investigation into:

- a) gross or large-scale violations of the supreme values of Russia or the human and civil rights and liberties guaranteed by the Constitution of Russia;
- b) the activities of federal state authorities;
- c) circumstances related to the adverse effects of natural and man-made disasters.

10. Based on the results of parliamentary oversight, the entity exercising the oversight shall adopt a resolution within its competence.

## **Chapter 35. The Government of Russia**

### **Article 172. Status of the Government of Russia**

1. The Government of Russia shall be the supreme federal executive body in Russia.

2. The Government of Russia shall be a permanent collective body. The Government of Russia shall be comprised of the chairman of the Government, deputy chairmen and federal ministers (the minister of

security and development of Russia, federal ministers for regional affairs, other federal ministers).

3. The President of Russia shall be the chairman of the Government of Russia. As and when instructed by the President of Russia, the Vice President of Russia or the minister of security and development shall substitute for the President of Russia as the head of the Government.

4. The minister of security and development shall be the first deputy to the President of Russia in the Government of Russia.

5. The ministers of regional, social and economic development of Russia shall be deputies to the President of Russia in the Government of Russia.

6. Federal state authorities may establish territorial authorities in the constituent entities of Russia and appoint relevant officials to exercise their powers.

### **Article 173. Formation of the Government of Russia**

1. The President of Russia shall approve the members of the Government of Russia. Until the federal ministers are approved, the Government of Russia shall be entitled to hold meetings and adopt resolutions without their participation.

2. To be eligible as a federal minister, a person shall: be a Russian citizen no younger than 35 and no older than 65 years of age; have been born in Russia and have lived in Russia for a minimum of 10 years before being appointed; have done service in the Armed Forces of Russia or other service of equal status in accordance with a federal law (except for female candidates); have a higher education received in a Russian higher educational institution, qualifications and professional experience in the relevant area of politics and public administration; be physically and mentally fit to act as a federal minister; not own any real estate in foreign countries or accounts in foreign banks.

3. Federal ministers for regional affairs shall be nominated, one per federal district, by the constituent entities of Russia comprising the relevant federal district. Federal ministers for regional affairs shall be nominated in accordance with a federal constitutional law.

4. If, after the Government of Russia resigns or a vacancy for federal minister arises, the President of Russia does not form a new Govern-

ment or fill the vacancy within three months, the chambers of the People's Assembly of Russia shall hold a joint meeting to form a new Government or fill the vacancy in lieu of the President.

5. The members of the Government of Russia shall hold office until a new Government is formed.

6. Federal ministers shall not be civil servants or engage in other gainful activities, including entrepreneurship, except for teaching, science and creative activities.

7. The formation procedure of the Government of Russia shall be established by a federal constitutional law.

#### **Article 174. Responsibility of the Government of Russia**

The Government of Russia shall be responsible for:

a) the implementation and protection of the Constitution, the implementation of federal constitutional and federal laws, presidential decrees and orders, resolutions and orders of the Government of Russia;

b) the implementation of the supreme values of Russia and achievement of Russia's goals;

c) the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of Russia;

d) the external and internal security, including information security, and sustainable development of Russia;

e) the development and implementation of unified standards of living for Russian citizens in the constituent entities of Russia;

f) population preservation, employment, social justice and public morals;

g) the legality of activities performed by officials and executive state authorities at all levels;

h) scientific support of public administration;

i) developing, bringing before the Congress of People's Representatives, and implementing the federal law on the federal budget; submitting a report on the implementation of the federal budget to the Congress of People's Representatives; submitting an annual performance report to the Congress of People's Representatives, which shall cover, among others, the issues raised by the deputies of the Congress of People's Representatives;

j) uniform state policy on:

- economic, industrial and agricultural development, financial markets, the development of nationally important infrastructure for defense, energy, transport, information and communications;
- investment and innovation;
- money creation, taxes, finance, credit, prices, regulation of profits, banking, trade and supplies;
- enhancing performance, regulation of remuneration and occupational safety;
- ethnic relations, culture and religion;
- basic and applied science;
- education, upbringing, healthcare, pensions and social welfare;
- environmental safety;
- mass media;
- foreign affairs and foreign economic relations;
- regional development, distribution of productive forces and population;
- the activities of the Armed Forces of Russia, law enforcement agencies and security services;
- k) the management of federal property;
- l) law enforcement; securing the rights, obligations and responsibility of citizens; maintenance of public order; crime and corruption control;
- m) other matters in accordance with the Constitution of Russia, federal constitutional and federal laws, presidential decrees, Russia's international obligations;

### **Article 175. Powers of the Government of Russia**

1. The Government of Russia shall be empowered to:
  - a) organize the training of civil servants and create a talent pool;
  - b) interact with the executive bodies of the constituent entities of Russia;
  - c) establish territorial federal executive bodies;
  - d) develop, and bring before the Congress of People's Representatives, draft federal constitutional laws and draft federal laws;
  - e) follow up on the resolutions and orders of the Government of Russia and other legal enactments of federal executive bodies;
  - f) implement the federal budget;

- g) manage national debt;
- h) organize the informational support of public administration, and statistical monitoring;
- i) provide scientific grounds for the activities of executive bodies, develop resolutions, forecast national development and the effects of the resolutions developed;
- j) monitor social processes and interact with citizens and public associations;
- k) control the performance of state authorities at all levels with respect to implementing the supreme values of Russia and achieving Russia's goals;
- l) maintain foreign relations.

2. Within the scope of its responsibility, by virtue and in pursuance of the Constitution of Russia, federal constitutional and federal laws and enactments of the President of Russia, the Government of Russia shall issue regulations in the form of regulatory resolutions and non-regulatory orders.

3. The operating procedure of the Government of Russia shall be established by a federal constitutional law.

### **Article 176. Vote of confidence or no confidence in federal ministers. Resignation of federal ministers**

1. The Government of Russia shall resign upon the election of a new President of Russia.

2. An individual federal minister and the full Government of Russia may submit their resignation, which shall be accepted or declined by the President of Russia.

3. The President of Russia may dismiss the Government of Russia or individual federal ministers.

4. The Congress of People's Representatives may pass a vote of no confidence in the Government of Russia or an individual federal minister. The resolution of the Congress of People's Representatives on a vote of no confidence shall be adopted by a majority of votes of the total (constitutional) number of its deputies. If the vote of no confidence is passed, the President of Russia shall be entitled to dismiss the Government or the individual federal minister or reject the resolution of the Congress of People's Representatives. If the Congress of People's Rep-

representatives passes a vote of no confidence in the Government or the individual federal minister again within three months, the President of Russia shall dismiss the Government or the individual federal minister or appeal to the Constitutional Court of Russia to settle the dispute.

5. The President of Russia may call for a vote of confidence in the Government of Russia or an individual federal minister by the Congress of People's Representatives. If the Congress of People's Representatives passes a vote of no confidence, the President of Russia shall dismiss the Government or the individual federal minister within seven days.

6. If the Government of Russia is dismissed or resigns, it shall continue in office as instructed by the President of Russia until a new Government is formed.

#### **Article 177. The Ministry of Security and Development of Russia**

The Ministry of Security and Development of Russia, as instructed by the Government of Russia, shall coordinate the activities of federal ministries and federal state authorities related to national development forecasting and planning as well as the security of society, citizens and the state.

### **Chapter 36. Legal system of Russia**

#### **Article 178. Legal force of the Constitution of Russia**

1. The Constitution of Russia shall have paramount legal force and direct effect and shall apply throughout the Russian territory. Laws and other legal enactments adopted or issued in Russia by state authorities at all levels shall not be in conflict with the Constitution of Russia or otherwise distort the meaning of its provisions.

2. The Constitution of Russia shall be the basis for the legal and political culture and legal consciousness of a person.

#### **Article 179. Legal enactments**

1. The Constitution of Russia shall be the basis of Russian legal system. Laws and other legal enactments conflicting with the Constitution of Russia shall be abolished in accordance with the procedure prescribed by Russian laws.

2. Legal enactments shall include:
- a) resolutions of the Constitutional Court of Russia;
  - b) federal constitutional laws;
  - c) resolutions passed at the referendum of Russia;
  - d) international treaties;
  - e) federal laws;
  - f) resolutions passed at the referendum of a constituent entity of Russia;
  - g) resolutions passed at a local referendum;
  - h) charters and laws of municipal entities;
  - i) court orders;
  - j) agreements on the delegation of specific powers of federal executive bodies to the relevant executive bodies of the constituent entities of Russia;
  - k) bylaws.

3. In the event of discrepancy between legal enactments, the legal enactment that has superior legal force shall prevail.

4. In the event of discrepancy between a general legal enactment and a legal enactment of the same legal force that provides for an exception to the general rule (a “special legal enactment”), the special legal enactment shall prevail.

5. In the event of discrepancy between legal enactments having the same legal force and the same scope of regulation, the legal enactment adopted or issued later or by a rulemaking body authorized to adopt special legal enactments in the relevant field (a “competent authority”) shall prevail.

### **Article 180. Federal constitutional laws**

1. Federal constitutional laws shall have supremacy throughout the Russian territory. Federal constitutional laws shall not conflict with the Constitution of Russia.

2. Federal laws, doctrinal and other federal regulations, the charters, laws and other regulations of the constituent entities of Russia shall not conflict with federal constitutional laws. In the event of discrepancy between a federal constitutional law and other legal enactments, the federal constitutional law shall prevail.

3. Codes of Russia shall be adopted in accordance with the procedure prescribed by the Constitution of Russia for adopting federal constitutional laws and shall be treated as such.

4. Federal constitutional laws shall be adopted to regulate essential issues provided for by the Constitution of Russia.

5. Draft federal constitutional laws shall be brought before the Congress of People's Representatives. The right of initiative shall be vested in the President of Russia, the Assembly of Lands, at least 20 deputies of the Assembly of Lands, at least 50 deputies of the Congress of People's Representatives, the Government of Russia, the legislative bodies of the constituent entities of Russia, groups of at least 100,000 citizens eligible to vote. The Constitutional Court of Russia, the Supreme Court of Russia, the Supreme Commercial Court of Russia and the Office of the Prosecutor General of Russia shall also have the right of initiative in their areas of responsibility.

6. Draft federal constitutional laws shall be considered in accordance with the procedure prescribed for the consideration of draft federal laws. A federal constitutional law shall be deemed adopted if at least two thirds of the total (constitutional) number of deputies in each chamber of the People's Assembly of Russia vote in its favor. An adopted federal constitutional law shall be signed by the President of Russia and promulgated within 14 days.

7. The procedure for adopting federal constitutional laws and liability for violating such procedure shall be established by the Constitution of Russia and a federal constitutional law.

### **Article 181. Doctrinal regulations**

1. A doctrinal regulation (doctrine, development program) shall be an administrative regulation, which determines Russia's state policy, including its goals, areas and priorities, basic development plans, mechanisms for implementation thereof in the long, medium and short term.

2. Doctrines of Russia shall be adopted pursuant to a federal law. National and sectoral development programs shall be passed by the Government of Russia or federal executive bodies, respectively. The doctrines and development programs of the constituent entities of Russia and municipal entities shall be adopted pursuant to relevant regulations.



3. Doctrines of Russia shall not conflict with the Constitution of Russia or federal constitutional laws. In the event of discrepancy between a doctrinal regulation and other enactment having the same legal force, the doctrinal regulation shall prevail.

### **Article 182. Federal laws**

1. Federal laws shall not conflict with the Constitution of Russia, federal constitutional laws or doctrines of Russia. Other legal enactments shall not conflict with federal laws. In the event of discrepancy between a federal law and other legal enactments, the federal law shall prevail.

2. The right of initiative shall be vested in the President of Russia, Assembly of Lands, deputies of each chamber of the People's Assembly of Russia, the Government of Russia, the legislative bodies of the constituent entities of Russia, groups of at least 50,000 citizens eligible to vote, interest groups and public associations in accordance with a federal constitutional law. The Constitutional Court of Russia, the Supreme Court of Russia and the Supreme Commercial Court of Russia, the Office of the Prosecutor General of Russia shall also have the right of initiative in their areas of responsibility.

3. Draft federal laws shall be brought before the Congress of People's Representatives.

4. When considering draft federal laws on the imposition or abolition of, or exemption from, taxes; on issue of government bonds; on the financial obligations of the state; other draft federal laws providing for additional revenue or costs for the federal budget, the Congress of People's Representatives shall request an expert opinion of the Government of Russia.

5. The Congress of People's Representatives shall read a draft federal law for the first time within no less than 30 and no more than 60 days of it being introduced by an entity vested with the right of initiative. The Congress of People's Representatives shall read the draft federal law for the second time within no less than 45 and no more than 90 days of it being passed in the first reading. The Congress of People's Representatives shall read the draft federal law in for the third time within no less than 20 and no more than 30 days of it being passed in the second reading. The timeframes for consideration of a specific draft

federal law may be extended by a presidential decree only if absolutely necessary.

6. A federal law shall be deemed adopted by the Congress of People's Representatives if more than half of the total (constitutional) number of deputies of the Congress of People's Representatives vote in its favor, unless otherwise provided for by the Constitution of Russia.

7. All draft federal laws passed by the Congress of People's Representatives shall be referred to the Assembly of Lands within five days.

8. The Assembly of Lands shall discuss and vote on the draft federal law passed by the Congress of People's Representatives within one session. If the draft federal law is presented to the Assembly of Lands less than 30 days before the end of a session, it shall be considered at the next session.

9. The Assembly of Lands shall consider draft federal laws passed by the Congress of People's Representatives within 30 days of receiving the same.

10. A draft federal law shall be deemed passed by the Assembly of Lands if more than half of the total (constitutional) number of deputies of the Assembly of Lands vote in its favor.

11. If the Assembly of Lands rejects the draft federal law:

a) the Congress of People's Representatives may consider the draft federal law for a second time. In this case, it shall be deemed adopted if at least two thirds of the total (constitutional) number of deputies in each chamber of the Congress of People's Representatives vote in its favor.

b) the chambers of the People's Assembly of Russia may establish a mediation commission to settle the differences. In this case, the draft federal law shall be deemed adopted if the Congress of People's Representatives and Assembly of Lands vote in its favor by a majority as provided for by in parts 6 and 10 of this Article.

12. The adopted draft federal law shall be sent to the President of Russia for signing and promulgation within five days.

13. The President of Russia shall sign and promulgate or reject the draft federal law within 14 days.

14. If the President of Russia rejects the draft federal law within 14 days of receiving the same, the chambers of the People's Assembly of

Russia shall be entitled to consider such draft federal law for a second time in accordance with the procedure prescribed by the Constitution of Russia. If, upon the second consideration, each chamber of the People's Assembly passes the previously adopted version of the draft federal law by a majority of two thirds of the total (constitutional) number of deputies, the President of Russia shall sign such draft federal law within seven days on an unconditional basis and the federal law shall be promulgated.

15. The procedure for adopting federal laws and liability for violating such procedure shall be established by a federal constitutional law.

### **Article 183. Bylaws**

1. Bylaws shall include:

- a) resolutions and other enactments issued by either chamber of the People's Assembly of Russia;
- b) decrees and orders of the President of Russia and the Vice President of Russia;
- c) resolutions and orders of the Government of Russia;
- d) legal enactments issued by the Accounts Chamber of Russia;
- e) legal enactments issued by the Office of the Prosecutor General of Russia;
- f) legal enactments issued by the State Bank of Russia;
- g) legal enactments issued by the All-Russian Electoral Commission;
- h) legal enactments issued by federal executive bodies;
- i) legal enactments issued by the executive bodies of the constituent entities of Russia;
- k) legal enactments issued by the executive bodies of municipal entities.

2. Other federal state authorities shall issue regulations in their areas of responsibility by virtue and in pursuance of the Constitution of Russia, federal constitutional and federal laws.

3. The legal enactments of other federal state authorities may be abolished in accordance with the procedure prescribed by the Constitution of Russia if they conflict with the Constitution of Russia, federal constitutional or federal laws, legal enactments of the President of Russia or the Government of Russia.

#### **Article 184. Russia's international treaties**

1. Russia's international treaties shall not conflict with the Constitution of Russia, federal constitutional laws or doctrines of Russia.

2. An international treaty shall not be incorporated in the Russian legal system unless Russia agrees to be bound by such international treaty in the manner prescribed by a federal law.

#### **Article 185. Russian legal system and principles and rules of international law**

1. Russia shall recognize principles and rules of international law unless they conflict the Constitution of Russia or federal constitutional laws.

2. Principles and rules of international law shall not be binding on Russia unless approved by the referendum of Russia, pursuant to federal laws or otherwise as prescribed by a federal law.

#### **Article 186. Laws of the constituent entities of Russia**

Every constituent entity of Russia shall have its charter and laws, which shall not conflict with the Constitution of Russia, federal constitutional or federal laws.

#### **Article 187. Municipal regulations**

Every municipal entity shall have its charter and other municipal regulations, which shall not conflict with the Constitution of Russia, federal constitutional or federal laws or the laws of the relevant constituent entity of Russia.

#### **Article 188. Integrity of the Russian legal system**

The integrity of the Russian legal system shall be secured by means of:

a) compliance with the procedure for adopting, amending and supplementing regulations as prescribed by the Constitution of Russia and a federal constitutional law;

b) following the hierarchy of regulations prescribed by the Constitution of Russia and a federal constitutional law;

c) official publication of the full texts of regulations or, if material amendments or supplements are made to the same, the full texts of

the regulations with such amendments or supplements marked in the text;

d) publicly accessible online database “Code of Russian Laws” updated on a daily basis;

e) establishing the procedure for incorporating Russia’s international treaties as well as principles and rules of international law in the Russian legal system.

### **Article 189. Access to legal enactments**

1. Federal constitutional and federal laws and doctrinal regulations shall be published officially. Unpublished laws shall not be applied.

2. Any regulations that affect human and civil rights, obligations and responsibility shall not be applied unless officially published.

3. The procedure for publishing federal constitutional and federal laws, doctrinal and other regulations as well as their hierarchy in the legal system shall be governed by a federal constitutional law.

4. No law shall be retroactive save where it improves the legal status of persons or citizens, eliminates or mitigates their liability.

5. No federal laws shall be made restricted information. A federal law may restrict access to the legal enactments containing restricted information.

### **Article 190. Interpretation of legal enactments**

1. An interpretation of a legal enactment shall be provided solely to explain and clarify the provisions of law and improve legal practice and shall not alter the meaning of such provisions.

2. All insoluble doubts, discrepancies and ambiguities in legal enactments that impose new obligations or liability on, increase the liability of, or otherwise prejudice physical and juridical persons, shall be construed in favor of the persons affected by such legal enactments or their specific provisions.

3. Legal enactments shall be interpreted by an authorized body on its own initiative or if requested by a state authority or its official or by a physical or juridical person, in accordance with the procedure prescribed by a regulation or other enactment governing the activities of the authorized body. The right to request interpretation of a legal enactment may be restricted only by a federal constitutional law.

4. If any ambiguities or differences in the interpretation of a legal enactment are found or if the practice of applying such legal enactment is inconsistent, rulemaking bodies may provide a mandatory (official) interpretation thereof.

5. Federal constitutional and federal laws shall be interpreted by the People's Assembly of Russia in accordance with a federal constitutional law.

6. Other legal enactments shall be officially interpreted solely by the rulemaking or regulatory bodies that have issued the same, in which case the interpretation shall be in accordance with the procedure prescribed by a federal constitutional law; or by court when considering and settling specific cases.

7. The interpretation of a legal enactment may be delegated, in accordance with Russian laws, to a rulemaking body which did not issue such legal enactment.

## **Chapter 37. Courts in Russia**

### **Article 191. Judges in Russia**

1. To be eligible as a judge, a person shall be a Russian citizen no younger than 30 and no older than 70 years of age, have a higher education with a degree in law and at least five years of work experience in law. A federal law may establish additional requirements for judges.

2. Judges shall be independent and obey only the Constitution of Russia and the law. Judges shall not engage in other gainful activities, including entrepreneurship, except for teaching, science and creative activities, shall not be a member of a political party or hold elective positions in state authorities.

3. If a court finds, upon considering a case, that an enactment of a state authority or other body is not consistent with the law, it shall pass a judgment in accordance with the law.

4. Judges shall hold office permanently.

5. A judge shall not be removed or suspended from office other than in accordance with the procedure and on the grounds prescribed by a federal law.

6. Judges shall have immunity. A judge may not be held criminally liable other than in accordance with the procedure and on the grounds prescribed by a federal constitutional law.

### **Article 192. Appointment of judges**

1. The judges of the Constitutional Court of Russia, the Supreme Court of Russia and the Supreme Commercial Court of Russia shall be appointed by the Assembly of Lands as proposed by the President of Russia.

2. The judges of other federal courts shall be appointed by the President of Russia in accordance with the procedure prescribed by a federal law.

3. Judges at the courts of the constituent entities of Russia shall be appointed in accordance with the procedure prescribed by a federal law and a law of the relevant constituent entity.

### **Article 193. Powers, establishment and operating procedures of courts**

1. The powers, establishment and operating procedures of the Constitutional Court of Russia, the Supreme Court of Russia, the Supreme Commercial Court of Russia and other federal courts shall be determined by a federal constitutional law. The powers, establishment and operating procedures of the courts of the constituent entities of Russia shall be determined by a law of the relevant constituent entity in accordance with a federal constitutional law.

2. The establishment of extraordinary courts operating for a definite term shall be prohibited.

3. The Constitutional Court of Russia, the Supreme Court of Russia and the Supreme Commercial Court of Russia shall be composed of judicial panels.

### **Article 194. Administration of justice and court funding**

1. Justice shall be administered only by court.

2. Judicial power shall be exercised by means of constitutional, civil, administrative and criminal court proceedings.

3. All courts shall conduct proceedings and pass judgments publicly. A closed hearing of a case may be held as prescribed by a federal con-

stitutional law, provided that it does not impair the rights or legitimate interests of the parties to the proceedings.

4. Trial in absentia shall be prohibited for criminal cases save as provided for by a federal constitutional law.

5. Court proceedings shall be adversarial and based on the equality of parties.

6. Courts shall be financed only out of the budgets comprising Russia's budget system and shall ensure a complete and independent administration of justice in accordance with a federal law.

### **Article 195. Court judgments**

1. All court judgments shall be lawful and justified. Court judgments shall be mandatory throughout the Russian territory.

2. If a court finds a regulation or specific provisions thereof to be in conflict with a legal enactment of superior legal force, such regulation or specific provisions thereof shall be held invalid and unenforceable as from the date of the court judgment.

3. A court judgment that holds invalid a regulation or specific provisions thereof shall not be overruled by adopting a similar regulation again.

### **Article 196. Status and powers of the Supreme Court of Russia**

1. The Supreme Court of Russia shall be the supreme judicial body for civil, criminal, administrative and other cases that are within the jurisdiction of general courts and shall exercise the judicial supervision of general courts in accordance with the procedures prescribed by a federal constitutional law.

2. The Supreme Court of Russia shall study and consolidate court practice and ensure its consistency by advising general courts on the application of Russian laws.

### **Article 197. Status and powers of the Supreme Commercial Court of Russia**

1. The Supreme Commercial Court of Russia shall be the supreme judicial body for economic disputes and other cases that are within the jurisdiction of commercial courts and shall exercise the judicial



supervision of commercial courts in accordance with the procedures prescribed by a federal constitutional law.

2. The Supreme Commercial Court of Russia shall study and consolidate court practice and ensure its consistency by advising commercial courts on the application of Russian laws.

### **Article 198. Status and powers of the Constitutional Court of Russia**

1. The Constitutional Court of Russia shall be the supreme Russian judicial body for constitutional law and the arbitral tribunal in disputes between state authorities.

2. As requested by the President of Russia, one fifth of the total (constitutional) number of deputies of either chamber of the People's Assembly of Russia, the Government of Russia, the Supreme Court of Russia, the Supreme Commercial Court of Russia, the Prosecutor General of Russia or state authorities of the constituent entities of Russia, the Constitutional Court of Russia shall decide cases on the compliance of the following documents with the Constitution of Russia:

a) draft federal constitutional laws; adopted federal constitutional and federal laws; regulatory enactments of the President of Russia, the chambers of the People's Assembly of Russia, the Government of Russia;

b) the charters and laws of the constituent entities of Russia;

c) the charters of municipal entities;

d) agreements between federal state authorities, state authorities of the constituent entities of Russia and local state authorities;

e) draft international treaties of Russia;

3. The Constitutional Court of Russia shall settle the following competence disputes:

a) those between federal state authorities;

b) those between federal state authorities and the state authorities of constituent entities of Russia;

c) those between the supreme state authorities of the constituent entities of Russia;

d) jurisdiction disputes.

4. The Constitutional Court of Russia shall issue a warning to the President of Russia if his multiple resolutions are found to be inconsistent with the Constitution of Russia.

5. As requested by the President of Russia, the Prosecutor General of Russia, the Supreme Court of Russia or either chamber of the People's Assembly, the Constitutional Court of Russia shall decide on the dissolution of either chamber of the People's Assembly.

6. Upon complaints on violation of citizens' rights and liberties or as requested by courts, the Constitutional Court of Russia shall examine, in accordance with the procedure prescribed by a federal constitutional law, the legality of the law applied or to be applied in a specific case or legal practice.

7. As requested by the President of Russia, either chamber of the People's Assembly, the Government of Russia or the legislative bodies of the constituent entities of Russia, the Constitutional Court of Russia shall interpret the Constitution of Russia.

8. Upon examining the constitutionality of a regulation, the Constitutional Court of Russia may issue a judgment in respect of both such examined regulation and any regulations based thereon or having the same provisions, even though such regulations are not mentioned in the complaint or request.

9. When examining the constitutionality of a regulation, the Constitutional Court of Russia shall assess its consistency with the supreme values of Russia and other provisions of the Constitution of Russia, its literal sense and the meaning attributed to it by official or other mandatory interpretative documents or established practice.

10. If the President of Russia is impeached for treason or other serious or extremely serious crime, the Constitutional Court of Russia, as requested by the Assembly of Lands, shall issue a statement on whether such impeachment was in accordance with the established procedure.

11. The Constitutional Court of Russia shall have the right of initiative in its area of responsibility. If the Constitutional Court of Russia finds that any constitutional provisions cannot be implemented in the absence a relevant federal law, it shall use its right of initiative.

12. The Constitutional Court of Russia may not exercise preliminary constitutional control. The judges of the Constitutional Court of Russia may not advise on any matters that are within the jurisdiction of the Constitutional Court.

### **Article 199. Legal force of judgments issued by the Constitutional Court of Russia**

1. Judgments issued by the Constitutional Court of Russia as orders or rulings shall be conclusive, non-appealable and become effective immediately upon publication or from other date specified in the judgment.

2. A judgment of the Constitutional Court of Russia shall be directly applicable and shall not require approval of other state authorities or officials. An order of the Constitutional Court of Russia that holds a legal enactment unconstitutional may not be overruled by adopting a similar legal enactment again.

3. A judge of the Constitutional Court of Russia who does not agree to all or part of a judgment issued by the Constitutional Court shall be entitled to state his opinion in writing, which shall be published in the official publications of state authorities together with the aforesaid judgment.

4. Any legal enactments or specific provisions thereof held unconstitutional by the Constitutional Court of Russia shall be null and void.

### **Article 200. Legal views of the Constitutional Court of Russia**

The legal views of the Constitutional Court of Russia that are provisions of law shall be expressed in the orders of the Constitutional Court of Russia. A legal view of regulatory nature may be formulated in the interpretation of the Constitution of Russia or in the constitutional interpretation of specific regulatory provisions when considering other cases.

## **Chapter 38. Law enforcement agencies in Russia**

### **Article 201. Prosecution authorities of Russia**

1. The prosecution authorities of Russia shall constitute a unified federal centralized system of prosecution bodies, whereby inferior prosecutors shall report to superior prosecutors and the Prosecutor General of Russia.

2. The prosecution authorities of Russia shall oversee the implementation of the Constitution of Russia and legal enactments effective in Russia.

3. The powers, organization and operating procedure of the Office of the Prosecutor General shall be determined by a federal law.

4. A prosecutor shall be entitled to appeal to the court to defend the rights, liberties or legitimate interests of individual citizens or the general public as well as the interests of Russia, the constituent entities of Russia or municipal entities.

5. A prosecutor shall defend infringed rights, liberties and legitimate interests associated with: employment (labor) relationships or other relationships directly associated with the same; family, motherhood, fatherhood and childhood; social protection, including social welfare; the right of abode exercised using the public housing stock; health protection, including medical assistance; the right to a healthy environment; education.

6. Prosecution authorities shall:

a) oversee that executive state authorities, the governing bodies and executives of profit-making and non-profit juridical persons obey the law and that legal enactments issued by the same comply with legislation;

b) oversee that human and civil rights and liberties are respected;

c) undertake criminal prosecution;

d) participate in court trials, challenge any court judgments, sentences, rulings and orders that are contrary to the law;

e) coordinate the activities of law enforcement agencies related to crime control.

7. Prosecution authorities shall prepare annual reports on the status of rule of law, deliver such reports to the People's Assembly of Russia and submit them to the Government of Russia.

8. The requirements of a prosecutor arising from his powers shall be fulfilled in due time on an unconditional basis. Failure to fulfil the requirements of a prosecutor shall entail liability provided for by a federal law.

## **Article 202. Appointment and removal of prosecutors**

1. The Prosecutor General of Russia shall be appointed and removed from office by the Assembly of Lands as proposed by the President of Russia. The President of Russia shall be entitled to suspend the Prosecutor General from office as provided for by a federal law until the Assembly of Lands decides whether he should be removed.

2. Other prosecutors shall be appointed by the Prosecutor General of Russia.

3. To be eligible as a prosecutor, a person shall be a Russian citizen; have a higher education with a degree in law received in a nationally accredited higher education institution; have the required professional and moral qualities; be physically and mentally fit to act as a prosecutor.

### **Article 203. Law enforcement agencies**

1. The purpose of law enforcement agencies shall be to protect and defend the rights and liberties of citizens, citizen associations, juridical persons, society and the state and to ensure that these perform their obligations. The activities of law enforcement agencies shall be based on the rule of law and the supreme values of Russia.

2. Law enforcement agencies shall provide public, personal and national security, enforce law and public order, prevent crimes and other offences, defend human and civil rights and liberties. The activities of law enforcement agencies shall be appraised on the basis of public oversight in accordance with a federal constitutional law.

3. Law enforcement agencies shall be established in accordance with a federal law.

4. The legal, organizational, financial and economic framework of law enforcement shall be determined by a federal law.

5. The state shall provide law enforcement officers with guarantees of social protection.

6. Non-state-owned juridical persons shall engage in law enforcement along with law enforcement agencies pursuant to and only in accordance with a federal law.

## **Chapter 39. Financial system of Russia**

### **Article 204. Basic principles of Russia's financial system**

1. The financial system of Russia shall provide a framework for the economic activities of physical and juridical persons, national sovereignty, security and development.

2. Banking and other financial activities in Russia shall be performed by physical and juridical persons registered in Russia in ac-

cordance with a federal law and pursuant to a special authorization (license) or certified in accordance with Russian laws.

3. Financial performance shall be the basis for the assessment of economic policy and efficiency of economic entities and be made public save where otherwise provided for by a federal law.

4. The state authorities and officials, the officials of juridical persons, and physical persons that have a responsibility to maintain or audit financial statements shall be responsible for the accuracy thereof in accordance with the procedure prescribed by a federal constitutional law.

5. The monetary system of Russia as a component of its financial system shall be the basis of national security and development. The state shall regulate the monetary system.

6. The monetary and financial policy of Russia shall be developed on the basis of the Doctrine on the Security and Development of Russia, the Doctrine on the Economic Development of Russia and the federal law on the federal budget.

7. Entering into any international treaties that limit Russia's sovereignty with respect to its financial system shall be prohibited.

### **Article 205. Financial supervision in Russia**

The unified system of financial supervision in Russia shall be comprised of the Accounts Chamber of Russia, the State Bank of Russia and financial supervision authorities established by federal state authorities, state authorities of the constituent entities of Russia and local state authorities.

### **Article 206. The Accounts Chamber of Russia**

1. The Accounts Chamber of Russia shall be a permanent body for state financial supervision, established by and accountable to the People's Assembly of Russia. The Accounts Chamber shall supervise the implementation of the federal budget and may audit the financial operations of: any state authority including the President of Russia, the Government of Russia, federal executive bodies, the State Bank of Russia, state authorities of the constituent entities of Russia, if they receive, transfer or use funds from the federal budget or use or manage federal property; federal funds for public consumption; any juridical

person, if they receive, transfer or use funds from the federal budget or use or manage federal property.

2. The Accounts Chamber shall also perform expert review of Russia's international treaties that affect the federal budget and finance of Russia.

3. The Accounts Chamber shall be comprised of its chairman, deputy chairman and auditors.

4. The chairman of the Accounts Chamber shall be appointed for a term of six years and removed from office by the Congress of People's Representatives as proposed by the President of Russia. The President shall be entitled to suspend the chairman of the Accounts Chamber from office as provided for by a federal law until the Congress of People's Representatives decides whether he should be removed.

5. The deputy chairman of the Accounts Chamber shall be appointed for a term of six years and removed from office by the Assembly of Lands as proposed by the President of Russia. The President shall be entitled to suspend the deputy chairman of the Accounts Chamber from office as provided for by a federal law until the Assembly of Lands decides whether he should be removed.

6. As proposed by the President of Russia, each chamber of the People's Assembly of Russia shall appoint, for a term of six years, and remove six auditors of the Accounts Chamber. The President of Russia shall be entitled to suspend an auditor of the Accounts Chamber from office as provided for by a federal law until the relevant chamber of the People's Assembly decides whether he should be removed.

7. The establishment and operating procedure of the Accounts Chamber shall be determined by a federal law.

#### **Article 207. Basic operating principles of the State Bank of Russia**

1. The State Bank of Russia shall be a state authority, whose status, functions and operating procedure shall be determined by a federal law.

2. The State Bank of Russia shall issue money; protect and maintain the strength of the ruble; ensure that the financial activities of the country are consistent with the goals, plans, programs and objectives of national socio-economic development; refinance and ensure the liquidity of the banking system; maintain the payment system.

3. The State Bank of Russia shall make decisions in cooperation with the Government of Russia and other federal state authorities.

The State Bank shall not pursue profit or distribute profit among its employees. The activities of the State Bank shall be aimed solely at achieving Russia's goals.

4. The State Bank of Russia shall be headed by a chairman. The chairman of the State Bank shall be appointed and removed from office by the Assembly of Lands as proposed by the President of Russia. The President shall be entitled to suspend the chairman of the State Bank from office as provided for by a federal law until the Congress of People's Representatives decides whether he should be removed.

5. The supreme governing body of the State Bank of Russia shall be the State Bank Council formed from representatives of each chamber of the People's Assembly and the Government of Russia, each having an equal number of representatives. Members of the State Bank Council shall be recalled by the bodies which delegated them to the council.

#### **Article 208. Functions and powers of the State Bank of Russia**

1. The State Bank of Russia shall:

- a) develop and pursue a uniform national monetary policy in cooperation with the Government of Russia;
- b) issue and organize the circulation of physical money on a monopoly basis;
- c) be the lender of last resort and arrange refinancing for credit institutions, issue licenses for banking activities;
- d) establish the rules of financial settlements in Russia;
- e) establish the rules of banking transactions;
- f) organize and exercise foreign exchange regulation and control;
- g) set and publish official exchange rates of foreign currencies against the ruble;
- h) perform other functions provided for by a federal law.

2. The State Bank of Russia shall issue regulations within its powers provided for by the Constitution of Russia, federal constitutional and federal laws.

#### **Article 209. National currency and money creation**

1. The national currency of Russia shall be the ruble. No other currency shall be introduced, issued or be in circulation in Russia.



2. Money shall be issued by the State Bank of Russia. The volume of money issued shall be determined in line with Russia's goals and national plans for socio-economic development.

#### **Article 210. Taxes, charges, government bonds**

1. Taxes and charges paid into the federal budget and the general principles of taxation in Russia shall be established by a federal constitutional law.

2. Government bonds shall be issued in accordance with the procedure prescribed by a federal constitutional law and purchased on a voluntary basis.

#### **Article 211. National budget system and interdepartmental budget management**

1. The federal budget and the budgets of non-budgetary state funds shall be developed and approved as federal laws; the budgets of the constituent entities of Russia shall be developed and approved as laws of the constituent entities; local budgets shall be developed and approved as municipal regulations issued by local legislative bodies.

2. Federal state authorities shall exercise their powers within the national area of responsibility independently at the expense of federal budget. The state authorities of a constituent entity of Russia shall exercise their powers within the constituent entity's area of responsibility independently at the expense of the constituent entity's budget. Local authorities shall exercise their powers within the municipal area of responsibility independently at the expense of local budget.

3. Every constituent entity of Russia and every municipal entity shall have their own budget.

4. Federal state authorities shall allocate, approve, implement and follow up on the implementation of the federal budget in compliance with the requirements of a federal constitutional law. The state authorities of a constituent entity of Russia shall allocate, approve, implement and follow up on the implementation of the constituent entity's budget in compliance with the requirements of a federal constitutional law and the laws of the constituent entity adopted in accordance with the same. Local state authorities shall allocate, approve, implement and follow up on the implementation of the local budget in compliance with the

requirements of a federal constitutional law and municipal regulations adopted in accordance with the same.

5. Fiscal imbalance between the constituent entities of Russia and municipal entities shall be redressed via equalization transfers from federal and regional funds for social, economic and regional development.

## **Chapter 40. Russia's foreign policy**

### **Article 212. Principles and the goals of Russia's foreign policy**

1. Russia shall pursue its foreign policy on the basis of its civilizational role in the world and its national interests.

2. In its foreign policy, Russia shall maintain global peace and security, justice, mercy, morality; respect the sovereignty and equality of states and border integrity; adhere scrupulously to international treaties; support non-use of force and peaceful settlement of differences, non-interference in internal affairs, good-neighborly relations with adjacent states; defend its international standing; cooperate with other states.

3. In its foreign policy, Russia shall aim to achieve a balance between global and national interests.

4. The goals of Russia's foreign policy shall be consistent with Russia's goals.

5. Russia shall build its foreign relations and interact with other countries on the basis of international treaties and agreements, which shall be entered into solely by state authorities.

6. Russia shall assume that international treaties must be adhered to on a reciprocal basis.

7. The constituent entities of Russia shall be restricted from foreign relations if this endangers the security and territorial integrity of Russia.

### **Article 213. Civilizational focus of foreign policy**

1. As a country that belongs to the Russian civilization, Russia shall promote dialogue and rapprochement between all civilizations and cultures of the world.

2. Russia shall develop and strengthen friendship, cooperation and integration with the states, nations and religious denominations historically related to the Russian civilization.

### **Article 214. Foreign policy administration**

1. Russia shall pursue its foreign policy in accordance with the Doctrine on Russia's Foreign Policy, which shall be updated at least once per presidential term of office. The Doctrine on Russia's Foreign Policy shall provide an assessment of Russia's international standing and relate it to Russia's goals, specify the goals, objectives, areas and procedure for the implementation of Russia's foreign policy and national interests.

2. The President of Russia shall be responsible for Russia's foreign policy. The President shall report to the People's Assembly of Russia on the results of foreign policy on a biennial basis in the manner prescribed by a federal constitutional law and set subsequent objectives for Russia's foreign policy in the annual address of the President and Government of Russia to the People's Assembly of Russia.

## **Chapter 41. National defense and security**

### **Article 215. Armed Forces of Russia**

1. The purpose of the Armed Forces of Russia shall be to defend the country from a potential or actual external military aggression, maintain and defend the national sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Russia.

2. The Armed Forces of Russia shall remain neutral in political issues and be subject to public oversight in accordance with a federal law.

3. If a special regime is introduced, the President of Russia as the Supreme Commander may resolve to use the Armed Forces of Russia subject to further approval by the Assembly of Lands.

4. Military service in Russia shall be based on military personnel's patriotism and commitment to serve the Russian Nation and Russia.

5. Military personnel may be conscripted or recruited. The procedure for military service, the grounds for and terms of exemption from military service or substitution thereof with alternative civilian service and all other matters related to military service shall be determined by a federal law.

6. No paramilitary forces other than the Armed Forces of Russia shall be created or operate in Russia other than pursuant to a federal constitutional or federal law.

7. No foreign armed units may be permitted to serve in, occupy or cross the Russian territory other than pursuant to a federal constitutional or federal law.

### **Article 216. Status of military personnel**

1. The state shall guarantee adequate conditions of military service to ensure that service in the Armed Forces of Russia is a matter of valor, heroism and prestige.

2. Military personnel shall not have the right to strike. Professional associations of military personnel shall be determined by a federal law.

3. If there is insufficient civilian personnel to work in medical institutions or permanent military hospitals when a special regime is in place, women aged 18 to 55 may be engaged to do such service pursuant to a federal law.

### **Article 217. Security agencies of Russia**

1. Russia shall establish federal state agencies of a special nature to perform special functions for the purposes of protecting the Constitution, implementing the supreme values of Russia, achieving Russia's goals and providing national security.

2. The Government of Russia shall create security agencies involved in foreign intelligence, domestic security, anti-corruption activities and information security.

3. The security agencies of Russia shall be established and operate pursuant to a federal law. The security agencies of Russia shall report to the Government of Russia and be accountable to the People's Assembly of Russia in accordance with the prescribed procedure. Security services shall be financed out of the federal budget.

### **Article 218. Military doctrine of Russia**

1. Military development and activities in Russia shall be in accordance with the Military Doctrine of Russia. Draft Military Doctrine of Russia shall be developed by the Ministry of Security and Development as instructed by the President of Russia. The Military Doctrine of Russia may contain restricted information.

2. The Military Doctrine of Russia shall be revised at least once in five years.

3. National development plans and programs shall take into account the Military Doctrine of Russia.

4. The Military Doctrine of Russia shall be based on the principles that the Armed Forces of Russia must be provided with the required resources to perform their tasks and that the science, education and industry important for national defense must be self-sufficient.

### **Article 219. Special regimes in Russia**

1. Apart from the standard regime of peacetime, the following special regimes may be introduced in the whole Russia or in specific locations thereof: threat regime, crisis regime, state of emergency, martial law; such special regimes shall be introduced on the grounds and in accordance with the procedure prescribed by a federal constitutional law to counter threats to national security and mitigate their consequences should they materialize.

2. Each special regime shall be subject to special rules of public administration, restrictions of rights and liberties and special (additional) human and civil obligations.

3. Where an immediate threat to Russia's security arises or a special regime is in place, civilian and military requisitions may be performed subject to subsequent compensation.

4. Where a special regime is in place in any part of the Russian territory, direct federal rule may be introduced to substitute the state authorities of a constituent entity of Russia and/or local state authorities with federal state authorities on a temporary basis. Once federal rule is terminated, the state authorities of the constituent entity and/or local authorities shall be re-established.

5. Where a special regime is in place, specific powers of the state authorities of a constituent entity of Russia may be delegated to federal state authorities and/or officials appointed by the same.

6. Where a special regime is in place, specific powers of local state authorities may be delegated to the state authorities of the relevant constituent entity of Russia and/or officials appointed by the same.

## **Section 7. Democratic basis of Russia's political and electoral system**

### **Chapter 42. Democratic basis of Russia's political system**

#### **Article 220. Political competition**

1. The state shall promote the establishment of legitimate political opposition and assist the representatives of such opposition in upgrading their skills and improving their qualifications.

2. The establishment and activity of political parties and other public associations, whose goals or actions endanger national security or are aimed at seizure of governmental power, propaganda of aggressive war, violating the territorial integrity of Russia, creating paramilitary groups, provoking hostility, infringement of human and civil rights or non-performance of human and civil obligations, or violating Russian laws, shall be prohibited.

#### **Article 221. Political opposition**

1. The state shall protect and guarantee the activities of political opposition in accordance with a federal law. Every citizen shall have the right to engage in oppositional activities in any form or manner not prohibited by Russian laws.

2. Political opposition shall have its own political platform. The political platform of political opposition shall be made public. Representatives of political opposition shall be vested with the rights of observers at elections and invited to the meetings of legislative state authorities, provided that they do not have the right to vote or to take the floor, but have the right to put items on the agenda.

3. Representatives of political opposition shall have the right to use national mass media and receive financial support from the state.

4. Political opposition shall develop its political platform on the basis of its ideology, opinions, ideas and development projects in any areas.

### **Article 222. Protest activities**

The state shall recognize the right of political opposition to protest claims and actions (protest activities) aimed against the actions or omissions, resolutions, plans or intentions of state authorities and officials, provided that such protest activities are undertaken in the manner prescribed by a federal law and do not involve violence.

## **Chapter 43. Election of the Russian Nation's representatives to state authorities**

### **Article 223. Basic principles of election to state authorities**

1. The deputies of either chamber of the People's Assembly of Russia and other representatives of the Russian Nation shall be elected at an equal and direct general election by secret ballot in the respective territorial districts.

2. In order to ensure that interest groups are represented in state authorities by public associations of the relevant level in the manner prescribed by a federal law, half of the Russian Nation's representatives in an elective state authority of the relevant level shall be nominated by the public associations of the relevant level as per standards established by Russian laws, including the public associations of:

- a) pensioners (war and labor veterans);
- b) women;
- c) youth;
- d) rural residents;
- e) the disabled;
- f) science workers;
- g) cultural workers;
- h) healthcare professionals;
- i) education workers;
- j) military personnel and law enforcement officers;
- k) trade unions;
- l) creative unions;
- m) other public associations of the relevant level in accordance with Russian laws.

3. Russian laws shall establish the procedure for determining the public associations that may nominate their representatives for elective state authorities and the procedure for election of representatives in such associations.

4. Political parties shall participate in elections represented by their members who have personal rights to participate in elections.

5. The information on candidates for elective positions in state authorities shall be publicly available and be announced in mass media in the manner prescribed by a federal law.

#### **Article 224. Nomination for elective positions**

Candidates for elective positions in state authorities shall be nominated by territorial districts and by public associations.

#### **Article 225. Requirements for candidates for elective positions**

1. The following citizens shall not have the right to be elected: persons held legally incapable by court; persons sentenced to imprisonment; persons who are prohibited by court from holding a certain position shall not have such right for the term of prohibition; persons who have done civil service shall not have such right within a year of resignation.

2. Candidates for elective positions in state authorities shall be physically and mentally fit to exercise their powers, have relevant higher education and qualification, and meet other requirements established by a federal law.

#### **Article 226. Mandate for and recall of elected persons**

1. Citizen groups with a number of persons established by a federal constitutional law and a federal law, as well as public associations shall be entitled to give a mandate to an elected person in the form of a problem, proposal or demand. The elected person shall consider, and give a report on the consideration of and action taken to implement the mandate.

2. Citizen groups and public associations shall be entitled to make a public assessment of the elected person's performance.

3. Each elected person shall be accountable to his electors by publishing a report on his activities.



4. The head of an elective state authority shall ensure that each elected person who is a member of such authority publishes reports on his activities.

5. If the elected person in an elective state authority fails to perform or performs improperly his obligations or the mandate of a citizen group with a number of persons established by a federal constitutional law and a federal law, the public associations that have nominated such person shall be entitled to recall him before the end of his term of office in the same manner as prescribed for nomination and election to the relevant positions.

6. The procedure for giving and implementing mandates and recalling elected persons shall be established by a federal law.

#### **Article 227. Public debate**

1. An electoral campaign shall include mandatory public debate between the candidates to elective positions in state authorities. The procedure for public debate shall be established by a federal law.

2. It shall be mandatory for a candidate to participate in public debate. If a candidate refuses to participate in the public debate, his registration shall be canceled. As provided for by a federal law, a candidate may refuse to participate in public debate by writing an official statement, which shall be made public.

#### **Article 228. Competitive election**

Uncontested elections shall be prohibited. Collusion between candidates at an election, if established by an effective court judgment, shall constitute grounds for canceling their registrations.

#### **Article 229. Mandatory voting at elections**

1. Russian citizens shall be obliged to vote at elections in person.

2. A Russian citizen may vote for one or more candidates for elective positions in state authorities or against all candidates.

3. Failure to attend an election without a valid reason shall entail liability in accordance with Russian laws; the list of valid reasons for not attending an election shall be defined by Russian laws.

**Article 230. Financial, informational and other support of an electoral campaign**

1. The electoral campaigns of candidates to elective positions in state authorities shall be financed subject to the limits established by a federal law.

2. Candidates to elective positions in state authorities shall not be given unequal coverage in the national mass media. During an election, an official shall not use his authority in favor of a certain candidate. An official who is nominated for an elective position shall not use his authority in his own favor.

3. State and public oversight of fund-raising and expenditure for the purposes of an electoral campaign shall be exercised in accordance with a federal law.

4. The electoral campaigns of candidates to elective positions in state authorities shall not be financed by foreign states, foreign juridical persons, foreign citizens, stateless persons, international organizations or other persons specified in a federal law.

5. Failure to meet the requirements for support of electoral campaigns shall entail liability in accordance with Russian laws.

**Article 231. Nomination of a candidate from a territorial district**

A candidate to an elective position in state authorities who is nominated from a territorial district shall have lived in that territorial district for at least five years immediately before the election day.

**Article 232. Nomination of candidates from public associations**

1. Representatives of the Russian Nation who are members of public associations shall be nominated for and elected to elective official positions at the congresses, conferences or plenary sessions of the Russian governing bodies of such public associations as provided for by Russian laws.

2. Public associations may nominate only such members or participants thereof that meet the requirements established by Russian laws or by the constitutive documents of such public associations.

## Chapter 44. Electoral commissions in Russia

### **Article 233. Formation procedure and status of the All-Russian Electoral Commission**

1. The All-Russian Electoral Commission shall be the federal state authority which shall arrange and hold elections and referendums in Russia within its competence established by the Constitution of Russia and a federal law.

2. The term of the All-Russian Electoral Commission shall be six years.

3. The All-Russian Electoral Commission shall be comprised of 15 members. Four members of the All-Russian Electoral Commission shall be appointed by the Congress of People's Representatives, which shall select them out of the candidates nominated by its factions and deputies. Only one candidate per faction of the Congress of People's Representatives may be appointed. Four members of the All-Russian Electoral Commission shall be appointed by the Assembly of Lands, which shall select them out of the candidates nominated by the legislative bodies of the constituent entities of Russia and the chief state officials (heads of supreme executive bodies) of constituent entities. Seven members of the All-Russian Electoral Commission shall be appointed by the President of Russia, who shall select them out of 70 Russian citizens determined by means of random sampling.

4. One third of membership in the All-Russian Electoral Commission shall be rotated annually.

5. A state official or a civil servant may not be appointed as a member of the All-Russian Electoral Commission on the basis of random sampling.

6. A Russian citizen shall not have the right to refuse to act as a member of the All-Russian Electoral Commission without a valid reason; the list of valid reasons for not performing the responsibilities of a member of the All-Russian Electoral Commission shall be defined by Russian laws.

7. If a member of the All-Russian Electoral Commission is appointed as a state official or a civil servant, his membership in the All-Russian Electoral Commission shall be terminated.

### **Article 234. General terms of forming electoral commissions**

1. The electoral commissions of the constituent entities of Russia shall be the state authorities of the relevant constituent entities of Russia which shall arrange and hold elections and referendums in the constituent entities within their competence established by the Constitution of Russia, a federal law and the laws of the constituent entities.

2. Electoral commissions other than the All-Russian Electoral Commission shall be formed as follows: one half of members shall be proposed by the deputies of the relevant legislative state authorities, and the other half shall be selected out of Russian citizens by means of random sampling.

3. One third of membership in electoral commissions other than the All-Russian Electoral Commission shall be rotated annually.

4. A state official or a civil servant may not be appointed as a member of an electoral commission on the basis of random sampling.

5. A Russian citizen shall not have the right to refuse to act as a member of an electoral commission without a valid reason; the list of valid reasons for not performing the responsibilities of a member of an electoral commission shall be defined by Russian laws.

6. If a member of an electoral commission is appointed as a state official or a civil servant, his membership in the electoral commission shall be terminated.

## **Section 8. Constitutional procedures, final and transitional provisions**

### **Chapter 45. Constitutional procedures**

#### **Article 235. Conflict of constitutional provisions**

In the event of conflict between the supreme values of Russia and other provisions of the Constitution of Russia, the provisions on the supreme values of Russia shall prevail.

#### **Article 236. Direct application of the Constitution**

In the event of conflict between the Constitution of Russia and a federal constitutional law or a federal law, the court shall apply the provisions of the Constitution directly when trying specific cases if:

a) such provisions of the Constitution, as seen from their meaning, do not require adopting additional regulations and do not indicate that a federal constitutional law or a federal law is required to apply such constitutional provisions;

b) the court concludes that a law which was in effect in Russia before the enactment of the Constitution of Russia is in conflict with the same;

c) the court concludes that a federal constitutional law or a federal law which is adopted after the Constitution of Russia takes effect is in conflict with the same;

d) a law or other legal enactment adopted or published by a state authority of a constituent entity of Russia is in conflict with the Constitution of Russia, while there is no federal law that should govern the legal relationships which are the subject of court proceedings.

### **Article 237. Interpretation of the Constitution**

The Constitution of Russia shall be interpreted solely by the Constitutional Court of Russia in accordance with the procedure prescribed by the Constitution of Russia and a federal constitutional law.

## **Chapter 46. Final and transitional provisions**

### **Article 238. Adoption and amendment of the Constitution**

1. No provisions of the Constitution of Russia shall be amended in a manner other than provided for in this chapter.

2. The Constitution of Russia shall be adopted and amended by a national vote – the referendum of Russia.

3. Amendments to the Constitution of Russia may be proposed by the President of Russia, either chamber of the People's Assembly of Russia, the Government of Russia, the legislative bodies of the constituent entities of Russia, a group of deputies that includes at least one fifth of the deputies in either chamber of the People's Assembly or by an interest group in accordance with a federal law.

4. Proposed amendments to the Constitution of Russia shall be brought before the Congress of People's Representatives.

5. The Constitutional Court of Russia shall issue a statement on the consistency of proposed amendments with the rest of the Constitution

in accordance with the procedure prescribed by a federal constitutional law. The law on amendment of the Constitution of Russia shall be adopted in accordance with the procedure prescribed for the adoption of a federal constitutional law and be put to national vote after being approved by the legislative state authorities of at least three fourths of the constituent entities of Russia.

6. Article 134 of the Constitution of Russia shall be amended pursuant to the federal constitutional law on the admission and/or establishment of a new constituent entity of Russia. If the name of a constituent entity of Russia is changed, the new name shall be included in Article 134 of the Constitution pursuant to the federal constitutional law on the admission and/or establishment of a new constituent entity of Russia.

### **Article 239. Final provisions**

The Constitution of Russia shall take effect as from the date of its official publication based on the results of national vote. The Constitution of the Russian Federation adopted on December 12, 1993 shall be null and void with effect from the same date.

### **Article 240. Transitional provisions**

1. Laws and other legal enactments that were in effect in Russia prior to the enactment of the Constitution of Russia shall be applied to the extent consistent with the Constitution of Russia.

2. In order to implement the Constitution of Russia where there is no relevant federal constitutional law or federal law, the President of Russia shall issue decrees, which shall be effective until the relevant federal constitutional law or federal law is adopted.

3. Until the President of Russia, the Vice President of Russia, the deputies of both chambers of the People's Assembly and other elective state authorities and officials at all levels are elected in accordance with the Constitution of Russia, the President of the Russian Federation, the Government of the Russian Federation, the members of the Federation Council, the deputies of the State Duma and other elected and appointed state authorities and officials shall continue in office in accordance with the laws that are in effect as of the date the Constitution of Russia is adopted.

4. The election of the President of Russia, the Vice President of Russia, the deputies of both chambers of the People's Assembly and other elective state authorities and officials shall be called within one year of the date the Constitution of Russia becomes effective.

5. The President of the Russian Federation, elective state authorities and officials that are in office as of the date the Constitution of Russia is adopted shall continue to exercise their powers until the authorities and officials elected in accordance with the Constitution of Russia assume office. Executive state authorities shall be formed in accordance with the Constitution of Russia after the establishment of elective state authorities and election of officials.

6. Russian citizens who have a foreign citizenship shall make a free choice of citizenship within three years of the date the Constitution of Russia takes effect. If such person fails to choose citizenship within three years of the date the Constitution of Russia takes effect, his Russian citizenship shall be suspended by resolution of the President of Russia and such person shall be deemed to be a foreign citizen.

7. The federal constitutional and federal laws that establish the responsibility of state authorities and officials as well as human and civil responsibility in accordance with the Constitution of Russia shall be adopted within one year of the date the Constitution of Russia takes effect.

8. Until the federal constitutional law specified in Article 173, part 3 of this Constitution, the President of Russia shall nominate federal ministers for regional affairs to be approved by the Congress of People's Representatives.

9. The farmlands owned by foreign citizens, stateless persons or foreign juridical persons shall be redeemed or otherwise made the property of the constituent entities of Russia by January 1, 20\_\_\_. The procedure for and terms of such redemption or other transfer of ownership shall be established by a federal law.

10. The vital natural resources owned by physical or juridical persons, the constituent entities of Russia or municipal entities shall be redeemed or otherwise made federal property by January 1, 20\_\_\_. The procedure for and terms of such redemption or other transfer of ownership shall be established by a federal law.

**The Constitution  
of Russia**

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