



U.S.-RUSSIA CIVIL SOCIETY SUMMIT

Final Report

Moscow, Russia
July 6-7, 2009



EURASIA FOUNDATION



NEW EURASIA
foundation

Final Report

U.S.-RUSSIA CIVIL SOCIETY SUMMIT

We not only need a “reset” button between the American and Russian governments, but we need a fresh start between our societies – more dialogue, more listening, more cooperation in confronting common challenges.

President Barack Obama
U.S.-Russia Civil Society Summit
Moscow, Russia
July 7, 2009

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We are pleased to present this report from the first U.S.-Russia Civil Society Summit, held in Moscow July 6-7, 2009, in tandem with the historic meeting between Presidents Obama and Medvedev. We decided to organize the Summit recognizing that a tremendous opportunity would be missed if the efforts by our governments to improve bilateral relations were not accompanied by a parallel effort by private citizens to renew and deepen engagement between our two nations.

The Summit was a unique event on a number of fronts. New voices from both countries joined a discussion to articulate a fresh approach to collaboration on problems both nations face. President Obama captured the spirit of the Summit in his address: “We not only need a ‘reset’ button between the American and Russian governments, but we need a fresh start between our societies – more dialogue, more listening, more cooperation in confronting common challenges.”

In this report, you will find a summary of the conference’s aim for a new model of public-private-NGO cooperation to address shared problems, presentation of common themes that emerged from the working groups, proposals from each of the working groups for bilateral projects in their respective topic areas, and a discussion of next steps and challenges.

We want to emphasize that the six topic areas included in this first Summit – public health, community development, human rights and the rule of law, press and new media, environment, and youth engagement and education – represent only a small sample of the full breadth of U.S.-Russia civic interaction.

Please visit the Summit section on Eurasia Foundation’s website, www.eurasia.org, to read more about the outcomes of the conference and to keep abreast of new developments. We will also keep you in the loop by sending updates on U.S.-Russian civil society exchange as they emerge.

The Summit was organized on very short notice and its success was entirely due to the extraordinary efforts of our staff, partners, officials, and particularly the participants themselves. We again thank everyone who contributed so much to making the Summit the starting point of a new era of engagement between the citizens of Russia and the U.S.

Sincerely,

Horton Beebe-Center
President
Eurasia Foundation

About the Summit Conveners

As co-conveners, Eurasia Foundation, the New Eurasia Foundation, and the Center for Strategic and International Studies shared the goal of using the U.S.-Russian Civil Society Summit to explore what sorts of activities might make bilateral cooperation more meaningful to ordinary citizens, and more diverse, reciprocal, and sustainable. We wanted to see whether there was general support to shift from the model of assistance as it has been constructed since the early 1990s to a new era of engagement in which groups come together to generate organic agendas around issues and address problems that confront both societies.

Eurasia Foundation and the New Eurasia Foundation

Eurasia Foundation and the New Eurasia Foundation are members of the **Eurasia Foundation Network**. The Eurasia Foundation Network is a partnership of autonomous foundations promoting prosperity and stability throughout the former Soviet Union. The Network partners consist of Eurasia Foundation (United States), New Eurasia Foundation (Russia), Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia, Eurasia Partnership Foundation (South Caucasus) and East Europe Foundation (Ukraine). For more information on the Eurasia Foundation Network, please visit www.eurasia.org.



The Center for Strategic and International Studies

At a time of new global opportunities and challenges, **The Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)** provides strategic insights and policy solutions to decision makers in government, international institutions, the private sector, and civil society. A bipartisan, nonprofit organization headquartered in Washington, D.C., CSIS conducts research and analysis and develops policy initiatives that look into the future and anticipate change. Since its founding in 1962, CSIS has grown to become one of the world's preeminent international policy institutions, with more than 200 full-time staff and a large network of affiliated scholars focused on defense and security, regional stability, and transnational challenges ranging from energy and climate to global development and economic integration. For more information on CSIS, please visit www.csis.org.

Through the work that you do, you underscore what I believe is a fundamental truth in the 21st Century: that strong, vibrant nations include strong, vibrant civil societies.

President Barack Obama
U.S.-Russia Civil Society
Summit
Moscow, Russia

July 7, 2009



Andrey Kortunov, President of the New Eurasia Foundation, meets U.S. President Barack Obama.

Real Progress Comes from the Bottom-Up

U.S.–Russian interaction in the civil society sector has achieved a great deal over the last decade and a half, laying a solid foundation for joint activity. But in recent years as bilateral relations deteriorated, cooperation in the civil society sphere suffered significant collateral damage. Efforts by both governments to re-engage offer an opportunity to deepen and diversify engagement between citizens, address shared challenges, and put U.S.-Russia relations on a more solid footing.

The July 2009 meeting between President Barack Obama and President Dmitri Medvedev provided the impetus to organize a parallel forum for civil society actors from both countries to examine approaches to problems that cannot be fixed by government action alone. Conceived as a brainstorming opportunity for collaboration among experts and practitioners drawn from various disciplines in both countries, the U.S.-Russia Civil Society Summit was jointly organized by three non-governmental organizations (NGOs): Eurasia Foundation, the Center for Strategic and International Studies, and the New Eurasia Foundation. President Obama captured the Summit’s essence in his concluding remarks: “For history teaches us that real progress – whether it’s economic or social or political – doesn’t come from the top-down, it typically comes from the bottom-up. It comes from people, it comes from the grassroots – it comes from you.”

Challenging the Conventional Narrative

As President Obama met with President Medvedev for their first official Summit from July 6 -7, 2009, some 100 civil society leaders from Russia and the United States also convened in Moscow. The meeting challenged the conventional

narrative of Russian-American civic engagement on several fronts, moving beyond traditional models of technical assistance focused largely on teaching and training, which have characterized much of U.S.-Russian interaction over the past two decades. Instead, participants took a realistic look at emerging possibilities for more balanced, peer-to-peer engagement – a model where Americans and Russians come together to explore common problems and share best practice and then take learning home or undertake joint projects.

To gain fresh perspectives, the Summit included new voices. In addition to seasoned U.S.-Russia hands from the nonprofit arena, there were a number of topical experts from both countries, who had no prior bilateral experience. The private sector was also well represented to capitalize on the potential of cross-sectoral cooperation (public-private-non-profit), bringing experience and resources from multiple angles to address complex problems and remove structural impediments to development in both countries.

The global economic crisis has revealed that the concerns and interests of Russia and America are more closely linked than many previously thought, despite critical asymmetries that remain between the two nations. As both countries find their way out of the unprecedented crisis, they will be compelled to find new solutions to looming social, environmental, and foreign policy challenges. This means looking to citizens – those who have the most at stake – for answers. As President Obama emphasized in his remarks at the Summit, “The best ideas and solutions come from ordinary citizens who become involved in their communities and their countries. And by mobilizing and organizing and changing people’s hearts and minds, you then change the political landscape.”



Andrey Kortunov, Esther Dyson, and President Barack Obama listen to a presentation at a gathering of U.S.-Russia Civil Society Summit members.

Common Problems — Shared Solutions

The Civil Society Summit was organized around six lines of work that address problems confronting both societies – recognizing that these topics represent

only a slice of the possibilities for engagement. Working groups began to correspond before the Moscow Summit, then met for two days with the goal of developing recommendations for collaboration and the exchange of best practices and skills among U.S. and Russian NGOs and the private sector. Their findings are outlined below. Full recommendations are described in the body of this report.

Press and New Media

Discussion in this working group centered on two distinct themes: journalistic independence and the use of new media. Independent journalism in Russia is still a scarce commodity. Participants discussed problems arising from tight political controls and a mindset of compliance that is exacerbated by public apathy and well-founded fear of retaliation and violence. The group noted that while Russia's independent media often share Western professional standards and ethics, they operate in an isolated and stressful environment, creating "islands" for survival.

Journalists from both countries compared views on development of new media as audiences for traditional newsrooms continue to decline and financial pressures shutter well-known outlets. Participants noted that in Russia, political websites are offering new platforms for news, analysis, and opinion. The group proposed collaboration around new technologies and approaches to the Internet, digital training, and prospects for content sharing.

Participants also generated a number of suggestions for next steps to train experienced journalists in new media skills, including internships and adoption of training programs developed in U.S. universities. They also recommended a project to develop capacity with respect to emerging freedom of information statutes in Russia and suggested developing joint software applications for data mining and analysis that could be used by journalists and the public.

Public Health

Chronic health problems generate staggering social and economic costs in Russia and the United States. Non-communicable disease is the leading cause of illness, disability, and mortality in both countries. The public health working group brought together Russian and American physicians and public health professionals to consider cooperative approaches to systemic health-care problems.

Participants focused on issues surrounding chronic disease in both countries. They created a slate of recommendations for the development of bilateral projects and sharing of best practices that includes an exchange of clinical professionals, collaborative development of public health campaigns, and joint inquiries into the causes and consequences of the primary drivers of illnesses, such as diabetes and hypertension.

Human Rights and Rule of Law

Members of this working group identified common problems – migration, asylum, torture, and penitentiary abuse – that present opportunities for collaborative work. But they stressed that human rights challenges confronting Russian activists are far more severe than those facing their American counterparts, as underscored by the murder of independent journalists and activists. With this in mind, some of the recommended projects focus on rule of law and security issues particular to Russia. At the same time, both sides asserted that the United States must "clean its own house" by shutting the prison at Guantanamo Bay and addressing torture so that the U.S. can act as a credible interlocutor.

The group's recommendations for collaborative work included research and public education campaigns on torture and other key human rights issues; the establishment of cooperative working groups on hate crimes within the Obama-Medvedev Commission; the creation of joint recommendations to the Russian and U.S. governments on specific human rights policies and international conventions; and cooperative working groups on issues including detention, political prisoners, terrorism, corruption, and the media.

Environment

Russia and North America possess some of the largest freshwater reserves and boreal forests in the world; they are also among the four main producers of industrial greenhouse gas emissions. Members of the environment working group drew attention to the potential for preserving vast natural resources as well as the heavy environmental footprint of the two industrial powers. They called for increased openness and cooperation between Russia and the U.S. to meet the enormous and interrelated challenges of climate change, biodiversity protection, and sustainable development.

Participants recommended cooperative projects among U.S. and Russian NGOs, scientific organizations, and governments to develop management strategies to share resources, exchange technical information, and involve local populations in decision-making processes.

The group identified four areas for collaborative work: 1) climate change and energy efficiency; 2) biodiversity and protected areas; 3) prioritizing environmental protection in a time of economic crisis; and 4) environmental consciousness and responsibility. Within these areas, they specified particular strategies and goals, such as the introduction of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI); the establishment of bilateral protected areas, the development of a system for comprehensive greenhouse gas accounting in the lending portfolios of multilateral financial institutions; the sustainable use of natural resources; and public awareness campaigns.

Community Development

Given his early work as a community organizer, President Obama's involvement with the Civil Society Summit brought significant weight to issues of community development. The working group included representatives with a broad range of experience, including a number of experts from regions beyond major cities. They examined a variety of issues critical to improving the quality of life for citizens – from affordable housing and energy efficiency to labor and social issues in one-company towns, conflict prevention, labor migration and the impact of extractive industries on local communities in both countries.

The group concluded that development of a vital civic society is essential to addressing these challenges – particularly the consequences of the current economic crisis. Recommendations for next steps included joint projects and knowledge exchange around: 1) resources and financing for community development; 2) housing tools and strategies; 3) regenerating distressed communities; and 4) migration, cultural inclusion and skills building.

Youth Engagement and Education

The youth engagement and education working group included educators and youth advocates from a variety of fields and institutions. Participants stressed the importance of education and exchange as the cornerstone for mobilizing informed and involved citizens. The group noted that talented youth in both nations are eager to become involved in civil society to address the unprecedented challenges shaping

the world that they will inherit. Despite the possibilities for engagement, participants were very concerned about stresses on educational institutions as they cope with limited resources, new curriculum demands, global competition, and growing social problems.

The group's recommendations included a two-prong framework for education and science exchange, including cross-national dialogue on youth issues and best practices combined with comparative follow-on projects at home, drawing on innovative grassroots solutions being developed in both countries to address problems such as youth alienation and unemployment. A central tenet of these proposals was the inclusion of young people as full participants in the design and implementation of programs.



President Barack Obama speaks with Dr. Judyth Twigg, Associate Professor at Virginia Commonwealth University.

Challenges and Next Steps

President Obama's presence at the Civil Society Summit drew unprecedented attention to the constructive power of grassroots initiatives and citizen-to-citizen exchange. Although President Medvedev did not attend, high-level Russian government officials participated in the conference, including Ella Pamfilova, Chair of the Presidential Council for Civil Society Institutions and Human Rights, and Vladimir Lukin, Ombudsman for Human Rights in the Russian Federation. President Obama took special note of Russia's engagement, saying, "I welcome the steps that President Medvedev has taken so that civil society groups can play a more active role on behalf of the Russian people." The message that governments alone cannot solve problems was clearly sent and – equally importantly – endorsed by a solid majority of the Russian participants.

The impact of the Summit and the proposed new orientation of U.S.-Russian engagement will be measured by the actions of participants and partners over the next year. A first and important step has already been taken at the government level with the creation of the Obama-Medvedev Commission, comprised of numerous working groups including civil society and other topics covered in the conference. Civil Society Summit participants in Russia and the U.S. are already engaging their government counterparts, offering guidance and suggestions to the Commission as it takes shape.

Another means of maintaining momentum from the Summit would be to organize an advisory committee to engage the bilateral presidential commission and take on the planning for a series of working meetings leading to a second civil society conference. In addition, demonstration projects could be selected from among the recommendations offered by the Summit's working groups and implemented with funding from public and private sources.

Many challenges stand between the proposal of these initiatives and their successful launch. Obtaining the necessary funding will be difficult at a time when NGOs are competing for ever scarcer resources as foundations, corporations, and governments struggle to recover from the global financial meltdown. Ideally, a mix of public and private expertise and financing from both countries will be brought to bear to support projects from a spectrum of disciplines.

A more fundamental challenge will be to change old habits and assumptions about the most effective approach to joint activity and to find opportunities – perhaps still rare – where more symmetrical, peer-to-peer engagement is possible. A realistic appraisal shows that civil society practitioners in Russia and the U.S. operate in very different environments. Despite these differences, both countries are in a period of accelerated political, economic, and social evolution as their new presidents consolidate their administrations and respond to the still-deep economic crisis. The fluid political environment presents an opportunity for people from across the political, business, and nonprofit spheres to discover new ways to collaborate to benefit ordinary citizens.

Finally, the effectiveness of joint civil society initiatives depends on the continued development of a more constructive and stable relationship between Russia and the U.S. The political environment has not always been conducive, but we have begun to witness progress on this front. Implementation of the recommendations of the U.S.-Russia Civil Society Summit will help solidify our governments' commitment to stronger U.S.-Russian relations.

New Insights and Lessons from the Summit



Lewis Feldstein, President of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, meets U.S. President Barack Obama.

The recommendations for action that emerged from the working groups provide a roadmap for collaboration and a challenge to all three sectors (government, business, and nonprofit) in both countries to engage more closely on issues of mutual concern. The Summit deliberately included new voices with the aim of bringing fresh insights and energy to the problems and opportunities identified at the conference. In addition to learning by rubbing elbows with colleagues and experts from a variety of fields, a number of cross-cutting themes emerged as common to all the working groups. They are described below with an example of how they might be applied to projects recommended by each of the working groups.

- **The notion that governments alone cannot solve 21st century problems.**

The United States and Russia share the extraordinary resource of the North Pacific Ocean and the Bering Sea. Efforts have been underway for decades to protect habitat and species where the two countries meet in the Bering Strait by creating an international park. Coordinated advocacy by citizens in both countries is necessary to prompt governments to designate the area as a park. In turn, private sector interests must coordinate with governments and nonprofits to ensure adequate protection for the region when extracting natural resources.

- **Agreement on the need to shift from outdated “assistance” models to a new peer-to-peer model of engagement.**

The U.S. government might explore the idea of developing a Presidential Council on Human Rights, borrowing from the Russian model. The Presidential Councils might meet periodically to exchange ideas on

U.S. and Russian company towns offer a graphic example of how cross-sectoral cooperation can work. Dependence on a single employer or industry can lead to devastated communities if markets fluctuate significantly. But the process of economic diversification and infrastructure modernization can also spur growing pains and socioeconomic displacement. Working together, local NGOs, municipalities and the private sector can help implement socially responsible restructuring and prevent the development of ghost towns in times of crisis.

addressing domestic concerns and collaborate on transnational issues in this sphere.

- **The importance of cross-sectoral cooperation**

Leveraging the resources of civil society with the private sector to help governments find solutions to common challenges.

- **An emphasis on the possibilities for using new technology**

To create issue-centered communities, develop collaborative projects, and to share information and best practices across borders. For example, curbing self-destructive behaviors and encouraging proper care is critical to controlling hypertension, diabetes and cardiovascular disease – all drivers of health care costs and mortality in both Russia and the U.S. Social networking technology provides doctors with a new arsenal for interacting with patients and improving outcomes. E-technology allows physicians to remind patients to take medications on schedule and to track their conditions, while digital records offer valuable medical data. Health care professionals are eager to share results and strategies for public health campaigns that will reduce costs and improve patient care.

Another cross-cutting thread that informed the discussions of all working groups is the need for improved governance and accountability in all three sectors. This translates into enhanced transparency and application of the law by government; increased corporate accountability and social responsibility, and better board performance among nonprofits. The Summit benefited in this sphere from the participation of representatives of a Russian-American initiative on governance. OPORA (the Union of Business Associations of Russia) in Moscow, and the Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE) in Washington, D.C., coordinated the formation of the Russia-U.S. Joint Working Group on Investment and Institutional Integrity. The Working Group produced a set of concrete policy recommendations, in Russian and English, on improving governance, promoting transparency and accountability, and reducing corruption in Russia, as a means of stimulating economic growth, attracting investment, creating jobs, lowering the costs of goods and services, and facilitating Russia's further integration into the global economy. The Working Group met prior to the Summit to finalize its paper, and then reported on its findings to the Summit.

For further analysis of the Summit and the challenges and opportunities going forward, please see a policy memo by Sarah E. Mendelson, Director of the Human Rights and Security Initiative at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) and a co-convenor of the U.S.-Russia Civil Society Summit: "From Assistance to Engagement: A Model for a New Era in U.S.-Russian Civil Society Relations," CSIS Press, September 2009, <http://csis.org/program/us-russia-civil-society-summit>.

Press and New Media Working Group

Two distinct themes emerged from discussion among American and Russian journalists in the Press and New Media Working Group: 1) ongoing challenges to free press in Russia, and 2) the adaptation and impact of new media in both countries.

Participants reported that Russian media continues to suffer from a tightly controlled political environment and an atmosphere of lawlessness and impunity for those in power. Retaliation in the form of legal and physical attacks is a grim fact of life for independent journalists who encroach on entrenched interests. In this repressive environment, they noted that the media is incapable of acting as an instrument for public accountability. The mindset of compliance is aggravated by public apathy – 90 percent of Russia’s people feel that they cannot make a difference in national affairs.

But participants stressed that although a scarce commodity, independent media makes its presence known in Russia. As a senior editor from a leading Russian newspaper put it: “We create [our] own islands for survival. And the same happens on other little islands across Russia, where remains of free press are found.” The independent press is particularly anxious to follow Western professional standards and ethics. The group discussed how Western models have been successfully adapted to Russian realities, including the challenge of proving that they are not “an American hand in Russian politics.” They stressed the opportunities for exchange around programs that support independent media.

Representatives from both countries also compared views on development of new media as audiences for traditional newsrooms continue to decline and financial pressures shutter well-known outlets. In Russia, there has been particularly robust development of political websites offering new platforms for news, analysis, and opinion. An American participant working for a new media company remarked that “Russia in many ways leads the world in online-only publications.”

With rapid-fire growth of new media, participants stressed the need for new approaches to the Internet and increased training in digital technologies. The group generated a number of suggestions for next steps to train experienced journalists in new media skills, including internships and the adoption of training programs developed in U.S. universities. They also recommended a project to develop capacity around the new Russian law on access to information and suggested developing joint software applications for data mining and analysis that could be used by journalists and the public.

Recommended Areas for Cooperation

Training in new media skills for experienced journalists

- Create a bilateral project based on training programs developed in U.S. universities to train experienced journalists in new media techniques.
- Incorporate an exchange program that would allow journalists to intern with new-media agencies.

Developing capacity around the new Russian law on access to information expected in 2010

We create [our] own islands for survival. And the same happens on other little islands across Russia, where remains of free press are found.

- When the Russian law is passed, share Freedom of Information Act implementation practices in the U.S. with Russian NGOs and media organizations.

Foundations and New Media Outlets

- Exchange experience in supporting and grooming new media startups that are gradually becoming important players in the media sectors of both countries.
- Promote the application of new Internet-based means of information and communication by civil society institutions in ways that are democratic, inexpensive, and user-friendly.

Increased institutional accountability

- Develop and make available online tools that will enable journalists and the public to undertake data mining.
- Increase the accountability of all institutions, including government, business and civil society organizations, by making their performance and activities more transparent and measurable.

Working Group Members:

Valery Bezpyatykh	Alliance of Independent Regional Publishers	Moscow
Elena Chernyshkova	Dynasty Foundation	Moscow
Ben de la Cruz	WashingtonPost.com	Washington, D.C.
Esther Dyson	EDventure Holdings	New York
Mikhail Fishman	Russian Newsweek	Moscow
Arlene Getz	<i>Newsweek Worldwide Special Editions</i>	New York
Susan Glasser	<i>Foreign Policy</i>	Washington, D.C.
Elena Kovalevskaya	Open Society Institute	New York
Maria Lipman	<i>Pro et Contra</i>	Moscow
Andrey Lipsky	<i>Novaya Gazeta</i>	Moscow
Grigory Shvedov	<i>Caucasian Knot</i>	Moscow
Elena Topoleva	Agency of Social Information (ASI)	Moscow
Maxim Trudolyubov	<i>Vedomosti</i>	Moscow
Annelies Van Den Belt	Live Journal, Inc.; SUP Fabrik	Moscow
Natalya Vlasova	Foundation for Independent Radio	Moscow
Benjamin Wegg-Posser	Live Journal, Inc.; SUP Fabrik	Moscow

Chronic health problems generate staggering social and economic costs in Russia and the U.S. Non-communicable disease is the leading cause of illness, disability, and mortality in both countries. Treatment of chronic and preventable conditions has propelled soaring health care costs in the U.S., overwhelmed federal and state budgets, and handicapped businesses. In Russia, chronic disease has corroded the labor force, impeding economic development and diversification. With both societies facing economic crises, it is critical to share knowledge, skills and experience in the prevention and management of chronic disease.

The public health working group brought together Russian and American physicians and public health professionals to consider cooperative approaches to systemic health-care problems. Participants focused on issues surrounding chronic disease in both countries' health-care systems and created a slate of recommendations for the development of bilateral projects and exchange of best practices.

The group's proposals emphasize exchange of clinical professionals, co-development of public health campaigns, and joint inquiries into the causes and consequences of the primary drivers of illness. Within this framework, the group identified promising areas for cooperation, including efforts to detect and treat diabetes and hypertension, education on smoking and responsible alcohol consumption, and strategies to improve pregnancy outcomes.

The group was sensitive to concerns about the "assistance" formulation that has characterized so much of U.S.-Russia interaction over the last two decades – instead emphasizing genuine partnership, where health benefits are anticipated for both populations. Participants also stressed collaboration with government and the private sector, as well as institutional mechanisms to monitor progress and issue reports.

Recommended Areas for Cooperation

Public education campaigns aimed at curbing destructive behavior and promoting preventive measures to improve health outcomes

- Perform joint research into effective social marketing techniques, capitalizing on existing work in both countries.
- Develop policy recommendations on the regulation and taxation of alcohol and tobacco.
- Target diverse populations, including young and middle-aged men, medical professionals, teachers, pregnant women, and youth/students.

An open data initiative to facilitate evidence-based medicine and consumer choice

- Build on initial efforts in the U.S. to increase "information liquidity," like standardized electronic health records and rating systems for health-care providers.

Non-communicable disease is the leading cause of illness, disability, and mortality in Russia and the U.S.

- Encourage the availability of health data – especially statistics that could support evidence-based medicine and performance measures for health-care institutions.
- Promote consumer-friendly platforms to access data that spurs informed health-care decisions.

Exchange of information and experience among health-care providers and medical professionals

- Scale-up existing efforts (e.g., the Balashikha Project on reproductive health in Moscow Oblast and the Eurasian Medical Education Program on prevention/management of hypertension/cardiovascular disease in several regions).
- Develop exchanges of medical professionals as a first step toward building in-country capacity.
- Create working groups focused on a systems approach and evidence-based medicine.
- Promote surveillance as an integral component of effective care, with immediate attention to the implementation of a national women’s health survey in Russia.

Working Group Members:

Elena Baibarina	Scientific Center for Obstetrics, Gynecology and Perinatology	Moscow
Edward Burger	American College of Physicians	Washington, D.C.
Alfred W. Brann, Jr.	Emory University School of Medicine	Atlanta
Andrey Dyomin	Russian Public Health Association	Moscow
Irina Kartashova	Procter & Gamble	Moscow
Viktor Kramarenko	Procter & Gamble	Moscow
Franz Messerli	St. Luke’s-Roosevelt Hospital Center	New York
Maxim Osipov	The Endowment in Support of Tarusa Hospital	Tarusa, Russia
Valentina Peterkova	Russian Diabetes Association	Moscow
Sergey Shishkin	Upper School of Economics	Moscow
Judyth Twigg	Virginia Commonwealth University	Richmond
Donald Zeigler	American Medical Association	Chicago

Human Rights and Rule of Law Working Group

Human rights violations have been an ongoing source of friction in U.S.-Russian relations, underscored by the recent spate of murders of independent journalists and activists. But a combination of political and economic factors has created an opening for discussion of the human rights agenda. The participation of high-level Russian officials, such as Ella Pamfilova, in the Civil Society Summit follows a series of rhetorical gestures by the Kremlin that may signal the beginnings of a positive shift on human rights.

The Human Rights and Rule of Law Working Group brought together representatives from leading NGOs in the U.S. and Russia to consider how to collaborate to further their work. Both sides stressed the importance of civil society in keeping human rights issues on the docket, asserting that governments should not have a monopoly on bilateral relations. Participants were keen to develop cooperative projects with their overseas counterparts and wanted to create a mechanism for ongoing dialogue and rapid response to emerging situations. Echoing the overarching sentiment of the Summit, the group applauded the concept of moving from outmoded democracy assistance, which emphasized mentoring, to peer-to-peer exchanges aimed at resolving common problems such as migration, asylum, hate crimes, and torture.

Russian participants discussed the severity of human rights conditions in their country, including the working environment for NGOs, security for activists and journalists, legal protections, and the situation of political prisoners. They acknowledged that there were areas where assistance from American colleagues would be of great benefit. But in recognizing asymmetries between Russia and the U.S., participants exhorted America to do more to get its own house in order by shutting down the prison at Guantanamo Bay and addressing torture.

In framing recommendations for future U.S.-Russian cooperation on human rights, this working group offered several general principles. First, they proposed that civil society dialogues occur outside – as well as parallel to – Summit talks. They urged that future dialogues include U.S. and Russian officials and be extended to local and regional NGOs in addition to prominent national organizations. Finally, the group promoted projects that tackle issues of equal concern to the U.S. and Russia, which would educate the public in addition to government officials with the aim of changing policy.

Recommended Areas for Cooperation

Specialized committees focused on common themes – such as hate crimes, migration, political prisoners, and detention and penitentiaries

- Create a working group on hate crime (within the Obama-Medvedev Commission) and include a council of nongovernmental experts to advise the group.
- Explore the idea of developing a U.S. Presidential Council on Human Rights, borrowing from the Russian model.

Both sides stressed the importance of civil society in keeping human rights issues on the docket, asserting that governments should not have a monopoly on bilateral relations.

Collaborative public education campaigns and research projects

- Conduct research and opinion surveys on American and Russian attitudes on key human rights issues and the work of NGOs.
- Explore communication strategies and policy recommendations for addressing extremism and xenophobia, particularly in light of the global financial crisis and the impact of increased immigration.
- Establish collaborative campaigns aimed at broadening constituencies, educating the public, and strengthening calls for human rights in both the U.S. and Russia.
- Monitor anti-American propaganda in the Russian media and work together to counter public distrust of the U.S.

Resources to promote action on international human rights protocols and issues

- Combine forces to push for ratification of international human rights protocols, including the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture (CAT) and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC).
- Parlay resources to stop the erosion of existing international protections.
- Develop a bilateral project examining effective means of preventing and countering extremism and terrorism.

Working Group Members:

Lyudmila Alexeeva	Moscow Helsinki Group	Moscow
Pavel Chikov	AGORA	Kazan, Russia
Yuri Dzhibladze	Center for the Development of Democracy and Human Rights	Moscow
Svetlana Gannushkina	Civic Assistance Committee	Moscow
Allison Gill	Human Rights Watch	Moscow
Sergei Kovalev	Human Rights Institute	Moscow
Ida Kuklina	Union of Committees of Russian Soldiers' Mothers	Moscow
Paul LeGendre	Human Rights First	New York
Tanya Lokshina	Human Rights Watch	Moscow
Sergei Lukashevsky	Demos Center; Andrei Sakharov Museum	Moscow
Tom Malinowski	Human Rights Watch	Washington, D.C.
Tom Melia	Freedom House	Washington, D.C.
Sarah Mendelson	Center for Strategic and International Studies	Washington, D.C.
Oleg Orlov	Memorial Human Rights Center	Moscow
Lev Ponamaryov	All-Russian Movement for Human Rights	Moscow
Boris Pustyntsev	Civil Control	Saint Petersburg
Arseny Roginsky	Memorial Research Center	Moscow
Anita Soboleva	JURIX	Moscow
Natalia Taubina	Public Verdict Foundation	Moscow
Alexander Verkhovsky	SOVA Center	Moscow
Andrey Yurov	International Youth Human Rights Movement	Voronezh, Russia

The U.S. and Russia are major players on a number of environmental threats of global consequence. Ranked among the top industrial emitters of greenhouse gases, their ability to cooperate – on scientific information, policy development and implementation, and public education – is critical to combating climate change.

The Environment Working Group was formed around the principle that exchanges involving experts and civic organizations of both countries can catalyze environmental action and encourage open and productive collaboration between governments. The group reinforced the potential for civil society to help define priority areas for environmental cooperation, participate in conservation and sustainable-use initiatives, and promote knowledge-sharing across national boundaries. They stressed the importance of cooperation among U.S. and Russian NGOs and scientific organizations, with government to safeguard environmental resources and biodiversity, exchange technical information, and involve local populations in decision-making processes.

In addition to climate change and energy issues, participants highlighted the potential to cooperate on protecting the enormous freshwater, marine, and boreal forest reserves located in Russia and North America – particularly those adjoining habitat in the North Pacific region.

The group's recommendations encompassed three potential areas for collaboration: 1) climate change and energy efficiency; 2) biodiversity and protected areas; and 3) environmental consciousness and responsibility as detailed below.

Recommended Areas for Cooperation

Climate change, energy efficiency and renewables

- Initiate joint efforts to call on the U.S. and Russian governments to assume leadership in preparing for the Copenhagen Climate Agreement.
- Coordinate bilateral public education campaigns to raise awareness about the implications of climate change and encourage citizen involvement.
- Exchange and coordinate strategies to motivate the public and private sectors to limit greenhouse gas emissions.
- Work with governments to encourage energy efficiency and the development of renewable energy alternatives.

Biodiversity and protected areas

- Undertake joint efforts to call on the governments of both nations to halt the loss of biodiversity and develop bilateral protected-area networks, emphasizing the shared geography, species and habitat of the North Pacific Region.
- Develop model projects for protected areas that demonstrate regional economic interests and take into account the role and traditions of local communities, including indigenous people.

The U.S. and Russia rank among the top industrial emitters of greenhouse gases. Their ability to cooperate is critical to combating climate change.

- Demonstrate regional economic interests generated by the creation of protected areas in the U.S. and Russia.
- Strengthen trans-boundary cooperation among government organizations and NGOs in the creation of the Beringia International Park, which would link protected areas in the U.S. and Russia across the Bering Sea.

Environmental awareness and responsibility

- Promote the application of environmentally friendly market tools, including conservation finance mechanisms (e.g., trust funds, public-private partnerships), and the institution of comprehensive greenhouse gas accounting for the portfolios of multilateral lending institutions, like the World Bank and International Monetary Fund. Develop and introduce a new Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) in Russia and the U.S.
- Assess the comparative environmental standards and energy efficiency for large U.S. and Russian companies.
- Assign economic value to the long-term benefits of ecosystem services and conservation in economic-development projects.
- Develop joint public education campaigns in the U.S. and Russia to promote involvement in issues such as climate change, energy efficiency, pollution, biodiversity conservation, and establishment of protected areas.

Working Group Members:



Ivan Blokov	Greenpeace Russia	Moscow
Natalia Danilina	Zapovedniki	Moscow
Scott Frazier	Project WET (Water Education for Teachers); Native Waters	Bozeman, Montana
Beth L. McGee	Chesapeake Bay Foundation	Annapolis
Guido Rahr	Wild Salmon Center	Portland
Marina Rikhvanova	Baikal Environmental Wave	Irkutsk, Russia
Eygeny Shvarts	WWF Russia	Moscow
Laura Williams	Wild Salmon Center; WWF Russia	Moscow
Svyatoslav Zabelin	Socio-Ecological Union of Russia	Moscow

Community Development Working Group

Given his early work as a community organizer, President Obama's involvement with the Civil Society Summit drew particular attention to the Community Development Working Group. Addressing the final event, he noted, "The best ideas and solutions come from ordinary citizens who become involved in their communities and in their countries. And by mobilizing and organizing and changing people's hearts and minds, you then change the political landscape." By definition, community development projects serve people where they live – demonstrating progress from the bottom-up. Ranging from low-income housing to brownfield redevelopment to integration services, best practice involves local residents in decision-making and implementation. The Civil Society Summit's working group on community development covered a broad range of topics and experience. Participants included community leaders from small cities and rural areas in Russia and the U.S.

Fallout from the financial market meltdown has left communities in both nations facing severe economic and social duress, as resources for dealing with these problems dwindle. With these pressures in mind, the working group examined a variety of issues from affordable housing and energy efficiency to labor and social issues in one-company towns, and from conflict prevention and labor migration issues to the impact of extractive industries on local communities in both countries. Discussion included comparison of strategies and best practices from both countries that could strengthen the effectiveness of NGOs in this sector.

The group concluded that cooperation among government, business, and civil society is essential to addressing challenges faced by communities in the U.S. and Russia. Recommendations for collaboration centered around four broad areas of mutual interest outlined below. To begin collaboration, the group proposed bilateral study tours and developing online communities for resource exchange between U.S. and Russian NGOs.

Recommended Areas for Cooperation

Resources and financing to expand opportunities for community development

- Map key issues and stakeholders in core areas of concern.
- Develop online community for translating and distributing best practices, case studies, organizational models, and legal/policy structures that support a strong community-development sector.
- Encourage expanded philanthropic support of NGOs developing innovative projects to address local needs.
- Create bilateral partnerships between NGOs in communities with similar characteristics and problems.

Policy and management tools to improve access to quality, affordable housing

- Exchange and develop best practices around housing management and maintenance, rehabilitation, energy efficiency and rental housing

Fallout from the financial market meltdown has left communities in both nations facing severe economic and social duress, as resources for dealing with these problems dwindle.

development.

- Study strategies for increasing supply of leased housing to support workforce development and job mobility.
- Empower NGOs to broker private-public partnerships targeted to revitalizing housing stock and local economic development.

Regenerating distressed communities

- Consider new approaches to assisting communities hard-hit by factory closings and economic relocation – including sustainable housing and economic-development strategies.
- Develop joint projects around brownfield redevelopment and environmental remediation practices in areas severely affected by former manufacturing use.

Immigration, cultural inclusion, and skills building

- Compare programs serving immigrant communities on issues that relate to housing and community development, including homeownership education and training, relationships with tenants, integration and cooperation among diverse cultures, and workforce retraining.

Working Group Members:

Alyuset Aziskhanov	Nabat	Rep. of Dagestan, Russia
Tom Bledsoe	Housing Partnership Network	Boston
Patrick Clancy	The Community Builders	Boston
Konstantin Egorov	Network of Housing Education Schools	Perm, Russia
Lewis M. Feldstein	New Hampshire Charitable Foundation	Concord
Vyacheslav Glazychev	Territory Development Institute	Moscow
Sergei Grigoriev	SUEK-Regions Foundation	Moscow
Yuri Gurman	Chelyabinsk Region Association of Rural Municipalities	Chelyabinsk, Russia
Calvin Holmes	Chicago Community Loan Fund	Chicago
Marina Mikhailova	Arkhangelsk Charitable Foundation; Garant	Arkhangelsk, Russia
Elena Nemirovskaya	Moscow School of Political Studies	Moscow
Vyacheslav Postavnin	21 st Century Migration Fund	Moscow
Elena Shomina	Upper School of Economics	Moscow
Lawrence Swanson	ACTION-Housing	Pittsburgh

Youth Engagement and Education Working Group

First-hand experience gained through U.S.-Russian educational exchanges has helped dispel the mutual mistrust of the Cold War years, promoted solutions to shared problems, and created a cadre of citizens committed to improved bilateral relations. Last year some 2,000 young Americans studied in Russia while 5,000 Russians attended U.S. universities, and still others participated in government, private-sector and NGO exchanges. However, educational institutions and youth organizations in both countries are facing enormous pressure to reconstruct themselves to meet changing labor market demands, make use of new technologies, and deal with escalating social problems – all in the face of shrinking budgets and resources.

The Youth Engagement and Education Working Group of the Civil Society Summit assembled to compare how educators in both nations are facing these challenges and to consider innovative options for the next generation of exchanges. Participants represented a wide range of professional experience and interests from elementary to post-secondary teachers, as well as researchers, advocates, and leaders of creative youth engagement programs.

The group focused on developing a framework for catalyzing U.S.-Russian cooperation on education and the sciences, with civic and social engagement as overarching themes. It envisioned a new generation of U.S.-Russian cooperative programs that will be aligned with the shared need for public education reform (from preschool to graduate school); will support collaboration between educational institutions and organizations; and will foster dialogue and co-operation around an array of innovative youth service programs. Scientific research also offers an important channel for cooperation, given Russia's ambitious program to build a network of world-class research universities to stimulate economic growth. Recommendations centered on a two-pronged strategy with cross-national dialogue on youth issues and comparative follow-on projects at home, drawing on innovative grassroots solutions being developed in both countries.

Recommended Areas for Cooperation

Socio-economic issues affecting youth

- Design comparative studies on transition to adulthood, assessing young people's needs (social and educational), interests, and aspirations.
- Exchange best practices in areas such as at-risk youth, academic retention, career preparation, youth peer mentoring and peer tutoring, and innovative approaches to community-based learning and research.

Civic engagement, social responsibility, and youth service

- Create a high-level cooperative agenda, linked directly to the work of the Obama-Medvedev Commission, to analyze and improve national policies in support of civic engagement, social responsibility, and youth service. Discussions would include the possibility of developing programs around the models of AmeriCorps and the Corporation for National and Community

Talented young people in both countries recognize that they need to work together to meet the unprecedented challenges shaping the world that they will inherit.


Service, and might also explore earlier Russian experiments around Alternative Government Service (in the 1990s), which were based in part on European and especially German youth programs.

- Develop a teacher-education component (for both new and experienced teachers) on community school programs, highlighting innovative approaches to engaging youth in civic activities.
- Involve undergraduate and graduate students in helping design, implement, and evaluate bilateral service projects.
- Develop a repository of best practices in Russia and in the U.S. on linking educational institutions to civil society organizations.

Effective models for international educational exchange

- Build on the success of long-established programs (such as FLEX, Fulbright, and Muskie).
- Leverage recent agreements, e.g., the May 2006 Memorandum of Understanding (advocating cooperation in science and technology, foreign languages, and information technologies) and the 2007 U.S.-Russian Collaborative Study Program (to foster new university partnerships).

Working Group Members:



Anton Burkov	Cambridge University	Cambridge, England
Irina Buroyakova	Association of Khakassia Republic of Community Schools	Chernogorsk, Russia
Michelle Asha Cooper	Institute for Higher Education Policy	Washington, D.C.
Amy Driscoll	Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching	Stanford, California
Yuri Gavrilov	Institute for the Development of Modern Educational Technologies	Moscow
Ted Gerber	University of Wisconsin-Madison	Madison
Mark Johnson	Colorado College	Colorado Springs
Tatyana Novikova	Academy for In-service Training and Retraining of Educational System Specialists	Moscow
Ekaterina Sherer	Association of Young Leaders	Moscow
Aleksandr Sokolov	National Council of Youth and Children's Organizations	Moscow
Tatyana Svetenko	Association of Educational Technology Centers	Pskov, Russia

White House Press Release: Transcript of President Obama's Address to the 2009 U.S.-Russia Civil Society Summit

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

July 7, 2009

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT AT PARALLEL CIVIL SOCIETY SUMMIT

Metropol Hotel
Moscow, Russia

5:38 P.M. (Local)

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. Well, good afternoon. Dobryy Den'. I apologize that I think I'm running late and I'm leaving early. (Laughter.) This is a good reason why civil society is so important – because you can't always count on politicians. (Laughter.)

It is a great pleasure to be with all of you. Through the work that you do, you underscore what I believe is a fundamental truth in the 21st century: that strong, vibrant nations include strong, vibrant civil societies.

This was also a key message of the speech this morning at the New Economic School. We not only need a "reset" button between the American and Russian government, but we need a fresh start between our societies – more dialogue, more listening, more cooperation in confronting common challenges. For history teaches us that real progress – whether it's economic or social or political – doesn't come from the top-down, it typically comes from the bottom-up. It comes from people, it comes from the grassroots – it comes from you. The best ideas and solutions come from ordinary citizens who become involved in their communities and in their countries. And by mobilizing and organizing and changing people's hearts and minds, you then change the political landscape. And oftentimes politicians get the credit for changing laws, but in fact you've created the environment in which those new laws can occur.

I learned this myself when I worked as a community organizer in Chicago. I'm glad to see my friend here from Chicago, Calvin Holmes, who – we used to work together on a range of civic issues. I was working in communities that were devastated by steel plant closings, and so I went door to door, I worked with churches, trying to learn what people needed.

And we had a lot of setbacks – in fact, we had more failures than successes. But we kept on listening to the people, we learned from them, we got them involved. And over time they chose projects to work on – whether it was building a new play lot or improving a neighborhood park or improving the local school or improving housing in the community – and slowly, block-by-block, neighborhood-by-neighborhood, you

started to see change happen: more jobs, better housing, more opportunities for young people. And I learned a lesson – that if you want to bring change, it's not enough just to be an advocate; it's not enough to just wait for the government to act. You have to step up and deliver results, real impact on people's lives.

And that is something that I think is lost sometimes when we discuss civil society. There's a tendency sometimes for this to be a very abstract conversation – with very lofty goals. And since I am a former law professor, I love abstractions and lofty goals. But your neighbor, your friend, your coworker, they're struggling with very immediate things right now: Can they pay the rent? Can their child go to a school that is going to teach them so that they can succeed in the future?

Those are the day-to-day struggles that they're wrestling with. And if they can't see a connection between what you are doing and their lives getting better in the short term as well as the long term, then it's very hard to get any traction over time. Now, no community is the same and every country will follow its own path. So let me be very clear: Russia's future is up to the Russian people. Not every choice that's good for the United States is going to be good for Russia. Not every model of organization or development or democracy may be easily transplantable from one country to the next. But let me also say that we can learn from each other – and I do think there's some universal principles. So I commend you for this summit, designed not to lecture, but to listen, as was already pointed out; not teach or impose solutions, but to learn from each other, from the bottom up.

As today's speakers explained, there are so many opportunities for new partnerships: developing strong, prosperous communities; expanding education and exchanges that open young minds to each other's countries; promoting healthy lifestyles that help people live longer, more productive lives; discovering the clean energy technologies we need to protect our environment and confront climate change. These are the challenges that we can meet together.

And meeting these challenges, in turn, requires what many of you have dedicated your lives to sustaining – a vibrant civil society; the freedom of people to live as they choose, to speak their minds, to organize peacefully and to have a say in how they are governed; a free press to report the truth; confidence in the rule of law and the equal administration of justice; a government that's accountable and transparent. And we honor all of you for the passion and perseverance that you bring to these causes.

As I've said elsewhere, I don't think these are American ideals and I don't think they are the monopoly of one country. They're universal values. They're human rights. And that's why the United States of America will support them everywhere. That is our commitment. And that is our promise.

And in supporting these ideals, it's also important that we uphold them ourselves. And that's why I take the last speaker's admonition as a useful reminder – that what we do matters, in part because although we know that sometimes we'll fall short of our ideals, when we do – they can be an excuse for others. Our journey to perfect our union goes on to this day. And that's why I did order the closing of the Guantanamo Bay prison and I did ban torture – without equivocation and without exception.

Here in Russia, I welcome the steps that President Medvedev has taken so that civil society groups can play a more active role on behalf of the Russian people. And I want to acknowledge that we are joined today by representatives of two important organizations: the office of the Human Rights Ombudsman and the Presidential

Commission on Human Rights and Civil Society.

Make no mistake: Civil society – civil groups hold their governments to high standards. And I know – because this audience includes Americans who’ve been critical of me for not moving fast enough on issues that are of great importance. They’ve said it to my face. In the Oval Office. While I was President. (Laughter.) They told me I was wrong. And in some cases they changed my mind; in some cases they didn’t. And that’s okay, because we’re not going to agree on everything – but I know this: Their voices and their views and their criticism ultimately will make my decisions better, they will make me ask tougher questions and ask my staff tougher questions. And we’ll find out: Are there ways of doing what we need to do that conform to our deepest held values and our ideals, and that are sustainable over the long term? That makes our country stronger in the long term, and I wouldn’t want it any other way.

So this summit reminds us: The fresh starts have to be between more than just two Presidents. They have to be between our two peoples, our two societies. They have to be more than just common security – the Cold War weapons we dismantle. It must be about our common opportunity – the future of progress and prosperity that we build together.

And I think that the leadership here in Russia, both civil and governmental, understand this. I had lunch with President Medvedev this afternoon, and we started talking about health issues and the continuing high mortality rate among Russian men in particular. And we talked about alcoholism and we talked about smoking. And we talked about the fact that government programs can be initiated, but to the extent that there’s been success in the United States around reducing smoking levels, it’s not only a matter of changing laws – it’s also been changing attitudes, so that people feel that they need to change. And they internalize these different attitudes. That’s something that civic society can do in a way that government never can.

I then met the leader of the Russian Orthodox Church, and he talked about how, you know, government exchanges are useful, but religious organizations, they can help melt away the suspicions and mistrust that have built between people over time.

So just in those two conversations in the span of 15 minutes, essentially what I heard was a call for action from you. Confidence that what you are doing matters, even when sometimes it seems hard and it seems as if nobody is listening. That’s what our work here on Earth must be about, what Tolstoy called the “sole meaning of life” – “to serve humanity.”

Thank you for making that cause the meaning of your lives. And good luck to all of you. Spasibo. (Applause.)

END5:50 P.M. (Local)

U.S.-Russia Civil Society Summit Participants

Lyudmila Alexeeva – Moscow Helsinki Group
Deana Arsenian – Carnegie Corporation
Ella Asoyan – Freedom House
Alyuset Aziskhanov – Nabat
Elena Baibarina – Scientific Center for Obstetrics, Gynecology and Perinatology
Vyacheslav Bakhmin – Charles Stewart Mott Foundation
Sergey Barinov – Ministry of Regional Development (Russian Federation)
Horton Beebe-Center – Eurasia Foundation
Artem Bektemirov – 36.6
Igor Belikov – Russian Institute of Directors
Valery Bezpyatykh – Revda
Tom Bledsoe – Housing Partnership Network
Ivan Blokov – Greenpeace Russia
Alfred W. Brann, Jr. – Emory University School of Medicine
Edward Burger – American College of Physicians
Anton Burkov – Cambridge University
Irina Buroyakova – Association of Khakassia Republic Community Schools
James Carlson – USAID
Elena Chernyshkova – Dynasty Foundation
Pavel Chikov – AGORA
Patrick Clancy – The Community Builders
Michelle Asha Cooper – Institute for Higher Education Policy
Natalia Danilina – Zapovedniki
Elena Danilova – Russian Academy of Sciences
Ben de la Cruz – WashingtonPost.com
Nick Detsch – The International Research and Exchanges Board
Irina Dezhina – Russian Academy of Sciences
Amy Driscoll – California State University
Andrey Dyomin – Russian Public Health Association
Esther Dyson – EDventure Holdings; Eurasia Foundation
Yuri Dzhibladze – Center for the Development of Democracy and Human Rights
Konstantin Egorov – Network of Housing Education Schools
Terry English – Baring Vostok Capital Partners LLC; Eurasia Foundation
Olga Evdokimova – Evolution and Philanthropy Company (Tsvetkov/Uralsib Foundation)
Lewis M. Feldstein – New Hampshire Charitable Foundation
Amie Ferris-Rotman – Reuters
Mikhail Fishman – Russian Newsweek
Oleg Fokin – Fund for Sustainable Development
Scott Frazier – Project WET (Water Education for Teachers); Native Waters
Svetlana Gannushkina – Civic Assistance Committee
Yuri Gavrillov – Institute for the Development of Modern Educational Technologies
Ted Gerber – University of Wisconsin-Madison
Arlene Getz – *Newsweek Worldwide Special Editions*
Allison Gill – Human Rights Watch, Moscow
Petr Gladkov – Independent Consultant
Susan Glasser – *Foreign Policy*
Vyacheslav Glazychev – Territory Development Institute
Evgeniy Gontmakher – The Institute of Contemporary Development
Sergei Grigoriev – SUEK-Regions Foundation

Yuri Gurman – Chelyabinsk Region Association of Rural Municipalities
Jennifer Haverkamp – Environmental Defense Fund
Roderick Hills – Hills Program on Corporate Governance
Calvin Holmes – Chicago Community Loan Fund
Mark Johnson – Colorado College
Irina Kartashova – Procter & Gamble
Olga Krever – Wild Salmon Center; WWF Russia
Musa Klebnikov – Paul Klebnikov Fund
Debora Klepp – Embassy of the United States, Moscow
Val Kogan – MID-Atlantic Russia
Andrey Kortunov – New Eurasia Foundation
Sergei Kovalev – Human Rights Institute
Elena Kovalevskaya – Open Society Institute
Viktor Kramarenko – Procter & Gamble
Erin Krasik – USAID
Dina Krylova – OPORA Russia
Ida Kuklina – Union of Committees of Russian Soldiers’ Mothers
Yaroslav Kuzminov – Upper School of Economics
Alan Larson – Transparency International
Elena Lashenko – Cooperation and Development Center
Gregori Lebedev – Center for International Private Enterprise
Paul LeGendre – Human Rights First
Maria Lipman – Moscow Carnegie Center
Andrey Lipsky – *Novaya Gazeta*
Sergey Litovchenko – Russian Managers Association
Baron Lobstein – Embassy of the United States, Moscow
Tanya Lokshina – Human Rights Watch, Moscow
Sergei Lukashevsky – Demos Center; Andrei Sakharov Museum
Vladimir Lukin – Ombudsman for Human Rights in the Russian Federation
Ross Maclaren – Charles Stewart Mott Foundation
Dmitri Makarov – Youth Human Rights Movement
Oleg Malginov – Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Russian Federation)
Tom Malinowski – Human Rights Watch
Terry Mayer – National Defense University (United States)
Beth L. McGee – Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Elizabeth McKeon – Ford Foundation
Tom Melia – Freedom House
Sarah Mendelson – Center for Strategic and International Studies
Franz Messerli – St. Luke’s-Roosevelt Hospital Center
Marina Mikhailova – Arkhangelsk Charitable Foundation; Garant
Olga Moshkova – New Eurasia Foundation
Matthew Murray – Independent Consultant
Elena Nemirovskaya – Moscow School of Political Studies
Peter Neisuler – Embassy of the United States, Moscow
Vyacheslav Nikonov – Russian World Fund
Tatyana Novikova – Academy for In-Service Training and Retraining of Educational System Specialists
Oleg Orlov – Memorial Human Rights Center
Maxim Osipov – The Endowment in Support of Tarusa Hospital
Ella Pamfilova – The Civil Society Institutions and Human Rights Council under the President of the Russian Federation
Elena Panfilova – Transparency International
Valentina Peterkova – Russian Diabetes Association
Sergei Platov – Council on Promotion of the Development of Civil Society Institutions under the President of the Russian Federation
Mara Polyakova – Council of Independent Legal Experts
Mark Pomar – U.S.-Russia Foundation for Economic Advancement and the Rule of Law
Lev Ponamaryov – All-Russian Movement for Human Rights
Vyacheslav Postavnin – 21st Century Migration
Alexandr Povalko – Federal Agency for Youth Affairs (Russian Federation)

Boris Pustyntsev – Civil Control
Marina Rikhvanova – Baikal Environmental Wave
Aleksandr Raevsky – Center for International Private Enterprise, Russia
Guido Rahr – Wild Salmon Center
Arseny Roginsky – Memorial Research Center
Oleg Rozhnov – Ministry of Sports, Tourism and Youth Policy (Russian Federation)
Georgy Satarov – INDEM Foundation
Svetlana Savranskaya – National Security Archive (Russian Federation)
Mikhail Savva – Southern Regional Resource Center
Debra Schwartz – MacArthur Foundation
Leonid Shabad – The International Research and Exchanges Board
Ekaterina Sherer – Association of Young Leaders
Judy Shelton – National Endowment for Democracy
Lilia Shevtsova – Carnegie Moscow Center; New Eurasia Foundation
Sergey Shishkin – Upper School of Economics
Aleksandr Shkolnikov – Center for International Private Enterprise
Elena Shomina – Upper School of Economics
Evgeny Shvarts – WWF Russia
Grigory Shvedov – *Caucasian Knot*
Anita Soboleva – JURIX
Aleksandr Sokolov – National Council of Youth and Children’s Organizations (Russian Federation)
John D. Sullivan – Center for International Private Enterprise
Tatyana Svetenko – Youth Resource Center
Lawrence Swanson – ACTION-Housing
Gayane Tamazyan – National Council of Youth and Children’s Organizations (Russian Federation)
Natalia Taubina – Public Verdict Foundation
Elena Topoleva – Agency of Social Information
Maxim Trudolyubov – *Vedomosti*
Judyth Twigg – Virginia Commonwealth University
Annelies Van Den Belt – Live Journal; SUP Fabrik
Alexander Verkhovsky – SOVA Center
Natalya Vlasova – Foundation for Independent Radio
Stanislav Voskresensky – Ministry of Economy (Russian Federation)
Margaret Warner – “The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer”
Benjamin Wegg-Posser – Live Journal; SUP Fabrik
Laura Williams – Wild Salmon Center; WWF Russia
Andrew Wilson – Center for International Private Enterprise
Alexandra Wrage – TRACE International
Andrey Yurov – International Youth Human Rights Movement
Svyatoslav Zabelin – Socio-Ecological Union of Russia
Vladimir Zakharov – Public Chamber Commission on Ecological Security and Environment Protection
(Russian Federation)
Larisa Zelkova – Vladimir Potanin Charitable Foundation
Donald Zeigler – American Medical Association
Igor Zevelev – MacArthur Foundation
Dmitry Zimin – Dynasty Foundation
Natalya Zvereva – Our Future Fund (Alekperov Fund)

The 2009 U.S.-Russia Civil Society Summit in the Media

“America for Russia is not like Europe”

EU-Russia Centre, June 30, 2009

<http://www.eu-russiacentre.org/our-publications/column/america-russia-europe.html>

“Keeping Human Rights On The U.S.-Russian Table”

National Public Radio, July 5, 2009

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=106281277>

“Obama Arrives in Moscow for Talks With Medvedev, Putin”

VOA News, July 6, 2009

<http://www.voanews.com/english/2009-07-06-voa8.cfm>

“Obama Goes to Moscow”

RussiaProfile.org, July 3, 2009

<http://www.russiaprofile.org/page.php?pageid=Experts%27+Panel&articleid=a1246616298>

“Obama talks spur rights call by Russian activists”

Reuters, July 8, 2009

<http://www.reuters.com/article/politicsNews/idUSTRE5675UA20090708>

Remarks by the President at Parallel Civil Society Summit

White House Press Release, July 7, 2009

Full text appears in Appendix I

http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Remarks-By-The-President-At-Parallel-Civil-Society-Summit/

“Russia loosens clasp on NGOs ahead of Obama visit”

Reuters, July 3, 2009

<http://www.reuters.com/article/GCA-BarackObama/idUSTRE56243820090703?pageNumber=2&virtualBrandChannel=0&sp=true>

“Russian civil society leaders to appeal to Obama”

Reuters, July 6, 2009

http://www.reuters.com/article/reutersComService_2_MOLT/idUSTRE5655XC20090706

“The tide is turning”

Russia Today, July 7, 2009

http://russiatoday.ru/Politics/2009-07-07/_The_tide_is_turning_.html

All photos courtesy of The White House

Report produced by Andrea Eisler, Erik Ferguson, Natalia Grincheva, and Colin McCullough, assisted by Sarah Bumbarger



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