

PROTOCOL
**for Consultations between the Ministry of External
Affairs of the Republic of India and the Ministry of
Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation for the period
of 2015-16**

Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India and the
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation hereinafter
referred to as the "Parties",

proceeding from the objectives of the Declaration on
Strategic Partnership between the Republic of India and the
Russian Federation of October 3, 2000,

guided by the provisions of the Inter-governmental Protocol
for Indian-Russian Consultations of January 28, 1993,

seeking to further strengthen the special and privileged
strategic partnership and to enhance the cooperation between the
Parties both on a bilateral basis and within multilateral format,
including in the framework of international and regional
organizations and fora,

have agreed as follows:

1. The Parties shall hold regular consultations on the following
topics:

- Issues of importance on bilateral relations, including inter-regional and international cooperation, and India-Russia strategic cooperation in the international arena;
- UN issues and cooperation within other international organizations;
- Strategic stability, non-proliferation of WMD, arms control and multilateral export control issues;
- Combating new emerging threats and challenges to global security and stability, foremost international terrorism, piracy, illegal drug trafficking and trans-border organized crime;
- Issues of International Cyber Security;
- G 20 related issues;
- Cooperation within the "Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa" format (BRICS);

- Cooperation within the "Russia-India-China (RIC)" format;
- Issues concerning South Asia, Iran and Afghanistan;
- Issues concerning South and West Asia;
- Situation in the Central Asia;
- Interaction in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO);
- European issues;
- Issues concerning the Asia-Pacific Region;
- Issues of Middle East (West Asia) and North Africa;
- Issues concerning Africa (South of the Sahel);
- Issues concerning Latin America;
- Issues of information support concerning foreign policy and media cooperation;
- Consular issues;
- Issues concerning diplomatic property.

During consultations, the Parties, upon mutual agreement may combine discussions on certain issues as well as hold consultations on topics not specified in this Protocol.

2. The Parties shall hold consultations on the aforementioned issues at the level of the First Deputy Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Deputy Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Heads of relevant department, Embassies in India and Russia as well as in the framework of inter-agency working group meetings. The Parties, upon mutual consent, may constitute expert groups on specific issues.

Consultations shall be held once a year, in India and Russia alternately. If necessary, the Parties may hold extraordinary or urgent consultations on issue of mutual interest.

3. The Parties may hold consultations at the level of Diplomatic Missions in third countries, including Permanent Missions to international organizations.

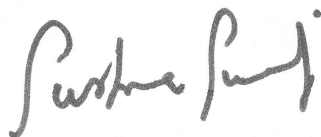
4. Consultations between the Parties may be held with participation of representatives of other agencies of the States of the Parties.

5. The present Protocol is not an international treaty and does not confer upon the Parties any rights or commitments under the international law.

6. The present Protocol shall come into force from January 1st, 2015 till December 31st, 2016. Thereafter, it will be renewable by mutual written consent of the Parties.

Signed in New Delhi on December 11, 2014 in two original, each in the English and Russian languages, both texts being equally authentic.

For the Indian side



SUSHMA SWARAJ
Minister of External Affairs of
the Republic of India

For the Russian side



SERGEY VIKTOROVICH LAVROV
Minister of Foreign Affairs of
the Russian Federation