**The Russian Federation and the United Nations**

**hold Seventh Annual Aviation Talks in Moscow**

**on 21 и 22 July, 2021**

Joint Communique

The United Nations and the Russian Federation held the Seventh Annual Aviation Talks on 21 and 22 July 2021 as part of the official business programme of the International Aviation and Space Salon MAKS-2021.

The United Nations was represented by Mr. Atul Khare, Under-Secretary-General for Operational Support. He was accompanied by Mr. Christian Saunders, Assistant Secretary-General, Office of Supply Chain Management and other senior team members. The delegation of the Russian Federation was led by Mr. Alexander Neradko, Director General of the Federal Air Transport Agency, accompanied by his senior staff.

The parties discussed issues related to the aviation services provided by the Russian Federation to United Nations field operations. The participants deeply appreciated the opportunity to hold the event despite the ongoing restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

USG Khare expressed his gratitude to the Russian Federation for their steadfast contributions to peacekeeping operations, along with their contributions in the global efforts aimed at controlling the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Alexander Neradko emphasised the longstanding cooperation between the Russian Federation and the United Nations and assured the United Nations of its continuing commitment to close cooperation in the field of aviation.

The parties covered a wide range of issues, specifically in the areas of safety and security, procurement, and aviation support to rotation of United uniformed personnel. Medical evacuation and the United Nations MEDEVAC mechanism were also discussed, including how Russian health facilities will participate as receiving destinations in the MEDEVAC mechanism to offer Covid-19 treatment to United Nations personnel and partners.

During his official visit to Russia, Mr. Atul Khare also participated in several meetings pertaining to bilateral cooperation between United Nations and the Russian Federation, including with representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affaires of the Russian Federation as well as of the Ministry of Health.

The United Nations Department of Operational Support and the Federal Air Transport Agency agreed to continue holding regular annual aviation talks. Mr. Alexander Neradko warmly accepted the invitation extended by Under-Secretary-General Khare to attend the 2022 meeting in New York.

Moscow. 22 July 2021.