



INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL INFORMATION

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Unofficial translation

**OPEN LETTER TO MR. SERGEY LAVROV, THE MINISTER
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

Esteemed Sergey Viktorovich,

The intergovernmental organization "International Centre for Scientific and Technical Information" (ICSTI), which unites Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Cuba, Egypt, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, India, Kazakhstan, North Korea, Latvia, Moldova, Mongolia, Poland, Romania, Russia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Ukraine and Vietnam, presents its compliments to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation and has the honors to report the following.

Let me inform you that there is no response to the ICSTI note to your address dated July 09, 2020 No. 238/D and repeated requests dated August 12 and 24, 2020. In addition, a number of ICSTI Member States also addressed the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Russian Ministry of Science and Higher Education with notes for clarification in connection with the failure of the vote to extend the powers of the current Director of ICSTI and unfounded allegations against him by the Deputy Minister of Science and Higher Education of Russia N.A. Bocharova, represented the Russian Federation on behalf of the Minister V.N. Falkov at the 71st session of the supreme governing body, the Committee of Plenipotentiaries, on June 17, 2020.

In this ambiguous situation, the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, instead of providing the national representatives with the clarification they expected for, organized an extraordinary session of the ICSTI Committee of Plenipotentiary Representatives on August 28, 2020 not through the Committee Chairman but on its own and bypassing the Directorate acting with plentiful violations of existing procedure, in

particular, articles IV, VI and VIII of the Agreement on establishment of ICSTI and of articles 10, 11, 16, 22 and 25 of the ICSTI Statute. The only reason of the meeting was voting on controversial new candidate for the post of the Director presented in violation of the ICSTI procedures.

The Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has repeatedly confirmed to ICSTI commitment to consistently fulfilling its obligations in accordance with the provisions of existing international treaties of the Russian Federation – the Agreement on the establishment of the International Centre for Scientific and Technical Information signed in Moscow on February 27, 1969 and the Convention on the legal status, privileges and immunities of interstate economic organizations operating in certain areas of cooperation signed in Budapest on December 5, 1980.

We regret to admit that the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs actually interfered in the internal affairs of an intergovernmental organization by sending notes to the Member States in order to put pressure on the Plenipotentiaries to vote for proposed candidate for the Director position. Thus, the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs backed the actions of officials of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education that violate the ICSTI policies and procedures. The failure of the supposed unanimous vote during the aforementioned session not only disgraces the Russian Ministry of Science and Higher Education, but also partly casts a shadow on your esteemed Ministry.

In this regard, ICSTI kindly requests to drive your attention to the possible abuse of authority by individual members of the MFA of Russia assisting the officials of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education in the form of pressure on Plenipotentiaries to initiate illegitimate vote, which caused significant image damage not only ICSTI but, primarily, Russia's role in the Organization. Would be grateful for informing ICSTI Headquarters about assessment by the Ministry of these facts.

ICSTI is pleased to take the opportunity to renew to the Ministry and to you personally the assurances of its highest consideration.

ICSTI Headquarters
Moscow, August 31, 2020