

THE SECOND STOLYPIN FORUM

Memorandum

Draft

*It would be desirable for the Government
to find the ground where collaboration is possible,
to find the language that is equally clear to everyone.*

*And I am perfectly aware that the language of
hatred and malice cannot become the one.*

Peter Stolypin

The current stage of world development is characterized by increasing turbulence, new global challenges and destructive contradictions. The balance of powers in the world economy and politics is changing radically, influencing the society, business and governments. The battles between global and domestic interests, the national state protectionism and global market principles, the imperative of free trade and artificial restrictions, including sanctions, are once again coming into the forefront. At the same time, the interests of business are often ignored, businessmen's basic rights are violated, their plans are undermined. This results not only in the turnover and profit reduction, but also in the job loss and income decline. The reasons for this situation can and should be discussed. It is necessary to develop common grounds, to work out mutual interests but, what is more important, to search for the ways of rapprochement and restoring the trust. As soon as these issues are considered, the contrivance of controversies and incompetence of many decisions becomes obvious.

Our Forum is not a political summit. However, realistic and responsible business can and has the right to advocate for its interests. Business community needs to formulate its own understanding of the present reality and participate in the resolving global challenges together with the state and civil society. We consider the possibility to declare that the participants of the Stolypin Forum have agreed on the following:

1. We consider populism, both left- and right-wing, to be the main threat to the present-day world politics. The left-wing populism stigmatizes the very spirit of

business, sacrificing the economic efficiency and principles of the competitive development in favor of egalitarian and destructive distribution of both material goods and rights. The right-wing populism encourages the illusion of possibility to improve the state of economy and well-being of citizens with the help of seemingly simple political decisions that root into the exceedingly narrow understanding of national interests. Today, we are urged to abandon the achievements of global progress, we are urged again to isolate ourselves in the national headquarters.

2. The situation when long-lasting and strong economic relations are sacrificed in favor of opportunistic political interests and short-term conjuncture is extremely dangerous. Spontaneous and incompetent decisions lead to reciprocal measures, provoke conflicts, and result into significant losses for both business and public society of all conflict parties.
3. The practice of conventional transferring national legislation to the global level is unfair, not justified by any reason and does not comply with the international law. The rules on the international arena should be approved by all parties of the world economy and politics.
4. It is necessary to build international relations on the basis of clear and systematic rules of the game. The duration and sustainability of such rules is the key to the economic growth and qualitative development. The international institutions provide the mechanisms for these rules' implementation. If the old institutions are outdated, they need to be improved, but not ignored.
5. It is crucial to strengthen the international system of protecting the legitimate rights and interests of entrepreneurs, small and medium businesses, while the system of special institutions under international organizations jurisdiction should be created.

This is our governments duty to find common grounds for cooperation that is necessary to stop the escalation of risks and stimulate mutual creation. And this is our duty, as the responsible entrepreneurs, to help our governments to see the proper way.