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**“It Is Time for Our Western Partners
to Concede
that They Have no Monopoly on Truth”**

*Sergey Lavrov,
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation*

DEAR FRIENDS,

I am pleased to welcome the participants in the First Forum of Young Diplomats from the CIS countries, Abkhazia and South Ossetia. I am confident that we will have an interesting discussion and I hope that you will enrich your knowledge at its close as a result of the exchange of views, plans and ideas. Such meetings will be scheduled on a regular basis and will be a useful venue for young professionals to discuss topical issues of international life and the regional agenda. This is important because you are our hope and our successors.

The world situation is not getting any easier, but rather becoming more complicated; there is an objective process at work in establishing a new polycentric system of international relations. This process is not without contradictions, it meets strong resistance from those who would not want to change anything in today's world and would like to see a return of the unipolar model of world order. All this is in the heart of global turbulence and the growth of competition in the most diverse sectors and in different forms.

In these difficult circumstances, the diplomacy of the Russian Federation is seeking to act in a well-balanced manner, firmly defending our legitimate national interests, avoiding any confrontation with anyone whatsoever.

We are advancing a unifying, positive agenda that presupposes dealing with any regional and global issues exclusively through collective action and work based on respect for international law, maximally leveraging the central coordinating role of the UN. In so doing, we follow the

Speech at the First Forum of Young Diplomats, Moscow, April 25, 2014