

**Transcript of Remarks by Sergey Lavrov, Russia's Minister of Foreign Affairs,  
at Meeting with Members of World Coordination Council of Russians Abroad,  
Moscow, March 30, 2009**

Esteemed colleagues, members of the Coordination Council of Russian Compatriots, dear friends,

I would like to cordially greet you. I am glad that our meetings with you have become a good tradition. I know that your work within the Coordination Council in Moscow today has proceeded fruitfully. We expect to find out what progress you have made and to tell you about how the Government Commission for the Affairs of Compatriots Abroad is working.

I will not enumerate all the accomplishments of the last few years in terms of providing information support for compatriots, supplying their elementary requirements associated with communication with the historical Homeland and fostering dialogue among organizations. We see that quite a lot has been done. We endeavor to help you develop Russian-language media in your host countries in every way and to help compatriots address matters relating to securing their lawful interests in their countries of residence.

Over recent years, the consolidation of compatriots has been substantially enhanced along with supporting their efforts to secure their social, economic and legal rights so they can feel themselves equal citizens of the states where they have decided to live. We endeavor to support these processes. Today we expect to hear your questions, what themes you would like to discuss in the future so the Government Commission, whose members are represented here, can render support to compatriots in a more purposeful way.

March 31, 2009