

*Speech by Russian Ambassador H.E. Mr. Igor N.Mozgo on the reception  
of the National holiday of the Russian Federation  
– Day of Russia, June 12, 2024*



Honorable Ministers, advisers of the President of the State of Eritrea, and members of the Eritrean Government.

Excellences, Ambassadors and Chargés d'Affaires, representatives of the UN Agencies, civil society organizations, media and compatriots.

**I am very glad** to welcome you all to this reception and to celebrate with us the main State holiday of my country - the Day of Russia.

I would like to start with a very bad news for the Europe and its patron Washington - **Russia is alive**. Not only alive, but also developing year by year. Despite of around 20 thousand sanctions imposed, weapons, mercenaries and instructors supply to Ukraine, blocking of our membership and work in the international organizations, Russia has become even stronger.

**The economy** of the Russian Federation became the fifth in the world and the first in Europe in 2023. These are not our estimates; these are data from the World Bank. Russia's GDP growth amounted to 3.6 percent in 2023. This is almost twice the world average growth.

President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin set a goal to reach the fourth place in the world economy by 2030. We consider this task feasible, since, for example, in the four month of 2024, GDP growth in Russia amounted to 5.4 percent. Again, WB recognized that Russia became the fourth country in the world by Purchasing Power Parity, overtaking Germany and Japan.

The question is - against whom the sanctions were imposed. The answer is - against those who imposed them, but first against Europe, because it is losing its authority, economy and sovereignty.



Dear guests,

Now Russia is a completely independent and powerful state, openly opposing the West hegemonic ideology and advocating a fair multipolar world order. The democratic, **in quotes**, Western world does not like such a policy, and leaders of some Western states, having failed to defeat Russia in Ukraine, are already openly talking about possible direct participation of NATO troops in the war against Russia. Ukrainian **“overdue”** president Zelensky, speaking at the celebration of the 80-th anniversary of the landing of the Western troops in Normandy in 1944, openly called

on his patrons to repeat Normandy operation, but in Ukraine, and send NATO troops to fight Russia.

**About isolation.** Just one example. Annual Saint Petersburg International economic forum ended some days ago. More than 21300 participants from 139 countries, including Western states, attended the event. It is clear that with such a turnout of foreign guests there is no need to talk about any isolation of Russia.



Ladies and Gentleman,

President of Eritrea Mr. Afwerki's said at the Eritrean Independence Day celebration: "In the eyes of the elite of "domination and monopoly", Africa has always been, and continues to be, regarded as their exclusive enclave". In contrast to the "elites" mentioned by the Eritrean President, Russia is building equal and mutually beneficial relations with Africa and does not consider the continent as a source of raw materials for its economy.

Russia's priority is to support the strengthening of the sovereignty of African countries and to ensure the national security of the continent's states.

Russia intensifies its policy course towards Africa. We develop our contacts with the African states. I would like to remind that President of the State of Eritrea

H.E. Mr. Isaias Afwerki visited Russia twice in 2023. The year of 2024 has already been marked by visits to Russia by many African leaders. On the other hand, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov visited four African states not long ago.

The main political event in the Russia-Africa agenda this year will be the Conference of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Russia and African states in November in Sochi. The parties will discuss the implementation of the agreements reached at the summit in St. Petersburg and the Plan of Action for the development of cooperation between Russia and Africa, adopted at the mentioned summit.

Distinguished Guests,

**Russia - Eritrea relations** have developed strongly in the past three years. I have already mentioned two visits of President Afwerki to Russia. There were other high-level visits to Russia and to Eritrea.

I would like to mention a friendly entry of the Russian warship - frigate “Marshal Shaposhnikov” to the port of Massawa on April, concerts of the Dance and Song Ensemble of the Russian Black Fleet in Asmara and Massawa. Eritrean national sport team went to Kazan to take part in the BRICS games. We also expect participation of the Eritrean delegations in some important international events in Russia, for instance in the Fourth Eurasian Women’s Forum in St. Petersburg, as well as visits of some Russian delegations to Eritrea.

We expanded our political ties and cooperation in international organizations, primarily in the United Nations. Russia and Eritrea support each other in the United Nations General Assembly, UN Human Rights Council, and other UN structures. We are very grateful to the Eritrean side for its constant and consistent support of Russia in the international arena, voting against anti-Russian resolutions and documents, and we are look forward to further constructive cooperation.

Dear Guests,

On June 12, we celebrate the Day of Russia. On this day, we glorify history and culture, and people of our country, who made invaluable contribution to the formation of our state, we also remember those who gave their lives for the honor and independence of Russia. Especially those 27 million lives of the Soviet people that were lost during the Great Patriotic War in the fight against Nazi Germany.

June 12 in the history of Russia is a date that marks the beginning of radical changes. They were in demand by the time, but, like any radical reforms, they became very difficult and sometimes dramatic for the state and the people. Russian President Vladimir Putin said in his congratulatory address to Russians: “Our common goal is a powerful, confident, strong Russia, open to partnership and cooperation, a country in which it is comfortable and safe to live, where people can achieve success with their honest work and talent”.

Concluding my speech, I would like to say, that the Day of Russia is a symbol of independence and sovereignty, national unity and freedom. It unites all those who are proud of the heroic past of our Motherland, who look to its future with confidence, who are passionately and responsibly building its present.

Now I would like to propose a toast for the prosperity of Russia and Eritrea, peoples of our countries, and all the freedom-loving and sovereign nations of the world.

Happy holiday - Happy Russia Day!