

international efforts to bring them to justice. In this regard, the Russian Federation welcomed the decisions of the United States to separately designate Doku Umarov and his group Caucasus Emirates as Specially Designated Global Terrorists under Executive Order 13224, and to support Umarov's inclusion in the UN's Consolidated List pursuant to UN Security Council Resolution 1267. The United States is also announcing today that it has included Doku Umarov in its "Rewards for Justice" program, offering a reward of up to \$5 million for information that leads to the location of this key terrorist leader, who has claimed responsibility, among other things, for organizing the

Moscow subway bombing and the attack on rail traffic between St. Petersburg and Moscow in 2010, and the Domodedovo airport bombing this year.

We are pleased with the cooperation we have established to date in this area, but remain cognizant of the need to deepen further means to promote international security, counter violent extremism, repel terrorist threats, protect the lives and rights of citizens, and bring terrorists to justice.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

## Joint Statement by President Barack Obama and President Dmitry A. Medvedev of Russia on Cooperation in the Bering Strait Region *May 26, 2011*

The President of the United States of America and the President of the Russian Federation:

- Calling for protection of the shared natural and longstanding cultural heritage of Alaska and Chukotka;
- Recognizing the worldwide cultural and natural significance of the Bering Strait region, both as an ancient crossroads and as an area of present-day cooperation between our two countries;
- Noting that the Bering Strait region is important to the economies of both countries;
- Recognizing the many successes of the "Shared Beringian Heritage Program" in better understanding our shared history and sustaining the cultural vitality of the native peoples in the Central Bering Strait Region today;
- Confirming the mutual interest of both countries in deepening cooperation and strengthening ties, particularly in the region of our common boundary in the Bering Strait;
- Noting the important need to protect the rights of native peoples residing in Alaska and Chukotka, and to ensure that resi-

dents and native peoples engaged in cultural and traditional activities aimed at providing for their personal needs have continued access to natural resources in accordance with each nation's laws;

- Conscious of the importance of cooperation to protect nature and natural resources in the Bering Strait region and to apply effective strategies aimed at sustainable development of the Arctic regions of our countries;
- Understanding the significance of unique Arctic ecosystems of Alaska and Chukotka in the Bering Strait region; and
- Conscious of the effects of climate change and other pressures on the common natural and cultural heritage of the Bering Strait region;

Declare an intention to deepen cooperation between the United States of America and the Russian Federation in the cross-boundary Bering Strait region, including the expansion of interaction between the national agencies that are responsible for the specially protected natural territories/areas of both countries in the State of Alaska and the Chukotka Autonomous District, including their commitment to developing a dia-

logue with native peoples to help determine the specific goals and methods for such cooperation.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

**Joint Statement by President Barack Obama and President Dmitry A. Medvedev of Russia Regarding Cooperation on Visa Issues**  
*May 26, 2011*

Last June, when we met in Washington, we expressed our determination to establish stronger bilateral ties on the basis of mutually beneficial cooperation. We are seeking to expand our economic and trade relations, and also to strengthen contacts between our citizens. As has been highlighted in many of the meetings of the Working Groups of the Presidential Commission, the current state of visa procedures between our countries does not correspond to the present level of collaboration nor to the development of bilateral relations that we hope is to come.

We continue to seek ways to facilitate travel between our countries, consistent with the laws and regulations of both countries. Over the past year, our officials have clarified the requirements for travel for purposes of tourism, work, and study, and we intend to streamline this process in order to make travel easier. As a first major step, we have instructed our officials to concentrate on visa liberalization on a reciprocal basis for the largest segments of our traveling nationals—business travelers and tourists, traveling both as individuals and in groups, and official representatives. Taking in-

to account the significant progress achieved by our negotiators, we are working on a new agreement to issue, as a general rule without unduly formalized invitations and justifications, multiple-entry visas for eligible business travelers and tourists of 36 month validity at a unified and reciprocal fee, as well as the issuance of 12-month, multiple-entry visas for official representatives of our countries. We aim to settle these issues and sign the agreement in the very near future, consistent with domestic procedures in both countries.

As relations between our countries grow stronger, and the ties become more intense, we will seek even greater simplification and liberalization of our countries' visa systems on a reciprocal basis, aimed at providing entry of U.S. citizens into Russia and of Russian citizens into the U.S. unencumbered by unnecessary formalities, in accordance with domestic legislation of each country. We are instructing our government agencies to work in this direction.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

**Joint Statement by President Barack Obama, President Dmitry A. Medvedev of Russia, and President Nicolas Sarkozy of France on the Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict**  
*May 26, 2011*

We, the Presidents of the OSCE Minsk Group's Co-Chair countries—France, the Russian Federation, and the United States of America—are convinced the time has arrived for all the sides to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict to take a decisive step towards a peaceful settlement.

We reiterate that only a negotiated settlement can lead to peace, stability, and reconciliation, opening opportunities for regional development and cooperation. The use of force created the current situation of confrontation and instability. Its use again would only bring more suffering and devastation, and