

THE ST. PETERSBURG INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC FORUM – 2009

4–6 JUNE 2009, ST. PETERSBURG

OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY

Welcoming addresses:

Elvira Nabiullina, Minister for Economic Development of the Russian Federation, Chair of the Forum Organizing Committee

In the opening ceremony, Elvira Nabiullina, Minister for economic development, stressed that the St. Petersburg forum is already an established tradition, but, at the same time, it is still relatively young, allowing it to foster new ideas. She commented that the financial crisis has presented a dual challenge to the authorities: how to balance day-to-day problems and take advantage of opportunities to modernise. Nabiullina then welcomed the guests of the forum and expressed her hope that the coming days will be productive in terms of trying to determine ways to cope with the crisis, brokering deals and building relationships.