

To the Winner of Nobel Peace Prize, Founder of the Grameen Bank,
Honorary Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the National Partnership of
Microfinance Market Stakeholders in Russia (NAMMS), Professor Muhammad
Yunus

Dear Professor Yunus!

Please accept my heartfelt congratulations on your wonderful 70th anniversary. Your entire life can be described as a model of selfless service and a quest for solutions to the problems of poverty and social injustice. The microfinance system that you have created is used today in many countries across continents to save people from hunger and poverty, help them live in dignity and stability and support small business. The 2006 Nobel Peace Prize award was recognition of your service to humanity.

The opportunity to meet with you here in Russia has been a memorable experience for my colleagues and me. The ideas you shared with us during our discussion have contributed to the advancement of microcredit theory and practice in our country. I am particularly pleased to inform you that recently the Russian Parliament passed the Law on Microfinance which opens the way for the development of private entrepreneurship in Russian provinces, helping people move from the poor to the middle class.

On this special day I wish you good health and many years of active life ahead, great family happiness, and plenty of new ideas for the benefit of humankind. I look forward to many more meetings with you here in Russia to discuss new prospects for economic and social development.

Elvira S. Nabiullina, Minister for Economic Development of the Russian
Federation