

September 10, 2002

ZAO Citibank Partners with Russian Women's Microfinance Network in Microfinance Project in Moscow Region

On September 10, 2002 ZAO Citibank, a member of Citigroup, announced a grant of US\$100,000 to the Vidnoe Fund, an affiliate of the Russian Women's Microfinance Network (RWMN), in support of female micro-entrepreneurs living in the Moscow region.

Through Citigroup Foundation, ZAO Citibank has capitalized Vidnoe Fund's credit portfolio, thereby increasing the number of women impacted by 100% over a two-year period. While the grant symbolizes Citigroup's growing involvement in this sector throughout the world, ZAO Citibank will also help both Vidnoe Fund and RWMN in their plans to provide technical assistance in the areas of risk management, treasury, marketing, corporate governance and public relations.

RWMN has positively impacted the lives of 2000 women around Russia through its financing and training services. Setting the benchmark for quality, its aim is to build a vibrant microfinance industry in the context of Russia's growth in small-medium size enterprise (SME) sector. In line with the Russian Government's Small Business Support Program, RWMN's customers are start-up or experienced small business owners such as sewing companies, bakeries, furniture stores, laundries, and beauty salons. Among other offerings, RWMN extends credit and provides business development support.

Allan Hirst, ZAO Citibank's Country Corporate Officer, said, "Russia is a highly entrepreneurial country with innovative business leaders. ZAO Citibank is actively involved in strengthening Russian businesses and the overall business environment through corporate governance efforts and transactions. Citigroup is committed to a range of enterprise development projects throughout the world and views them as critical to poverty alleviation efforts."

Ludmila Skliarenko, RWMN's Executive Director, said, "While we have operated in Kaluga, Vidnoye, Tver, Kostroma, Bryansk and Tula, ZAO Citibank's support helps us expand our reach to the Moscow region, enabling us to serve a larger target market."