Ambassador Vitaly Churkin
Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations

Ambassador Churkin has served in the Diplomatic Service and the Foreign Ministry of the USSR and the Russian Federation since 1974.

He graduated from the Moscow Institute of Foreign Affairs and then began his career as a staff member of the USSR delegation to the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks from 1974 until 1979 when he became the Third Secretary on the US desk in the USSR Foreign Ministry. Continuing his work relating to the US, he moved to the USSR Embassy in Washington in 1982, as second then first secretary.

Prior to his appointment to Washington, he completed his PhD in History.

From 1989 until 1994, Ambassador Churkin held a number of senior positions in the Foreign Ministry. They included Special Adviser to the USSR Minister of Foreign Affairs, Director of the Information Department and then Deputy Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation. In this position he was the Special Representative of the President of the Russian Federation to the talks on the former Yugoslavia.

He went on to become Ambassador to Belgium (including NATO and WEU) and then Canada.

In 2006, he was appointed Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations and represents the Russian Federation on the UN Security Council.