

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
(ALSO ON BEHALF OF THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES OF
ARMENIA, BELARUS, KAZAKHSTAN, KYRGYZSTAN, TAJIKISTAN,
TURKMENISTAN AND UZBEKISTAN), AT THE 1099th MEETING OF
THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

5 May 2016

**On the occasion of the 71st anniversary of the
Victory in the Great Patriotic War of 1941 to 1945**

On 9 May, we will mark one of the most memorable dates in world history – the 71st anniversary of the Victory in the Great Patriotic War of 1941 to 1945. We take pride in the fact that the decisive contribution to the defeat of Nazism was made by the peoples of our States, fighting shoulder to shoulder. Victory was achieved at the cost of tens of millions of lives. We pay tribute to the people of all nationalities and countries who died in the struggle against fascism, on the front lines, in partisan units, in bombings; who were tortured in the death camps; who fell victim to the Nazi occupation, and to privation. We hold in high esteem the contribution made to the Victory by those who toiled on the home front.

Bearing in mind that the attempt to implement the theory of racial superiority in practice was one of the driving forces of the Second World War, we note with deep concern the revival of Nazi ideology and the worrying growth of phenomena linked to it – discrimination, intolerance based on nationality or religion, and ultranationalism.

In this context, we welcome the resolution adopted on 17 December 2015 at the 70th session of the United Nations General Assembly, entitled “Combating glorification of Nazism, neo-Nazism and other practices that contribute to fuelling contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance”.

On the eve of the anniversary of the Great Victory, we resolutely reject the purposeful attempts that have been made to rewrite history, to revise the outcome of the Second World War and to falsify the real reasons for its onset. Equally, we view as unacceptable the attempt to elevate to the status of national heroes those who, during the Second World War, acted on the side of the Nazis. We emphatically urge that the burial sites of, and military monuments to, those who liberated Europe from the Nazis be treated with care.

Today, once again, against the backdrop of growing security challenges and cross-border threats, united efforts on the part of States in the OSCE area are greatly needed.

We are convinced that a peaceful resolution of conflicts is the only way to save present and future generations from the scourge of new wars.

We are interested in ensuring that the overall framework of international relations is just, that it reflects the diverse cultures and civilizations of today's world, and that it is based on constructive international co-operation. Our countries are open to collaboration in accordance with the principles of equality and mutual respect, supported by international law and by the principles of relations between States enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the CSCE Helsinki Final Act.