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**STATEMENT BY MR. ANDREY KELIN,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,  
AT THE 990th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

20 March 2014

**Regarding the International Day for the Elimination of  
Racial Discrimination**

Mr. Chairperson,

Tomorrow, the international community will commemorate a very important date. It is nearly fifty years since the United Nations, in 1966, proclaimed 21 March as the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

Fighting manifestations of racism is one of the most important tasks of the OSCE and its executive structures. Alongside clear advances made in the past years, there remain many unsolved problems. Moreover, a significant increase may be observed in racist and radical right-wing views, sentiments and ideas, especially among young people. Unfortunately, radically disposed groups are emerging in Russia as well. We are making serious efforts to combat these negative phenomena and to educate young people not to tolerate manifestations of racism and neo-Nazism. Such challenges are a feature in other OSCE countries too, irrespective of their political system, economic situation, history, traditions and other factors.

Particularly alarming are attempts to justify racist and other radical propaganda using arguments regarding freedom of opinion, association, etc. Perhaps, after 70 years of peace, the lessons of the “Kristallnacht”, the Holocaust and the mass murder of entire peoples in the name of ideas of racial superiority are being forgotten.

We call on the OSCE participating States to pay close attention to combating these negative phenomena and tendencies and to find a way to give meaningful consideration to how the obligations of the OSCE in this area can be met.