

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
MR. ANDREY KELIN, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1050th MEETING OF
THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

7 May 2015

On the 70th anniversary of the Victory

Mr. Chairperson,

I should like to add a few words in my national capacity to the joint statement we just heard.

For Russia, 9 May – the Day of Victory in the Great Patriotic War of 1941 to 1945 – is a special, sacred holiday. It is a day of pride for our people, a day of supreme reverence for the victors' generation. We greatly value the contribution of all those who fought Nazism. It is our common Victory.

The 70th anniversary of the Victory is an opportunity to pay tribute to the victors' achievement and to bow our heads in memory of the tens of millions of soldiers and officers of the anti-Hitler coalition, partisans and Resistance fighters, and civilians – women, children, old people – who died at the hands of the invaders or were tortured to death in the concentration camps. They were representatives of different faiths and nationalities, political convictions and views. Together with us, the heads and representatives of many States, governments and international organizations, as well as veterans from various countries, who have been invited to the commemorative events to be held in our country from 8 to 10 May, will pay tribute to their memory.

The USSR played a decisive role in liberating Europe and the world from the Nazi insanity, at the price of huge numbers of victims and terrible experiences, thanks to the courage, heroism and self-sacrifice of Soviet soldiers and all the peoples of the former Soviet Union. No one is entitled to either belittle the price they paid or downplay the extent of the Nazis' crimes, much less glorify them. Our common task is to resolutely counter any attempts to whitewash the crimes of the Nazis and their accomplices. Together we must combat the growth and spread of hateful opinions and dangerous theories of super-nations, super-races and super-powers.

The outcome of the Second World War was a new system of international relations, embodied in the Charter of the United Nations, which set the course for the further

development of international law. On this basis, 30 years after the war's end, there arose the Helsinki process, which gave rise to the OSCE principles and commitments.

I should like to point out that the participants in this process, recognizing the indivisibility of security in Europe, understood the need to carefully preserve their common history. They recognized that common elements in their traditions and values would help them develop relations that could lead to united efforts to overcome mistrust, solve the problems dividing them, and co-operate in the interests of humanity. All of this is especially relevant now, when we are facing serious challenges to European security. Only through joint efforts, based on those principles that were formulated in the aftermath of the Second World War, can we grapple with these challenges.

In conclusion, I should like to invite all of you to visit the photography exhibition on the 70th anniversary of the Victory in the Second World War, in the Segmentgalerie foyer.

Thank you for your attention.