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**STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT DELEGATION OF THE
REPUBLIC OF BELARUS TO THE OSCE AT THE 945th MEETING OF
THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

21 March 2013

On the inadmissibility of the glorification of Nazism

Madam Chairperson,

Tomorrow, on 22 March, exactly 70 years will have elapsed since one of the most tragic dates in the history of modern Belarus – the total destruction by the fascists in 1943 of the Belarusian village of Khatyn, as a result of which 149 of its inhabitants, including 75 children, were burned alive. The destruction by “punitive detachments” of the SS of the village of Khatyn and more than 600 other Belarusian villages that shared its fate stands as one of the most terrible, unhealing wounds inflicted on our people and as a graphic illustration of the barbarity suffered by the Belarusian people during the Second World War.

We paid too high a price for the victory over Nazism. One out of every four citizens of Belarus perished during that war.

And naturally, we cannot but be outraged and alarmed at the manifestations today in the OSCE region of neo-Nazism, its glorification along with instances when those who aided and abetted fascism are honoured with the open support of political figures.

We regard as inadmissible the attempts to distort the outcome of the Second World War and also the abuse of freedom of assembly and freedom of expression for the purpose of glorifying Nazism, propagandizing and cultivating racist ideas and inflaming xenophobia, intolerance and neo-fascism.

We call on all participating States to take concrete measures to counter the aforementioned phenomena, guided by their OSCE commitments and the provisions of the United Nations General Assembly resolution adopted in December 2012 on the glorification of Nazism, and also to act in strict conformity with the principles enshrined in the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.