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Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1083rd MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

17 December 2015

**Regarding the International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the
Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of This Crime**

Mr. Chairperson,

A week ago, the international community commemorated the International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of This Crime for the first time.

Russia was a co-sponsor of the United Nations General Assembly resolution establishing that day. Our country's position has been and remains consistent: we believe that murder, especially mass murder, is not and cannot be justified in any way.

Russia is a party to and author of numerous international legal instruments that form the basis of modern international criminal law. This primarily arose from the rulings of the Nuremberg Tribunal, whose 70th anniversary was commemorated this year. It is important not to consign to oblivion the lessons of the Second World War, when attempts were made to wipe out entire peoples.

The international community is duty bound to do its utmost to ensure that the tragic events of the past are never repeated, so that all nations can live in peace and harmony, free of the horrors that arise when hostility is kindled.

These days, however, neo-Nazism is rearing its ugly head again in many regions, anti-Semitism is gaining strength and we are even witnessing the appearance of Russophobia. Racial or national supremacy ideologies are being revived. In many OSCE countries, those to the west of Vienna among them, resistance to radical viewpoints is weakening, often under the guise of respect for freedom of expression.

Mr. Chairperson,

Christians today have become one of the most vulnerable segments of the population, and not only in the Middle East and North Africa, where outside agents have turned their

hand to inciting dissent and to the spread of the so-called “Islamic State”. As a result, Christians as a group have been brought to the brink of survival in regions where extremists reign supreme.

Therefore the protection of Christians must become an important aspect of the OSCE’s work, along with preventing intolerance towards Muslims and anti-Semitism. It is most regrettable that due to the confrontational attitude of certain delegations at the OSCE Ministerial Council meeting in Belgrade, we could not adopt specific declarations on combating intolerance towards Christians and Muslims. We hope that we will be able to do this next year so that we can finally carry out the task assigned to the OSCE at the Basel Ministerial Council meeting in 2014.

Thank you for your attention.