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

16 February 2012

**Regarding the statement on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT)
rights in Russia**

Mr. Chairperson,

We thank our colleagues for their attention to events in our country. As recently as December last year we gave exhaustive explanations for the various legislative initiatives at the municipal level calling for administrative liability for propaganda relating to paedophilia and homosexuality among minors.

The Russian Constitution and existing legislation do not permit discrimination on any basis in the exercise of civil, political, social, economic or cultural human rights. The draft legislation mentioned by our colleagues does not concern discrimination against sexual minorities but restricting propaganda and the aggressive imposition by one group of its way of life and standards of conduct on the rest of the society, particularly children.

May I remind you that law-making in Russia is the prerogative of the legislative authorities who, as in the United States of America, are separate from the executive branch. In this regard we consider it out-of-place for our partners to endeavour to give their opinion in public and effectively to meddle in the law-making process in Russia.

We should also like to point out that the concepts of “sexual orientation” and “gender identity” are not mentioned in universal international treaties or among the commitments of the OSCE itself. There is therefore no basis for requesting that Russia meet any commitments whatsoever in this area. We are in full agreement with the representative of the Vatican that these subjects are not within the OSCE’s competence.

Thank you for your attention.