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**STATEMENT BY  
MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE  
RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1421st MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

4 May 2023

**On the anniversary of the victory in the Second World War**

Mr. Chairperson,

I have the honour to read a joint statement by the Permanent Representatives of the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Serbia, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, the Republic of Uzbekistan and my country, the Russian Federation, to the OSCE on the occasion of the anniversary of the victory in the Second World War.

This year marks the 78th anniversary of the victory in the Second World War.

It is our common duty to preserve the historical memory of the most tragic page in the history of the twentieth century, and of the terrible events of those years. The heroic deeds of the millions of people who gave their lives in the fight against the ideology of racial superiority and misanthropy symbolize the victory of good over evil and cannot be consigned to oblivion. We strongly condemn the destruction and desecration of monuments to the soldiers of the liberating armies, of memorials to heroes and military leaders and of grave sites of soldiers and officers, regardless of their location and national or ethnic origin. We mourn the victims of National Socialism.

Attempts to revise or distort the outcome of the Second World War, to rehabilitate and glorify the Nazis and their accomplices or to deny the war crimes and crimes against humanity that they committed are unacceptable. In accordance with the judgments of the Nuremberg Tribunal, which consolidated by legal means the victory over Nazism, the crimes committed by the Nazis have no statute of limitations.

We welcome the United Nations General Assembly resolution adopted on 15 December 2022 on combating glorification of Nazism, neo-Nazism and other practices that contribute to fuelling contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. We view the broad support for this important thematic document as a reaffirmation of the international community's determination to prevent the tragic mistakes of the past from being repeated and to build a future on unifying principles.

We call upon all countries to honour the memory of those who fought against fascism and Nazism during the Second World War and to respect the heroic deeds of peoples. Nazism was defeated and it must not raise its head again.

I thank you for your attention and request that the text of this statement be attached to the journal of today's meeting of the Permanent Council.