

PC.DEL/837/17
23 June 2017

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. DMITRY BALAKIN,
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1150th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

22 June 2017

**On the anniversary of the start of the
war by Nazi Germany against the Soviet Union**

Mr. Chairperson,

On 22 June 1941, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics was perfidiously attacked by Hitler's Germany. The Great Patriotic War was one of the most tragic and bloodiest chapters in the history of Europe. The peoples of the USSR suffered colossal losses. Some 27 million people belonging to the nations of the Soviet Union were sacrificed for the victory of all. Just think about this figure! Today on Krymskaya Embankment in Moscow, 1,418 candles have been placed in a line of remembrance for the number of days that the Great Patriotic War lasted.

At that time, the members of the anti-Hitler coalition were able to rise above their ambitions and the differences that divided them to confront the common enemy together and defeat its criminal ideology. The example of those heroic days is still relevant today in the face of new threats. Propaganda in favour of Nazi ideas is openly proclaimed and there are calls for ethnic violence. Neo-Nazi movements and groups and extreme right-wing parties are active in a number of countries in the OSCE area, using Nazi symbols and slogans. Attempts are being made to equate the victims and their executioners and to make heroes out of the Nazis and their henchmen. It is particularly shocking that these manifestations are also taking place in those countries which themselves suffered the terrible hardships of war.

In post-war history, hate speech has already led more than once to massive violence and brutal killings, whose enormity recalls the crimes of the Nazis. All this offends the memory of millions of victims, threatens the fundamental principles of democracy and human rights and causes tension in the OSCE area and the whole world.

We resolutely condemn any efforts to glorify Nazism, the spread of neo-Nazi sentiments and deliberate efforts to rewrite history and to distort and revise the outcome of the Second World War. To safeguard the history and memory of those terrible events, the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation has placed a large collection of documentary evidence of Nazi crimes on its website (<http://22june/mil.ru>).

The lessons of those tragic years vividly demonstrate that there is no alternative to collective diplomatic work to seek peaceful responses to the many challenges. We firmly believe that genuine security must be equal and indivisible, based on the principles of international law and constructive co-operation. We must confirm our joint resolve to do our utmost to safeguard peace, prevent armed conflicts, settle disputes peacefully and counter challenges and threats to international security and stability.

We believe that full recognition of the consequences of victory in the Second World War, as set forth in the Charter of the United Nations and other international documents, is imperative for all States without exception.

Thank you for your attention.