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Delegation of the Russian Federation

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

17 February 2011

**In response to the statement by Ms. Farah Pandith and  
Ms. Hannah Rosenthal**

Mr. Chairperson,

We welcome to this meeting of the Permanent Council the United States Special Representative to Muslim Communities, Ms. Farah Pandith, and the United States Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism, Ms. Hannah Rosenthal.

The Russian Federation has called consistently for respect for human rights and the fundamental freedoms of all persons, without any difference being made on the basis of race, skin colour, gender, language, religion, political or other convictions, and national or social background. We support the efforts of the OSCE to combat racism, xenophobia, discrimination and related intolerance. We believe that a comprehensive approach and co-ordinated efforts by all participating States are needed to counter these negative phenomena.

We share the concern of the Permanent Council's guests at the rise in nationalistic movements in today's world and at the acts of violence against persons with a different colour of skin or a different religion, migrants and members of national or ethnic minorities. In this connection, we should like to point out that at the present time we are encountering not only such manifestations of neo-Nazism as the drawing of swastikas on gravestones and the walls of buildings where religious worship is conducted; we are also witnessing the holding of regular marches by SS legionnaires in a number of European countries and rallies of veterans from the *Waffen SS* division, recognized as a criminal organization by the Nuremberg Tribunal. It is clear that demonstrations of this kind, as also the increasingly frequent whitewashing of Nazism and fascism, provide a favourable breeding ground for a rise in movements advocating racial purity and discrimination on the basis of a person's religion, nationality or ethnicity.

We believe that the time has come to discuss seriously within the OSCE the inadmissibility – under the pretext of freedom of expression, assembly and association – of condoning the various kinds of neo-Nazi and neo-fascist manifestations, which are leading to

a rise in anti-Semitism, Islamophobia and other phobias unacceptable in civilized societies with developed democracies.

All in all, the OSCE and its institutions must not ignore such obvious negative tendencies as this will clearly not increase the authority of our Organization.

Thank you for your attention.