



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Ministerial Council
Basel 2014**

MC.DOC/7/14/Corr.1¹
5 December 2014

Original: ENGLISH

Second day of the Twenty-First Meeting
MC(21) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 7

MINISTERIAL COMMEMORATIVE DECLARATION ON THE SEVENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR

The year 2015 marks the seventieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War, which caused unprecedented suffering and destruction. That war proved to be one of the greatest tragedies ever to have afflicted the peoples of Europe and the world and took tens of millions of lives. The war brought about violations of human rights and freedoms, as well as crimes against peace, war crimes, and crimes against humanity.

We mourn all those who lost their lives as victims of the war, the Holocaust, occupations, or acts of repression. We pay our earnest tribute to the historic role of the allied forces and their sacrifices in the defeat of Nazism during the Second World War. We honour veterans and all those who fought for the victory of humanity. Time will not diminish the meaning of their sacrifice and we will never forget their heroic deeds.

1 Includes a correction to the format of attachment 3.

MC.DOC/7/14/Corr.1
5 December 2014
Attachment 1

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegations of Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation and Tajikistan:

“We welcome the adoption of the Ministerial Commemorative Declaration on the Seventieth Anniversary of the End of the Second World War – a major event next year.

Our detailed position regarding this anniversary is reflected in the joint statement on behalf of the Member States of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) that is being circulated in the OSCE by the Russian delegation as the country chairing the CSTO.

We request that this statement be appended to the decision adopted, and included in the journal of the day.”

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of Ukraine:

“Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Ukraine makes the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the Rules of procedure of the OSCE.

Ukraine has joined consensus on this Declaration to commemorate dozens of millions of those who lost lives and suffered from the atrocities of the Second World War – the greatest tragedy ever in human history. We pay tribute to those who fought and sacrificed for the victory of humanity, for peace and in defence of their own soil.

Ukraine was interested in a more substantive document and regrets that consensus has not been reached although we presently witness again military aggression, occupation and annexation, acts of repression on the occupied territories. All of them happen in the XXI century, are perpetrated by the Russian Federation and deserve unequivocal condemnation.

The actions by the Russian Federation have challenged the security achievements, that the participating States have been proud for decades after the Second World War. For the first time since the end of the Second World War a part of territory of one participating State has been illegally occupied and annexed by a neighbouring participating State, which thus grossly breached international law and OSCE principles and commitments. For the first time since the end of the Second World War Ukrainians, defending their native soil, are killed by military forces of another country. Thousands of killed and wounded, hundreds of thousands of displaced persons, destruction, sufferings and grave human rights violations in the occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol are the tragic outcomes of the Russian aggression against Ukraine.

We must not allow the rule of law to be substituted by the rule of force. We must safeguard the core OSCE principles of sovereignty, independence, political unity and territorial integrity of participating States.

To prevent the recurrence of tragedies we must stay united and redouble efforts in countering aggression of one OSCE participating State against another. In particular, we must

firmly counter any attempts to change by force the internationally recognized borders of sovereign states – the lesson, which is drawn from the history of the Second World War.

The Delegation of Ukraine requests that this interpretative statement be attached to the Declaration just adopted, and included in the journal of the Ministerial Council.”

Original: ENGLISH

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PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE
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The delegation of Italy, in its capacity as EU Presidency, passed the floor to the representative of the European Union, who delivered the following statement:

“Mr. Chairperson,

The EU wishes to make the following interpretative statement.

We pay our earnest tribute to the historic role of the allied forces and their sacrifices in the defeat of Nazism during the Second World War. However, likewise, we should remember that the Second World War brought about painful divisions in Europe. For many European countries, the end of the Second World War did not bring freedom, but more crimes against humanity committed against their people.

An honest and thorough research on the history of the Second World War contributes to reconciliation. Given our responsibility, towards all victims, past and present, we should avoid using, for extraneous purposes, divisive and selected approaches. In this regard, we condemn one-sided interpretations of history and attempts to justify the Ribbentrop-Molotov pact.

Whilst commemorating the victims of the Second World War, we deplore the fact that peace is still not a reality on the whole of the European continent. The violations of core OSCE principles in the context of the crisis in and around Ukraine have seriously harmed our common vision.

In 2014, Russia has violated international law and the fundamental principles of the UN and the OSCE by illegally annexing a part of a sovereign State, under among other pretexts that of fighting neo-Nazism. We are determined to solve this crisis by diplomatic means and on the basis of international law and to press for a solution that fully respects Ukraine’s independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders.

I request that this interpretative statement be duly registered and appended to this declaration and the journal of the day.”

1 Includes a correction to the format.