

PC.DEL/678/13

12 July 2013

ENGLISH

Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ANDREY KELIN,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 960th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

11 July 2013

Regarding the 18th anniversary of the events in Srebrenica

Mr. Chairperson,

As we commemorate the anniversary of the events in Srebrenica, we pay tribute to the memory of all those who died during the 1992-1995 conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina. All the peoples of that unfortunate country – Bosniacs, Croats and Serbs – were equally affected by the tragedy.

The position of the Russian Federation as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council and a guarantor of the Dayton Peace Agreement on Bosnia and Herzegovina remains unchanged. Pursuant to the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions, all persons responsible for war crimes on the territory of the former Yugoslavia must stand trial, regardless of their ethnicity and citizenship. We wish to emphasize once again that the blame for the crimes that were perpetrated is individual and cannot be attributed to a State or an ethnic group.

Unfortunately we are forced to note that the ongoing difficult socio-economic situation remains one of the main obstacles to the return of refugees and sustainable national reconciliation in Srebrenica.

The events of 18 years ago highlight the relevance of the tasks facing the international community – contributing to the reconciliation process in Bosnia and Herzegovina and strengthening trust and tolerance between its peoples. The OSCE is called upon to play a significant role in this.

Thank you for your attention.