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**STATEMENT BY
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THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1390th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

22 September 2022

On the rise of neo-Nazism in some OSCE participating States

Mr. Chairperson,

Several commitments on combating neo-Nazism have been adopted within our Organization. In particular, in Decision No. 13/06 at the OSCE Ministerial Council meeting in Brussels, the participating States expressed their alarm at the “rise of political parties, movements and groups advocating violence” and at “violent manifestations of extremism associated with racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism, aggressive nationalism and neo-Nazism”.

That provision was elaborated on a year later at the Ministerial Council meeting in Madrid, namely in Decision No. 10/07, which unequivocally calls for “continued efforts by political representatives, including parliamentarians, strongly to reject and condemn manifestations of racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism, discrimination and intolerance, including against Christians, Jews, Muslims and members of other religions, as well as violent manifestations of extremism associated with aggressive nationalism and neo-Nazism, while continuing to respect freedom of expression”. An important distinction needs to be made: this refers to respecting freedom of speech, and not to justifying such manifestations by invoking the allegedly absolute nature of that right.

Unfortunately, the situation in the OSCE area confirms that the authorities in a number of participating States are violating these provisions by openly pandering to the glorification of Nazism and to neo-Nazi manifestations. We shall cite a few cases involving particular countries here – you can read up on the rest in the latest thematic report by the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to which we have drawn attention at previous meetings of the Permanent Council.

The most troubling situation is that which has developed in Ukraine. There one comes face to face with a whole range of manifestations of the policy, adopted at the State level, of glorifying Nazism and Nazi collaborators from the time of the Second World War. Neo-Nazi ideology there has penetrated deep into certain segments of Ukrainian society and has become firmly embedded in the ranks of the armed forces and nationalist formations. Radical right-wing organizations such as C14, Right Sector, Tradition and Order, National Corps and National Militias have not disguised their close co-ordination with the law enforcement

agencies and intelligence services. Moreover, the use of essentially Nazi practices by paramilitary nationalists with regard to the civilian population has been repeatedly observed in Donbas.

The Western media are whitewashing the Ukrainian neo-Nazis in every possible way, portraying them as fighters “for freedom and independence”. We have already spoken about this today and have no intention of repeating ourselves.

The Kyiv regime is receiving significant assistance from US information technology companies too. The YouTube management and moderators do not object to extremists spreading information on their platform. On the sites of the company Meta, which owns the social networking services Facebook and Twitter, overt calls to “kill Russians” are published, together with manuals on methods for killing and on how to make explosives, as well as other content with a similar thrust. What is more, material that does not fit into the Ukraine-related paradigm of the countries of the Western alliance is simply blocked.

Mr. Chairperson,

We have repeatedly drawn attention to a veritable “war” against monuments in Poland, the country chairing our Organization. There, too, merchandise displaying Nazi symbols crops up every now and then, and sometimes even “monographs” by Nazis. For example, in January 2021, a re-edition of Adolf Hitler’s book *Mein Kampf* was published under the guise of an academic project. Public events with a nationalist or neo-Nazi “flavour” are held. We believe that tendencies of this kind are especially dangerous in the case of a country with such a painful historical past.

Nor do the three Baltic countries – Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania – lag behind in this respect. There the glorification of Nazism and justification of Nazi collaborators have reached an unprecedented scale and taken unprecedented forms. Exaltation of Nazi henchmen, regular “get-togethers”, marches and “gatherings” of their admirers – these are just some of the manifestations. An aggressive “war” is simultaneously being waged against monuments to liberator soldiers, while the rights of national minorities and ethnic groups, including the Russian and Russian-speaking population, are being grossly violated. Incidentally, torchlit processions of far-right individuals are taking place every year in Bulgaria as well.

According to the Federal Criminal Police Office of Germany, about 22,000 right-wing extremist crimes were recorded in that country in 2021. The official data indicates that more than 10,000 hate crimes were also recorded, most of which were committed by right-wing radicals. They include crimes motivated by xenophobia and anti-Semitism.

Such manifestations also beset the United States of America, where systemic racism is thriving. In its recent concluding observations, the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination identified a wide range of problems related to racism, racial discrimination and associated intolerance: racial prejudice in the country’s criminal justice system, profiling by the police and segregation in the educational realm, the plight of indigenous peoples and much more besides. Additionally, the experts voiced their concern over “reports of increased racially or ethnically motivated activities promoted by violent groups, including white supremacist organizations”.

According to sociological surveys, 63 per cent of respondents from Jewish communities in the United States have at least once in the past five years fallen victim to or witnessed hate crimes. By the way, in spite of criticisms from the influential Simon Wiesenthal Center, a memorial to a Nazi henchman, the Lithuanian Adolfas Ramanauskas-Vanagas, continues to “grace” a Chicago suburb. Monuments to those who fought on the side of Hitler’s Germany are also treated with reverence in another OSCE participating State on the other side of the Atlantic, namely Canada.

Mr. Chairperson,

All that we have cited here is just the tip of the iceberg. We urge the OSCE participating States to fulfil in good faith their relevant commitments and call on the OSCE executive structures to react promptly and vigorously to these highly alarming tendencies.

Thank you for your attention.