

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
(ALSO ON BEHALF OF THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES OF
ARMENIA, BELARUS, KAZAKHSTAN, KYRGYZSTAN, TAJIKISTAN
AND UZBEKISTAN), AT THE 1106th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

23 June 2016

**On the 75th anniversary of the outbreak of the
Great Patriotic War of 1941 to 1945**

On 22 June 1941, the peoples of our countries suffered the most terrible invasion in the history of the world, the aim of which was not simply occupation but total destruction and enslavement of the survivors. The attack by Hitler's Germany and its allies on the Soviet Union called into question the very future of our nations. The Great Patriotic War was one of the most tragic chapters in the history of Europe. The crimes of the Nazis, including the Holocaust, the burning of towns and villages, and the death camps, inflicted the greatest harm on all of the peoples of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and their communities abroad, who made an important contribution to the common victory. To achieve this victory they sacrificed 27 million lives, almost half of the total victims of the Second World War.

At the time, the partners in the anti-Hitler coalition were able to rise above their ambitions and the differences separating them to oppose their common enemy and destroy the criminal ideology together. The example set in those heroic days is still relevant today in the face of new threats. Nazi ideas and values are openly propagated, and there are calls for ethnically motivated violence. Neo-Nazi movements and groups and ultra-right parties operate openly in a whole series of countries in the OSCE area, using Nazi symbols and slogans. There are attempts to put victims and their executioners on the same footing and to glorify Nazis and their henchmen. This is all the more chilling given that these phenomena are taking place in the very countries that suffered the most extreme wartime hardship.

In post-war history hate speech has more than once led to massive violence and bloodshed of an enormity reminiscent of the crimes of the Nazis. All of this insults the memory of the millions of victims, threatens the fundamental principles of democracy and human rights and causes tension in the OSCE area. Our countries must therefore systematically rebuff those who attempt to revise the outcome of the war and distort history.

We roundly condemn any attempts to glorify Nazism and the growth of neo-Nazi sentiments and the deliberate efforts to rewrite history and distort and revise the outcome of

the Second World War. We find it inadmissible to maintain or erect new dividing lines and closed borders or to impose sanctions that circumvent the United Nations Security Council.

The lessons of those tragic years vividly demonstrate the fact that there can be no alternative to collective diplomacy to find the best responses to the many challenges. We are convinced that real security must be equal and indivisible, based on the principles of international law and constructive co-operation. Our countries emphasize their determination to do everything possible to safeguard peace, prevent armed conflicts, settle disputes peacefully and counter threats and challenges to international security and stability.

We believe that all countries without exception should fully recognize the results of victory in the Second World War, enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and other international documents.