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Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
MR. MAXIM BUYAKEVICH, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1382nd MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

14 July 2022

On the anniversary of the events in Srebrenica

Mr. Chairperson,

On 11 July, the world remembered the tragic events that took place in the Srebrenica area during the 1992–1995 armed conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina. On that date, in 1995, one of the darkest pages of the Bosnian war was written: thousands of people of different nationalities and faiths lost their lives. We share the grief felt by the families and friends of all the innocent victims. Furthermore, we should not forget about the hundreds of civilians who died as a result of the NATO bombing and those who in peacetime continue to suffer and die of diseases caused by the use of depleted uranium shells by the Alliance's aircraft.

The Russian Federation has consistently advocated the investigation of all unlawful acts committed during the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina against all ethnic groups, including Bosniaks, Croats and Serbs. We insist that all those responsible, regardless of their ethnic origin or religious affiliation, be punished accordingly. We regret to note that not all representatives of the international community have learned their lesson from the telling situation in 2015, when an attempt to push a draft resolution through the United Nations Security Council attributing full responsibility for the tragic events in Bosnia and Herzegovina during the armed conflict to only one of the parties failed miserably. Such an approach does not help to achieve genuine inter-ethnic reconciliation and deepens mistrust between the peoples of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

We welcome the international efforts to uncover, investigate and make public new facts and evidence in order to form an objective picture of the tragic events in Srebrenica during the armed conflict. We have taken note of the concluding reports of the Independent International Commissions of Inquiry on the Suffering of the Serbs in Sarajevo between 1991 and 1995 and on the Sufferings of All Peoples in the Srebrenica Region between 1992 and 1995, which were published back in June 2021. We invite you to read them.

We consider it to be a priority to ensure lasting reconciliation in the region. We call for a forward-looking approach that guides all parties concerned towards overcoming the grave legacy of the war in the former Yugoslavia as soon as possible. As one of the guarantors of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Russian Federation will continue to do its utmost to

consistently promote inter-ethnic and interreligious harmony in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in the region as a whole.

Thank you for your attention.