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PC.DEL/1842/22
15 December 2022

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
AT THE 1402nd MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

15 December 2022

On the occasion of Human Rights Day

Mr. Chairperson,

On 10 December, we observed Human Rights Day, which was established to mark the United Nations General Assembly's adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, whose purpose was to prevent a repetition of the atrocities of the Second World War. Together with the two human rights covenants, the Universal Declaration is the foundation of the contemporary international system for human rights promotion and protection. It has lost none of its relevance and continues to be a universal lodestar for human rights work.

Unfortunately, in today's world, history, especially the history of the Second World War and its outcomes, has been hijacked to advance the self-serving and opportunistic considerations of the West, which are aimed at bringing about our country's isolation on the foreign policy stage. A case in point in this regard is the way that, on 4 November, the former Axis countries Germany, Italy and Japan voted against the resolution of the Third Committee of the United Nations General Assembly on "Combating glorification of Nazism, neo-Nazism and other practices that contribute to fuelling contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance".

It was the first time that these countries embarked on such an irresponsible step, which causes one to doubt the sincerity of their previous statements acknowledging their guilt for having unleashed the Second World War. Then again, this step fits in with the attempts over many years by the collective West to revise the verdicts of the Nuremberg Tribunal and whitewash Nazi criminals and their accomplices. Which means their attempts to, in effect, dispute the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the entire human rights protection system established at the United Nations and – subsequently on its basis – at other platforms, including the OSCE.

In this context, it must be said that the current year has proved to be a resilience test for the entire system of human rights and human rights protection instruments; it has revealed the definitive politicization of this field and how it is replete with double standards when it comes to assessing certain phenomena. As we already pointed out today, the Polish Chairmanship-in-Office and the Norwegian Chairmanship of the

Human Dimension Committee have sadly contributed to this process at the OSCE, since through their arbitrary actions they have wrecked the work under the third “basket”.

The Western countries are actively abetting this by relaying exclusively anti-Russian narratives and, in time-honoured fashion, ignoring problems “at home”. Human rights issues are to this day exploited by them to whip up confrontation and criticism of States that are not to their liking. And this despite the fact that there are plenty of problems in the region: at meetings of the Permanent Council we have repeatedly pointed to specific examples of basic rights and freedoms being trampled upon in several participating States of our Organization, such as the Baltic countries, Ukraine, the United States of America, Canada and member countries of the European Union.

With the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration fast approaching, it is worth reflecting on how to depoliticize the subject of human rights and concentrate on the development of practical steps in this field. Attention needs to be paid to combating anti-Semitism, Christianophobia and Islamophobia; to social and economic rights; to tackling infringement of the rights of the Russian and Russian-speaking population in several Western OSCE participating States; to protecting the historical and memorial heritage; to combating neo-Nazism and the glorification of Nazism; to non-discrimination in sport; to freedom of movement; to fostering human contacts; and to much more besides.

Thank you for your attention.