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**STATEMENT BY THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
AT THE 953rd MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

16 May 2013

**In response to a statement by the United States of America on
issues outside the mandate of the OSCE**

Mr. Chairperson,

Our position remains unchanged: the notions of “sexual orientation” and “gender identity” do not exist within universal international agreements or among the obligations of the OSCE itself, and these areas do not fall within the mandate of the OSCE.

Regarding the case of the murder in Volgograd of local resident Vladislav Tornovoy, which was raised by our United States colleagues, I should like to make the following remarks.

This murder has given rise to widespread outrage and a broad public response in the Russian Federation. Criminal proceedings have been instigated by the Volgograd region branch of the Investigative Committee of Russia for the offence of murder under article 105, part 1, of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation. The suspected perpetrators have been swiftly identified and arrested. They are a 22-year-old acquaintance of the victim and his 27-year-old close friend, who holds previous convictions. An investigation is currently under way in order to fully establish the circumstances and motives of the crime.

In this regard, we feel that it is inappropriate to parrot journalistic accounts of whatever sort, or to draw far-reaching and incorrect political conclusions. The existence of the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution, for example, does not imply the promotion of the use of firearms to shoot and murder innocent citizens in the streets.

Thank you for your attention.