

PC.DEL/1136/15
4 September 2015

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH, PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE
1066th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

3 September 2015

On the 70th anniversary of the end of the Second World War

Mr. Chairperson,

Yesterday, on 2 September 2015, the global community marked the 70th anniversary of the end of the Second World War, the bloodiest war ever. It was on this very day, 2 September 1945, that the instrument of unconditional surrender by Japan was signed on board the American battleship Missouri. In so doing, the Second World War was brought to an end.

We pay tribute to the tens of millions of people who died on the front lines, in partisan units, in bombings, under occupation and in concentration camps, from hunger and cold, and during blockades. The countries that took part in the Second World War are estimated to have lost over 45 million people altogether, 27 million of whom came from the Soviet Union.

Victory was achieved thanks to many nations joining efforts for the sake of protecting their freedom and ability to determine themselves the future course of their development. Combating the ideology of hatred, however it may be termed, is a common goal, and it will only be possible to counteract new threats and challenges with the entire global community working together.

Today in Europe and Asia we are seeing attempts to falsify and rewrite the history of the Second World War and to put forward versions of events, particularly during the pre-war and wartime periods, that are not based on facts. Steps taken by a number of States to glorify and exonerate criminals and their accomplices fly in the face of the decisions of the Nuremberg and Tokyo trials. This is nothing but an insult to the memory of the millions of people who died. It is perfectly clear that such ventures are intended to be used in dubious geopolitical games and to set whole countries and peoples at odds with each other.

The historical significance of the victory over Nazism is indisputable and beyond revision. The outcome of the Second World War determined the architecture of international relations, which was unequivocally enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the decisions of the Nuremberg Tribunal.

We have no right to forget the lessons of history. The tragic past calls on us to assume our shared responsibility and to realize what terrible consequences can arise from adopting a destructive ideology based on the premise of one's own exceptionalism and the idea that anything goes. It is those very ideas that fuelled Nazism and militarism. We must not allow them to be revived and spread.

Thank you for your attention.