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Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ANDREY RUDENKO,  
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE  
RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1049th MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

30 April 2015

**Regarding the centennial of the Armenian genocide**

Mr. Chairperson,

On 24 April, the President of the Russian Federation, Mr. Vladimir Putin, at the invitation of the President of Armenia, Mr. Serzh Sargsyan, took part in a ceremony held in Yerevan to commemorate the victims of the Armenian genocide.

As the Russian President noted, “The events of 1915 shocked the whole world, and were perceived in Russia as its own disaster.” Relations between the fraternal peoples of Russia and Armenia, our ally, have always been distinguished by a special spiritual kinship and mutual support, and on the day of the centennial of the tragedy, we mourn together with the people of Armenia and the entire Armenian diaspora, including the 3 million Russian citizens who are ethnic Armenians.

Russia’s position was and remains consistent: we think that there is not, nor can there be, any justification for such massive crimes. The international community must do everything in its power to ensure that the tragic events of the past never recur, so that all peoples can live in peace and harmony, never knowing the horrors to which aggressive nationalism, xenophobia and the incitement of religious hatred lead.

Thank you for your attention.