

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1156th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

31 August 2017

On neo-Nazism and the events in Charlottesville, United States of America

Mr. Chairperson,

Neo-Nazism, nationalism, xenophobia and racism continue to grow in the OSCE area. A clear example is the tragic events on 12 August in Charlottesville, United States of America. As you know, the bloody clash between representatives of neo-Nazi groups and left-wing forces resulted in the death of Heather Heyer and injuries to 19 other persons. In that connection, I should like to express my deep condolences to the families of the victims.

Representatives of many States and international organizations both in Europe and the United States have spoken on this subject. They have condemned the racist excesses of local neo-Nazis and called on the leadership of the country to reject them in the sternest terms. In their joint statement of 16 August, United Nations human rights experts also pointed out the need for opposition in the United States to manifestations of racism, xenophobia and racially motivated violence. They also mentioned the widespread existence of these negative phenomena in the United States, making reference to incidents in California, New Orleans, Oregon and Kentucky. We recall in addition the wave of anti-Semitic excesses and acts of vandalism in Jewish cemeteries in the country in February this year.

Against this background, we are not surprised at the recent decision regarding the United States of America by the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination under its Early Warning and Urgent Action Procedures, which stressed the “horrific” nature of the events in Charlottesville. The decision expressed alarm at “the racist demonstrations, with overtly racist slogans, chants and salutes by individuals belonging to groups of white nationalists, neo-Nazis, and the Ku Klux Klan, promoting white supremacy and inciting racial discrimination and hatred.” Despite efforts for decades by the country to eliminate it – we might recall the civil rights movement of the 1960s and Martin Luther King – it is once again casting its dark shadow.

There can be no doubt that the resurgence of neo-Nazism in the United States is in no small measure a consequence of its toleration by Washington. Indeed, only the United States and one other OSCE participating State regularly vote against the annual United Nations

General Assembly resolution condemning the glorification of Nazism. Moreover, the US authorities willingly close their eyes to neo-Nazi acts in a number of other well-known countries. We hope that now, after the tragic lessons of Charlottesville, it will be possible for this short-sighted position to be reviewed.

In general, the approach by a number of participating States that flirt with radicals and extremists to achieve narrow political ends is a matter of considerable concern. We urge everyone to rigorously oppose any attempts aimed at the glorification of Nazism and its henchmen, the falsification of history and the celebration of the Nazi past, and also not to condone acts of anti-Semitism or vandalization of monuments and the burial grounds of those who saved the world from Nazism.

Thank you for your attention.