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**STATEMENT BY MR. ANDREY RUDENKO, DEPUTY PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE
1006th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

3 July 2014

**In response to the report by Ms. Navi Pillay,
United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights**

Mr. Chairperson,
High Commissioner,

We thank you for your interesting and informative statement.

Russia works actively with you and your Office and is also successfully involved in bilateral co-operation. In this regard, I should like to mention the master's programme in human rights education, the Russian-language component of the traineeship for indigenous peoples, and the traineeship for officials at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). For eight years now, Russia has been a regular and major donor to the Office and in spite of the difficult financial situation has not reduced the contributions to its budget (2 million United States dollars).

We fully agree with you that the efforts by the United Nations and the OSCE should complement one another. This ensures that there is no unnecessary duplication and it also saves on resources. We share your view that in the humanitarian sphere the efforts by international organizations have a single aim – promoting fundamental freedoms and safeguarding human rights. The methods of working of the United Nations and the OSCE are very different, however. We are studying with interest the information on the activities of the United Nations monitoring structures concerning compliance with human rights obligations. The OSCE's approach to implementation of commitments is somewhat different: they are considered at annual review conferences that focus on the exchange of best practices. This approach offers an excellent complement to that of the United Nations.

We therefore consider the frequent appeals for the transfer of the United Nations' subject matter and its working principles, including the monitoring structures, to the OSCE to be out of place.

We welcome the active and fruitful co-operation between the OHCHR and the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR). We nevertheless believe that efforts

should concentrate on those human rights areas in which the United Nations and the OSCE have a common understanding.

We share your opinion that there is a need to pay special attention to respect for human rights in times of economic crisis. Without a doubt, combating corruption is an important factor in safeguarding social and economic human rights. However, we believe that the problem of socio-economic rights should be considered in a wider context.

We agree that respect for the rule of law, in particular access to justice, is an important prerequisite for the development of a democratic society. In addition, while supporting the principle of non-discrimination, we should like to recall that there is no mention of “sexual orientation” either in universal international agreements or among OSCE commitments.

With regard to the co-operation between the United Nations Secretariat and the OSCE executive structures, we believe that it is highly important to be guided by the decisions and instructions of the intergovernmental bodies within the United Nations system and the OSCE’s decision-making bodies. We find it unacceptable for executive structures or the Secretariat to attempt to impose new methods of working or regulations on intergovernmental bodies or countries. Unfortunately there are precedents – as, for example, when proposals by the OHCHR or ODIHR have been presented practically as guidelines for action.

We cannot agree with the OHCHR’s approach to the situation in Ukraine. We recently had the occasion here to listen to Mr. Ivan Šimonović. In our view the document presented by him was not objective, politicized and not prepared in good faith. There was not a word about manifestations of extremism and neo-Nazism, nor about the kidnapping, torture and murder of political opponents or the effective destruction of the independent judiciary system, political arrests and disregard for freedom speech and of the media.

I should like to emphasize that the fact that the report was written by Mr. Šimonović, a member of the Office, does not release the OHCHR from its obligation to truth and impartiality in the information it imparts.

We call once again for attention to be drawn to the human rights consequences of the conflict in Ukraine. What is going on there completely fits the definition of “war crimes” and “crimes against humanity”. The use by the Ukrainian security forces of inhumane weapons – explosive bullets and cluster bombs, armoured, artillery and air strikes on civilian targets, and poison gas – may be described as war crimes. Children, women and old people are being killed. The humanitarian situation in the south-east is bordering on the catastrophic. There are no humanitarian corridors, and the provision of humanitarian aid – medicine, food, water – is being obstructed by the Ukrainian authorities.

Journalists are being hunted down. Those who try to provide the public with truthful information risk their lives. Four journalists – an Italian and three Russians – have already died.

Following this morning’s meeting of the Permanent Council, there will be an informal briefing in the Ratsaal at 1.15 p.m. on the protection of journalists in the Ukraine conflict. It will be attended by representatives of the All-Russian State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company, ITAR-TASS, the Union of Journalists, and also reporters working

directly in Ukraine, including LifeNews journalist Marat Saichenko, who had first-hand experience of the real relationship of the “democrats from Maidan” with journalists. We hope that this will foster a better understanding and appreciation of the real situation.

We also trust that the massive and flagrant violations of human rights in Ukraine will be given an objective and public appraisal by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Thank you for your attention.