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Security Council**

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Security Council
Seventy-fifth year

**Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia
and related intolerance: elimination of racism, racial
discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance**

**Seventy-fifth anniversary of the end of the Second
World War**

**Letter dated 29 May 2020 from the Permanent Representative of
the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General**

I have the honour to transmit herewith the decision of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation on the “statement of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation to the parliaments of foreign States and to the peoples of the world in connection with the seventy-fifth anniversary of the victory over Nazism” (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 68 (a) and 131, and as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) V. Nebenzia



Annex to the letter dated 29 May 2020 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Decision of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation regarding the statement of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation to the parliaments of foreign States and to the peoples of the world in connection with the seventy-fifth anniversary of the victory over Nazism

The Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation hereby decides:

1. To adopt the statement of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation to the parliaments of foreign States and to the peoples of the world in connection with the seventy-fifth anniversary of the victory over Nazism.
2. To transmit this statement to the parliaments of foreign States and to the United Nations.
3. That this decision shall enter into force on the date of its adoption.

V.I. Matvienko

Moscow

20 May 2020 No. 200-SF

Statement of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation to the parliaments of foreign States and to the peoples of the world in connection with the seventy-fifth anniversary of the victory over Nazism

The Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation calls upon the parliaments of foreign States and the peoples of the world to reflect once again on the invaluable heritage of human civilization represented by the victory in the Second World War of the anti-Hitler coalition forces and all those who fought on their side against the common enemy – Nazism and its accomplices.

Noting the special significance of the anti-Hitler coalition as a unique historical combination of efforts by States with different political systems to counter a common threat to humanity, the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation welcomes the joint statement of 25 April 2020 by President Vladimir Putin of the Russian Federation and President Donald J. Trump of the United States of America commemorating the seventy-fifth anniversary of the meeting on the Elbe, which, *inter alia*, states that: “‘The spirit of the Elbe’ is an example of how our countries can put aside differences, build trust, and cooperate in pursuit of a great cause”.

The Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation has supported the annual adoption by the United Nations General Assembly since 2005 of the resolution entitled “Combating glorification of Nazism, neo-Nazism and other practices that contribute to fuelling contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance”. It also supports the proposal to adopt a General Assembly resolution in connection with the seventy-fifth anniversary of the end of the Second World War, which has already been co-sponsored by some 40 United Nations Member States.

The Second World War was the bloodiest in human history. Countless civilian lives were lost. Millions of ordinary people, including women, children and the elderly, were exterminated solely for belonging to certain nationalities.

The Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation recalls that the acts of the main Nazi criminals, who bear full responsibility for unleashing and waging the Second World War, were criminalized by the judgment of the International Military Tribunal for the prosecution and punishment of the major war criminals of the European Axis (Nuremberg Tribunal). The judgment of the Tribunal was in fact a crucial culminating point in assessing both the cause and the outcome of the war by clearly identifying those who were right and wrong, the guilty and the innocent, the perpetrators and their victims.

The Second World War is a significant and complex period in modern history. Research into its events is far from complete and historians from different countries have a significant role to play in that regard. While the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation appreciates their work in the name of historical truth and is sympathetic to the discussions accompanying this work, it states with full responsibility that we must not forget the fundamental judgment of the Nazi leaders’ crimes delivered by the Nuremberg Tribunal and confirmed by the General Assembly.

The States on whose territories Second World War battles took place have a special responsibility to preserve monuments to the victorious heroes. In this regard, the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation calls upon the parliaments of foreign States and the peoples of the world to join the many inter-parliamentary agencies that already support the initiative to recognize the victory over

Nazism in the Second World War as a world heritage of humankind and to recognize monuments in remembrance of those who fought against Nazism in all countries as a world memorial of humankind.

Any attempts to assign equal responsibility to both Nazi criminals and the countries of the anti-Hitler coalition for starting the war, or to justify Nazi criminals and their accomplices, are not merely a falsification of history. Such attempts, which are illegitimate and immoral in nature, are blasphemous to the memory of those who liberated the world from a clear and legally established evil.

The Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation strongly condemns the desire of certain political forces in the world to protect the true perpetrators of the war, to belittle the role of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in the defeat of Nazism and to rehabilitate those who, alongside Hitler's executioners, opposed the liberators, served the Nazi occupation regime in European countries and participated in the monstrous Holocaust and other crimes against humanity.

Seventy-five years in the history of mankind is not the longest period but the lessons of this chapter in history, still alive in the memories of those whose heroic feats brought it to a close, cannot be forgotten. Otherwise its most terrible pages will be repeated. No one has the right to betray the memory of their ancestors for the sake of petty political expediency, no matter how tempting it may seem.

The Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation appeals to the parliaments of foreign States and to the peoples of the world: to prevent the distortion of historical truth; to oppose the glorification of former members of the Waffen SS organization and Nazi, fascist, Bandera and similar nationalist movements and their current heirs and successors; and to bring to justice those who insult the memory of the liberation warriors, allow Holocaust denial and the extermination of the so-called non-Aryan peoples by the Nazis and who glorify the Nazi executioners. It is our common duty not just to honour the memory of those who died for freedom and peace on Earth, but to defend today with all our might the just cause for which they fought and gave their lives. Only then will we have a chance for a common future free of war, hatred and enmity.

Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation
