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**JOINT STATEMENT BY  
THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS, THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN,  
THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC, THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, THE REPUBLIC  
OF TAJIKISTAN AND THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN AT THE  
CLOSING SESSION OF THE THIRTY-FIRST MEETING  
OF THE OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

Malta, 6 December 2024

**On the importance of preserving war memorials commemorating the events of the  
Second World War**

We, a group of OSCE participating States,

Express our deep conviction that the cultural heritage of each of us represents an integral part of our civilization, memory and shared history that must be passed on to future generations;

Reaffirm the importance of the complete and lasting documentation of sites, structures, cultural landscapes, objects and cultural systems, including historical, religious and cultural monuments, as they presently exist;

Express deep concern at the increasing number of deliberate attempts at, and incidents involving, the desecration or destruction of monuments erected in honour of those who fought against Nazism during the Second World War, which are a consequence of the failure to implement the relevant OSCE commitments, including the 1991 Document of the Cracow Symposium on the Cultural Heritage of the CSCE Participating States, and a violation of the relevant bilateral agreements, and urge respect for, unimpeded access to and prevention of the vandalism and destruction of memorials and graves, regardless of their location;

Express our concern at the shameful actions connected with the glorification of Nazism, including the spraying of graffiti with pro-Nazi content, particularly on monuments to the victims of the Second World War;

Welcome the efforts of participating States to preserve the historical truth, including through the construction and preservation of monuments and memorials to those who fought in the ranks of the anti-Hitler coalition;

Call upon the OSCE participating States that have not yet done so to take appropriate measures, including in the educational sphere, to counter the distortion of history and the outcome of the Second World War and to accurately reflect those tragic pages in history, first and foremost the suffering of millions of people as a result of the spread of the misanthropic ideology of Nazism and fascism;

In this regard, we welcome the United Nations General Assembly resolution on combating glorification of Nazism, neo-Nazism and other practices that contribute to fuelling contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, which is a testament to the international community's resolve not to repeat the tragic mistakes of the past and to build the future on the basis of unifying principles.

I kindly ask you, Mr. Chairperson, to attach this statement to the journal of today's closing session of the Ministerial Council.

Thank you.