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**STATEMENT BY MR. ANDREY KELIN,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1001st MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

22 May 2014

**Regarding the statement on matters that do not fall
within the OSCE's remit**

Mr. Chairperson,

Once again we have heard calls by our partners to protect the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons as a “particularly vulnerable group”. I remind you that neither the universal international treaties nor the OSCE commitments contain the terms “sexual orientation” and “gender identity”.

There is no doubt that the OSCE has commitments regarding non-discrimination and combating xenophobia. However, efforts to identify LGBTI people as a special preferential group with some kind of special rights run counter to the principle of equal treatment.

In implementing civil, political, social, economic and cultural human rights, the Russian Constitution and current legislation do not permit discrimination under any grounds whatsoever. This also applies to the sexual orientation of citizens.

The inclusion of subjects on the agenda of the Permanent Council regarding which the OSCE has no commitments and there is no consensus among the participating States is merely a distraction from other more important matters.

Thank you for your attention.