

## **Comment by the Information and Press Department on the adoption of a resolution on combatting the glorification of Nazism by the 74th Session of the UN General Assembly**

On December 18, participants in a plenary meeting of the 74<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN General Assembly in New York passed a resolution titled “Combating the glorification of Nazism, neo-Nazism and other practices that contribute to fuelling contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance”, which was submitted by the delegation of the Russian Federation. Members of the Third Committee of the 74<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN General Assembly approved the document’s text in November.

This year, the number of the document’s co-authors reached 62. An overwhelming majority of states (133) supported the resolution. As in the previous years, only the delegations of the United States and Ukraine voted against, and 52 countries, including EU member states, abstained.

This is undoubtedly a subject that should help unite UN member states, especially in the context of the upcoming 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Victory in World War II, due to be celebrated next year. The establishment of the UN was as a response by states, parties to the Anti-Hitler Coalition, to the horrors and crimes of Nazism. We are convinced that the history-making Victory is a shared heritage of all UN member states.

One of the resolution’s key provisions denounces the increasingly active war on monuments to those who fought against Nazism and fascism in some countries against the backdrop of unveiling and building monuments in honour of SS members and various collaborationists, as well as the holding of marches and torch processions by nationalists and neo-Nazis. The document also voices profound concern over attempts to glorify members of the Waffen SS, recognised as a criminal organisation by the Nuremberg International Military Tribunal, as well as those who fought against the Anti-Hitler Coalition, cooperated with the Nazi movement and committed war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Broad support for the Russian initiative and the annual increase in the number of the document’s co-authors reaffirm the importance of the fight against the glorification of Nazism and neo-Nazism in modern conditions, as well as the preservation of the historical memory of nations regarding the lessons of World War II that inflicted untold suffering on humankind and those who gave their lives for the Victory. Against this backdrop, the position of states that do not support the resolution, allegedly under the pretext of concern about the freedom of expression, evokes great regret.