

**Welcoming remarks of Sergey Lavrov  
to be broadcast during the  
videoconference  
on the occasion of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of  
the Nuremberg trials  
November 20, 2020**

Dear colleagues, friends,

We have gathered today to remember one of the landmark events of the XX<sup>th</sup> century – the international trial of Nazi criminals. We have an opportunity to reach the widest possible audience via videoconference. I would like to extend a special welcome to the audience of the German Phoenix television channel – citizens of Germany and other countries who care about the topic.

The history of the Nuremberg trials, the largest political and legal achievement of that period, is unique. As well as the history of the post-war Germany, who managed to leave behind its shady history and set its course on the path towards productive development.

The key success factor was the unanimity of the allies in the anti-Hitler coalition concerning its establishment, modalities, progress and performance assessment. The decisions of the Tribunal clearly and unambiguously gave legal qualification on who was guilty of unleashing the bloodiest war in the history. It is pertinent to remind against this background that many learned about Nazi atrocities against entire nations and against humanity only from a “picture on a screen” – documentary footages from the Trial chambers. Faces and confessions of criminals are still staggering. As well as the fact that most of them consciously felt no compunction – a phenomenon, which was later aptly described by the German-American philosopher Hannah Arendt as the “banality of evil”...

Unfortunately, we must note that the immunity against the Nazi virus, which was developed also in Nuremberg, has severely weakened. For instance, Nazi ideas have been openly propagated in a number of European states. Efforts are made to equate

aggressors and liberators, victims and executioners as well as to make heroes of the Nazis and their henchmen. This includes the totally cynical war against the monuments to soldier liberators. Not only do all these factors defile the memory of the millions of victims, but also threaten the fundamental human rights principles.

We assume that the full-scale recognition of the World War II outcomes, which are also enshrined in the UN Charter, is the undisputable imperative for all states. We are convinced, that systematic efforts on countering all forms and manifestations of racism, xenophobia, aggressive nationalism and chauvinism shall remain among the irrefutable priorities of the international community. The annual Russian-led UN GA resolution on Combating glorification of Nazism, neo-Nazism and other practices that contribute to fueling contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, which traditionally gains support from the overwhelming majority of states, is aimed at fulfilling this task.

I expect that your conference will be held in a constructive atmosphere and will facilitate enhanced international humanitarian and academic exchanges as well as contribute to the preservation of historical truth.