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**Address for International Day of Commemoration in memory of the Victims of
the Holocaust at the 1129th meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council**

26 January 2017

Thank you, the Austrian chairmanship, for organizing this commemoration of the Holocaust also in the PC and for the opportunity to speak. Thank you, Ambassador Constantinescu for your important address and the important work that IHRA is doing.

We also commend the good work done by the OSCE and ODHIR to fight anti-Semitism and facilitate the exchange of good practices among governments, educators, civil society and Jewish communities. Holocaust remembrance ceremonies and educational programs are conducted in many OSCE countries, especially for educational purposes towards the younger generation.

Despite the intensive work done by European countries in the past decades, we see that anti-Semitism has not been uprooted, and even terrorism directed against Jewish targets has cost many lives. The attacks at the Jewish museum in Brussels in May 2014; the Hyper-Cacher in Paris and the Copenhagen synagogue in 2015, in which there were multiple fatalities; the defiling of several Jewish cemeteries and physical attacks on Jews in several countries in Europe in 2016; attest to the unfortunate truth that anti-Semitism is still present and in some parts of societies, even on the rise, and wears menacing and at times violent colors.

When Jewish life becomes increasingly threatened by extremists and hate mongers, it's an important wake –up call for all.

Very recently a call has been made on Israeli and international media, seeking information about a girl named Karoline Cohn. Her pendant, carrying her name and a good wishes inscription, was found on the site of the Sobibor death camp. A similar pendant belonged to Anne Frank, they seem to have been made by the same craftsman. As her fate is unknown, a call has been made to look for people or evidence that might shed some light on her life and her death. This testifies that the effort to gather information is still on-going, the filing of "testimony pages" in Yad Vashem is still open



– with the aim of collecting information about each and every victim, to the extent possible.

Yad Vashem also carries out training of teachers from many OSCE and other countries, sometimes in tailor-made courses intended for the teachers of one particular country. As an example, about 600 Austrian teachers have already participated in those courses and create a network that is also multiplied at the local level.

The Government of Israel just this week adopted the IHRA working definition of Anti-Semitism, and we think it's an important step to define something in order to be able to address it. We thank a few countries in Europe that have done the same and adopted the IHRA definition as their own working definition on the state level. We are sorry that an agreement could not be reached at the last MC of the OSCE in Hamburg on adopting the working definition at the OSCE level, and would like to encourage the organization to try to bring this issue to fruition.

Thank you.