



## REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

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General Assembly  
Sixty-ninth session  
Informal meeting of the plenary  
to address concerns of a rise in anti-semitic violence worldwide

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### STATEMENT

By

H.E. MR. MILAN MILANOVIĆ  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

New York, 22 January 2015

Mr. President,

Serbia aligned itself with the statement made by the delegation of the European Union. However, I shall take this opportunity to add some remarks in my national capacity.

Mr. President,

We welcome today's meeting and the opportunity to address this important issue. We would like to express our strong concern over rising anti-semitic hatred and violence around the world and condemn all incidents based on religious, racial or ethnic prejudice. Combating racism and xenophobia, in all their forms, including Anti-semitism, should remain one of our priorities. The Republic of Serbia supports the need to fight Anti-semitism, racism and xenophobia and my Government has made great efforts in that regard.

Mr. President,

As the Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE, the Republic of Serbia will continue to engage with all its partners to counter all forms of racism and xenophobia, including Anti-semitism. In that regard, we welcome the Berlin Conference held in November last year to commemorate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the OSCE's Declaration on Anti-semitism and the Declaration adopted on this occasion. Furthermore, we reaffirm the need to implement the recommendations in the OSCE's Basel Declaration on Enhancing Efforts to Combat Anti-semitism and condemn all its manifestations. By this Declaration, the OSCE participating States committed themselves to fighting intolerance and discrimination and call on political, religious and civil society leaders to engage in open discussions with a view to combating and preventing Anti-semitism while fully respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Mr. President,

In commemorating Holocaust Remembrance Day on 27 January and 70 years since the liberation of Auschwitz, I would like to emphasize my Government's strong support to the fight against Anti-semitism and reaffirm our support to the Stockholm Declaration and its principles.

Serbia attaches great importance to the Holocaust remembrance in order to preserve its memory and with the aim of preventing anti-semitic violence. With respect to UNGA resolution 60/7 (2005) and, especially, as a victim of the Nazi regime, the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of the death camps in Auschwitz will be marked in the Republic of Serbia by an official commemoration ceremony, including the highest State and military honours.

Facing rising extremism and fundamentalism in the world, we believe that the fight against extremism and intolerance on national and international levels begins with remembering the past. There is also a need to raise public awareness. Therefore, the Government of my country has decided to include the Holocaust in school curricula related to the fight against Anti-semitism.

Serbia actively participates in the preparation of a joint "ex-Yugoslavia" exhibition pavilion in the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and State Museum. At the same time, Serbia is to open its own exhibition on the Auschwitz-Birkenau Concentration Camp and its victims in the Historical Museum of Serbia in Belgrade in April 2015.

In the end, Mr. President, let me reiterate my country's full commitment to promoting tolerance and combating all forms of discrimination and violence, including Anti-semitism.