



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE HOLY SEE
TO THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY
AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE

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ENGLISH only

**STATEMENT OF THE HOLY SEE,
AS DELIVERED BY MSGR. MARINKO ANTOLOVIĆ
AT THE 982nd MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

30 JANUARY 2014

RE: HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

Mr. Chairman,

Remembering is a duty and a common responsibility. This is especially true in the case of the Holocaust. And that is why every year on 27 January we pause and commemorate *Yom Hashoah*, or Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Commemorating an event, however, does not mean simply remembering it; it also and above all means making every effort to understand the message which it represents for our own times, so that the remembrance of the past may be a lesson to the present and become a light which illumines the road to the future. It is a *memoria futuri*, an appeal to the younger generations not to be indifferent to their own existence, nor to allow themselves to be swept away by ideologies, nor to justify the evil we encounter, but always to be on the alert against anti-Semitism and racism whatever their origin may be. This terrible chapter of our history must never be forgotten. To remember is to do everything in our power to prevent any recurrence of such a catastrophe within the human family by building bridges of lasting friendship.

Holocaust Remembrance Day invites us to reflect deeply on the significance of the *Shoah*. The memory of this incomprehensible and enormous tragedy, which so severely struck the Jewish people, must represent a constant

warning so that the horrors of the past are not repeated, hatred and racism are overcome and respect for the dignity of the human person is promoted.

Mr. Chairman,

The Holy See is profoundly and irrevocably committed to continue working in this direction because, as Pope Francis said, “it is a contradiction for a Christian to be anti-Semitic. His roots are a bit Jewish. A Christian cannot be an anti-Semite!” (*Address of Pope Francis to representative of the Jewish community of Rome, Friday, 11 October 2013*).

Let me conclude with words that the Lord speaks through the mouth of the prophet Jeremiah: “I know the plans I have for you, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope” (*Jer 29:11*). May the memory of the tragedies of the past become a commitment for all of us to ensure that “such horrors, which constitute an embarrassment for humanity, are never repeated.” (*Pope Francis in his Letter to Rabbi Abraham Skorka, January 2014*)

Thank you, Mr. Chairman!