



**MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL  
ON THE UN HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY  
28 JANUARY 2010**

**STATEMENT BY**

Switzerland's Ambassador, H.E.Mr. Bernhard Marfurt

On behalf of Canada, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland

Mister Chairperson,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of Canada, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.

Yesterday, January 27th, the world community marked the annual International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust.

In remembering the Holocaust and paying tribute to its victims, we also renew our commitment to fight against the evils of racism, discrimination, and anti-Semitism.

The Holocaust stands alone in human history for its horror and its inhumanity. It is crucial that we learn from this experience, not only to ensure that such atrocities never take place again, but also to build societies based on human dignity in which such acts are not even possible.

Mister Chair,

We must also go beyond remembrance, and make sure that new generations know this history. We must apply the lessons of the Holocaust to today's OSCE, and we must do our utmost so that all peoples enjoy the protections and rights for which the OSCE stands.

We are proud to support the OSCE's efforts to not only commemorate, but also to conduct research and to educate people about the Holocaust.

In the OSCE region we have the precious freedom to contradict that hatred, to contain and possibly one day to eradicate it. This freedom gives us hope. Our hope is renewed, not only in the continuing struggle against anti-Semitism. It is renewed also in our efforts to protect the dignity of all people, to promote a true and lasting understanding of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

It is important that we take this opportunity to remember the suffering endured by the victims of the Holocaust and their communities. We must keep strong the conviction in our hearts to do everything we can – through our actions and our words – to stand firm against the forces of intolerance. Only through these continued efforts can we ensure that such atrocities never happen again.

We remain vigilant, both at home and abroad, against all forms of racism and discrimination.

We are committed to ensuring that future generations understand the causes and consequences of the Holocaust. We will continue to work closely with the OSCE/ODIHR and all our partners to ensure that the lessons of the Holocaust are never forgotten.

ODIHR has also developed excellent tools and educational programs on anti-Semitism and for Holocaust memorial days. We encourage all to make

the maximum use of these tools and to support the work of the OSCE/ODIHR in this important area.

Several OSCE participating States are members of the International Task Force for Holocaust Remembrance. The Task Force, which Norway has chaired since March last year, serves as an important tool for helping ourselves, and others, by reaching out to people's minds, both individually and collectively, through cooperation with schools, museums, memorials and research institutions.

In closing, I want to reiterate our full support for the work of your Personal Representative on Combating Anti-Semitism in the OSCE region, Rabbi Andrew Baker, and to thank him for his recent visit to Canada.

Thank you