



Statement

On Commemoration of the International Holocaust Remembrance Day ENGLISH only

**as delivered by the Delegation of Armenia at the 1214th Meeting of the OSCE
Permanent Council
January 31, 2019**

Mr. Chairperson,

I would like to thank Ambassador Azzoni for presenting the Address of the Chair of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance to the Permanent Council on Commemoration of the International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

On this solemn occasion, we fulfill our duty to memory and dignity of the victims of Holocaust.

The address of Ambassador Sandro De Bernardin reaffirms founding principles of the IHRA in singling out “to stand up for the truth”, as the key one.

Truth has always universal appeal and application. It empowers human dignity out of which modern system of universal human rights evolved.

Thus, while paying tribute to the 6 million Jewish victims of Holocaust we should also reassert our commitment to human rights and fundamental freedoms of members of racial, religious, ethnic and national communities which are identified as groups of protection under the Convention of the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

The Convention recognizes that genocide occurs both in time of peace and in time of war and, thus, collapse of international security system, which occurred during the world wars, cannot be invoked as justification or trivialization of genocides.

We should remember that all genocides including Holocaust could have been prevented. The link between remembrance and prevention is well captured in the very name of the UN International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of Genocide and the Prevention of this Crime. It is not certainly accidental. The genocide denial has always promoted recurrences of mass atrocities, while remembrance is an essential dimension of prevention of this crime.

Armenia stands in forefront of international efforts of the prevention of genocide, and we recognize that the Stockholm Declaration and activities of International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance have established important standards here.

On number of occasions Armenia came up with initiatives both at the level of the OSCE Ministerial and Permanent Council aimed at raising awareness on the key legal instruments and international efforts of genocide prevention

Last December Armenia with the support of the UN Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect and in cooperation with the International Association of Genocide Scholars convened the Third Global Forum against the Crime of Genocide, which brought together many eminent organizations and personalities in the field of Holocaust remembrance and memorialization as well.

We firmly believe that strong interaction and coordination among various platforms of genocide remembrance and prevention can bring an added value to the international cooperation.

Our common pledge of “Never Again” should not fail but be translated into an unshakable fact of our civilization.

Thank you.