

Resolution PA 2105 - 6

Declaration of the World Jewish Congress on the Celebration of its 85th Anniversary

THE 16th PLENARY ASSEMBLY OF THE WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS,

CELEBRATES with great pride and appreciation the 85th anniversary of the formal establishment in 1936 in Geneva, Switzerland of the World Jewish Congress, created with the initial objective to warn the international community of, and react to, the rising existential antisemitic threats faced by Jews in Nazi Germany;

PRAISES the unceasing efforts of the WJC in advocating for Jewish rights and Jewish communities worldwide, and ensuring that Jews the world over can live freely while preserving their heritage, educating their children, and safeguarding their spiritual and physical well-being;

PROCLAIMS with pride the steadfast and unwavering support of the WJC for the State of Israel as the nation state of the Jewish people;

REAFFIRMS the WJC's commitment to the elements of its raison d'être, including: combating antisemitism, Holocaust denial and hate speech, perpetuating and protecting Holocaust memory, promoting the safety and security of Jews wherever they may be, advocating for a strong, secure and democratic State of Israel in a sacred partnership with Jews of the diaspora and in peace;

RECALLS with admiration the unfailing commitment to the Jewish people of Rabbi Stephen S. Wise, Nahum Goldmann, Noah Barou, Sidney Silverman, Gerhart M. Riegner, Lady Eva Isaacs, Marchioness of Reading, Maurice Perlzweig, Aryeh Leon Kubowitzki (Kubovy), Alex Easterman, and the other founders and early leaders of the WJC;

EXPRESSES gratitude and deep appreciation to Ambassador Ronald S. Lauder who, since his assumption of the WJC Presidency, has led and leads the organization into a new era of economic stability crowned by significant successes despite the myriad challenges of turbulent times, including, during the past year, of a worldwide pandemic;

HIGHLIGHTS the importance of the WJC as a forward-looking organization which continues to cultivate new generations of young Jewish activists by investing in education, campus initiatives and flagship programs such as the Jewish Diplomatic Corps;

EMPHASIZES the need for the WJC to remain a forum in which Jews of diverse identities, backgrounds, ages, genders and locations can make their voices heard

and work together in meaningful and substantive ways for the benefit of *Klal Yisrael*;

RECOGNIZES the critical importance of the role of the WJC in promoting both inter- and intra-religious dialogue, the intrinsic value of human fraternity and the fundamental truth expressed by President Ronald S. Lauder's belief that in the campaign against antisemitism and hatred "we must all stand together against [all forms] of racism;"

URGES governments worldwide to take a decisive stand in the fight against Jew hatred by joining the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) and by adopting and implementing its Working Definition of Antisemitism as a necessary tool in the fight against antisemitism;

COMMENDS the WJC's successful cooperation with global social media and internet companies, including Facebook, TikTok, Amazon and others in combating hate speech, antisemitism and Holocaust denial, as well as the partnership between UNESCO, WJC, and Facebook in the promotion of Holocaust education information on Facebook platforms via www.aboutholocaust.org;

WELCOMES the relaunch of the International Council of Jewish Parliamentarians (ICJP) under WJC auspices as its members attempt to fight antisemitism through sharing of best practices, cooperation and other means available to legislators and government ministers;

CONFIRMS that the World Jewish Congress will continue to convene international meetings of such envoys and coordinators (SECCA) in order to exchange views, share best practices and policies, and evaluate progress in the shared fight against antisemitism;

URGES all countries that have not yet appointed envoys or coordinators to monitor and combat antisemitism to do so promptly and commends those which have already done so;

RESOLVES just as it did eighty-five years ago at its founding, that the WJC will continue to protect and defend Jews in their communities worldwide while upholding the dignity and human rights of all peoples.

Updated: 5/31/2021 6:49 PM

Approved by the 16th WJC Plenary Assembly, 25 May 2021