



*Ambassador Permanent Representative of Spain
to the United Nations*

New York, 11th November 2020

Dear Mr. Stern,

I have the honor to submit the following writing pledge to be included in the Side Event on mainstreaming the combating of antisemitism within the UN system, which will be held on 17th November, 2020.

Spain is proud of its Jewish heritage, its active and growing community and is worried with the increased anti-Semitic tendencies during the current pandemic.

Spain defends a holistic and multi-disciplinary approach against anti-Semitism and all forms of racism and hateful discourse. In 2015 Spain incorporated hate crimes into its Criminal Code, and it now contemplates anti-Semitism and the negation, trivialization and exaltation of genocide as crimes. And, as you know, on July 2020 Spain embraced the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism.

Spain believes that the United Nations must be at the forefront of the fight against antisemitism, and our government pledges to the following steps to enhance the UN's efforts in combating antisemitism as a cross-cutting human rights issue:

- Address the need to fight antisemitism through education in partnership with UNESCO and other relevant agencies.
- Include experts on antisemitism and related issues on panel discussions and side events at the General Assembly and the Human Rights Committee.
- Facilitate exchanges and synergies in order to improve UN effectiveness on the fight against antisemitism.

We particularly consider that the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) must be the privileged instrument to improve UN effectiveness on the fight against antisemitism.

The Alliance of Civilizations has already been designated by the UN Secretary-General as the United Nations Focal Point to monitor antisemitism and enhance a system-wide response.

As you know, the Alliance of Civilizations was an initiative of Spain presented before the United Nations General Assembly in September 2004. Since 2019 the High Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for the Alliance of Civilizations is the former Spanish Foreign Minister Miguel Ángel Moratinos, who has a long record in the search for peace in the Middle East

and that is fully engaged in combating antisemitism, as well as all forms of discrimination and intolerance based on religion or belief.

The Alliance of Civilizations promotes mutual respect, cultural diversity and religious pluralism, as well as strengthening interfaith dialogue across the faith spectrum in line with its motto “Many cultures, One Humanity”. Since its creation, Spain has offered its continued support for this initiative, financially as well as institutionally, in close cooperation with other civil society Spanish actors.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, sweeping curve that starts from the left, goes up and over, and then comes back down to the left, enclosing a smaller, more complex scribble of lines.

Agustín Santos Maraver

Mr. Maram Stern
Executive Vice President
World Jewish Congress