



A virtual side-event on The Role of the United Nations in Combating Antisemitism

17 November 2020

Contribution by Slovenia

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Slovenia would like to thank the organizers for this high level discussion outlining the crucial role the United Nations have in combating antisemitism. The event highlighted contemporary challenges and manifestations of antisemitism. Sadly, the challenges are still very real and present and it is our legal and moral obligation to identify them and adopt proportionate, yet decisive action to address them.

Human rights are at a core of Slovenia's national and foreign policy and Slovenia condemns all acts of antisemitism. This commitment has also been demonstrated by governmental adoption of the IHRA working definition of antisemitism in 2018, Slovenia being among the first of the EU Member States, as well as our active engagement in the IHRA activities. We remain committed to fighting all forms of discrimination, in particular antisemitism as well as all forms of hate crimes. This dangerous phenomenon has no place in a free and democratic society.

At the national level, Slovenia currently finds itself immersed in the process of adopting a 5-year Action Plan on Combating Antisemitism containing concrete measures to be taken in order to implement our commitments in this area. To raise awareness and strengthening prevention the issue of antisemitism in conjunction with other forms of racism and discrimination has become integral part of the general educational process.

Slovenia has also been advocating for an efficient common action to combat antisemitism at the regional and international level. In order to contribute to the efforts of forming an international response, Slovenia has regularly provided information on the existing national situation concerning antisemitism to the UN Special Procedures mandate holders. Slovenia also pays special attention to this issue in the framework of the Universal Periodical Reviews of the human rights situations by forming also clear recommendations in this regard. Coordinated and measured activities within and between Human Rights Council, UN General Assembly, UNHCR, OSCE and International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance are needed.

In conclusion, please allow me to reaffirm Slovenia's commitment and continued support to the fight against antisemitism.