Extremist Political Parties and Groups

The Plenary Assembly of the World Jewish Congress, meeting in New York on April 23-25, 2017,

NOTES with concern the ascendency of extremist, often authoritarian, political parties and groups, especially in Europe (such as, but not limited to, Jobbik in Hungary, FPÖ in Austria, AfD in Germany and Front National in France), which in many cases work to advance nationalistic and populist agendas that promote hate and division among civil society, and consequently may challenge the rights of citizens in democratic and open societies;

URGES caution in dealing with political parties and groups that are not committed to upholding democratic values and the civil rights of all citizens;

REAFFIRMS resolutions by the World Jewish Congress Governing Board in 2014 and the WJC Executive Committee in 2013, and by the European Jewish Congress General Assembly, in 2016, which call for the creation of a "cordon sanitaire" [barrier] on all levels (local, regional, national, European) vis-à-vis extremist parties, and for the adoption of a policy of "no platform" to those parties and groups in order to ensure that their influence is reduced or eliminated;

CALLS ON governments to consider taking all lawful measures at their disposal to diminish the effect of such extremist parties and groups, and, if necessary, to establish the legal framework that supports taking action against such groups posing a threat to democracy;

WELCOMES the statement of Israel's President Reuven Rivlin, contained in a letter to the Austrian Jewish community in December 2016, counseling against that community holding meetings with representatives of any extremist political parties "that demonstrate or are tainted with a history of anti-Semitism, Holocaust denial, restrictions of religious practice or the promotion of racial hatred and intolerance;"

CALLS for the careful and vigilant monitoring of both the statements and actions of such political parties and groups.