



Rappresentanza Permanente d'Italia  
OSCE

**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY THE ITALIAN DELEGATION AT THE CONFERENCE ON  
ADDRESSING ANTI-SEMITISM IN THE OSCE REGION**

Skopje, 6-7 February 2023

I am very glad to participate to this important event, marking the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the landmark 2003 Maastricht Ministerial Council Decision on Tolerance and Non-discrimination. I thank OSCE for its dedicated work to promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms and to preventing and combating all forms of intolerance and discrimination, including anti- Semitism.

I would like to add that it is a significant coincidence that this Conference organized by the Chairmanship of North Macedonia takes place here in Skopje, in a country that was tragically affected by the Holocaust, where 98% of the Jewish population was exterminated.

As Italy, we are deeply worried about the significant rise in anti-Semitic rhetoric and incidents worldwide, including in the OSCE region. Facing this worrisome trend, further exacerbated by the increasing spread of hate speech and violent online content during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Indeed, the misuse and abuse of digital technologies have unfortunately contributed to disseminating heinous anti-Semitic rhetoric and accelerated the rise of Holocaust denial and distortion.

Against this worrisome backdrop, Italy reiterates its commitment to combat the scourge of anti-Semitism in many different multilateral settings, including the United Nations, the European Union, the Council of Europe and OSCE.

In this respect, let me recall that we also put particular emphasis on the fight against antisemitism also during our 2018 OSCE Chairmanship: we opened our Presidency with a Ministerial Conference dedicated to the responsibility of States, Institutions and individuals to fight antisemitism. Since then, the OSCE Chairmanships open with a Conference on antisemitism.

As proud member of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) that we chaired in 2018, Italy also actively contributes to the fight against antisemitism by means of supporting initiatives aimed at raising awareness and at strengthening the action of States, international organizations and civil society to preserve the Memory of the Holocaust and to fight antisemitism.

Furthermore, we promote the fight against antisemitism at UE level: significant steps were the adoption of the first-ever EU Strategy on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life (October 2021) and the Council Conclusions on combating racism and antisemitism (March 2022).

Within the United Nations, let me finally recall that in January 2022 we strongly supported the General Assembly Resolution against the Holocaust denial, presented by Israel.

At the national level, Italy has adopted a national Strategy to fight Anti-Semitism. The Strategy is addressed to Italian institutions and contains specific recommendations in line with the IHRA working definition of antisemitism, in particular in the field of education.

Furthermore, among the other numerous other initiatives promoted by Italy to combat stereotypes and old and new forms of anti-Semitism, especially among young people, I would also like to mention the Guidelines against anti-Semitism in schools. Education is indeed one of the most important tool that we have to combat the spread of anti-semitism and to create peaceful and inclusive societies. The guidelines examine the main forms of contemporary anti-Semitism and suggest multidisciplinary in-depth courses for teachers and students to promote the prevention and fight against all forms of intolerance and racism, promote intercultural dialogue and respect for diversity.

In this respect, allow me, lastly, to express renewed appreciation and gratitude for the work carried out by the OSCE, and by ODIHR in particular, in combating anti-Semitism and in particular, I would like to recall once again that the translation into Italian of the ODIHR manuals for teachers against anti-Semitism was completed, which thus constitute another important tool available to Italian schools to promote knowledge and help combat anti-Semitism.

I thank you.