



---

Hügelgasse 2, A-1130, Wien | Tel.: + 43 (1) 403 13 22 | Fax: + 43 (1) 403 13 23 | E-mail: vienna@mission.mfa.gov.az

**Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan  
1174<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Permanent Council,  
01 February 2018**

*in response to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance*

Mr. Chairperson,

The Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan warmly welcomes Dr. Galizia to the Permanent Council and thanks him for his presentation.

Azerbaijan officially observes the 27<sup>th</sup> of January as a Commemoration Day of the Victims of the Holocaust. During the Holocaust Azerbaijan became one of the few shelters for Jews fleeing from this horror. The series of events held on this occasion in Azerbaijan help preserving the memory of this crime to prevent recurrence of such tragedies and represent another opportunity for the Azerbaijani society to express its solidarity with the Jewish community of the country in firmly rejecting all manifestations of ethnic hatred, intolerance and discrimination.

Azerbaijan stands for the comprehensive approach in combating these negative phenomena with a view to enhancing dialogue and mutual understanding among cultures and civilizations. In this regard, the activities of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance can have significant contribution.

The firm position of the international community with regard to condemnation of Holocaust and bringing its perpetrators to justice is exemplary for collective efforts to strengthen the rule of law in international relations. It is important to reiterate that administration of justice over cases of gross violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, providing adequate and effective reparation to victims and the need for institutional actions to prevent repetition of such violations are all necessary adjuncts to a true conflict resolution and imperative for effective and politically uncompromising system of international criminal justice. These actions are undeniable prerequisites for maintenance of international peace and security.

Unfortunately, not all grave violations of international and human rights law have received due attention and response at the international and regional levels. As a result, past wrongs left unpunished and unrecognized. Impunity for war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in the recent decades continue to impede the progress in achieving long-awaited peace and reconciliation.

It is important to provide for that peace and preventive diplomacy efforts contribute to ensuring accountability and under no circumstances tolerate or encourage the acceptance of situations

achieved by the unlawful use of force and other egregious violations of international law, such as genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing.

In this regard, ending impunity is essential not only for the purposes of prosecuting crimes and bringing those responsible to justice, but also to ensure sustainable peace and reconciliation. This should guide our discussions within the OSCE on the issues related to building trust and confidence among the participating States and should be duly taken into account by relevant structures and formats in their efforts on finding durable solution to the conflicts.

In conclusion, we once again thank our distinguished guest speaker and wish him every success in future endeavors.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson