

Seventh International Conference on Holocaust Education Shoah Education and Remembrance

Dan Tichon - Draft Opening Remarks Yad Vashem Conference, June 13th 2010, 10.00am

Good Morning, honoured guests of Yad Vashem's Seventh International Conference on Holocaust Education.

In my capacity as the Israeli Chairman of the ITF for 2010, and as the former Speaker of the Knesset of the State of Israel, it is my true pleasure to welcome you - some 200 participants from close to 40 countries- to Yad Vashem's Conference this morning.

Initiatives such as this impressive conference, focussing on "Shoah Education and Remembrance in Hindsight and in Foresight: Text and Context" and designed to bring about concrete recommendations to the ITF, are the direct result of many months of hard work and dedication of my esteemed colleagues, the members of the Israeli delegation to the ITF.

As the Stockholm Declaration clearly demonstrates, *"We must uphold the terrible truth of the Holocaust against those who deny it. We must strengthen the moral commitment of our peoples, and the political commitment of our governments."*

This conference, which will examine the reality in which some 40 countries find themselves today in terms of Holocaust remembrance, research and education, is a clear demonstration of the unswerving dedication to maintaining the values as laid out in the Stockholm Declaration over a decade ago. Having personally attended the ceremony in Stockholm this past January commemorating it's launch, prior to my assuming the ITF Chairmanship on behalf of the State of Israel, I have become increasingly aware of the crucial significance of these values in today's shifting international climate, and as such, feel that it is particularly pertinent that I stand here before you today, opening this conference. Especially in light of the fact that important issues such as the increase of holocaust denial and trivialisation on the internet and the rise in antisemitism, and above all how the ITF can best address these phenomena, remain core to the agenda of my chairmanship.

I am inspired by the dedication of so many of you, prominent decision makers from across the globe, to join forces today in the deliberation and creation of much-needed recommendations for the cementing of Holocaust Remembrance worldwide. I wish us all much success in our shared task of upholding this commitment, and wish you all a meaningful and fruitful day of discussion. Thank you.

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