



IRELAND

Statement by

Mr. Tim Mawe
Deputy Permanent Representative

at the

United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Anti-Semitism

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Check against delivery

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Mr President,

Ireland aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union.

Ireland notes with serious concern the recent rise in the number of anti-Semitic attacks worldwide. Today's discussion is both timely and important.

Ireland condemns all manifestations of racism, xenophobia and related intolerance, including anti-Semitism.

We attach great importance to combating all forms of persecution and discrimination based on race, religion or belief, and incitement to racism and religious hatred.

We firmly believe in tolerance, non-discrimination, freedom of expression, freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief.

The recent attacks in Paris, including those which specifically targeted a kosher supermarket, compel us all to intensify our efforts to combat terrorism and anti-Semitism, which threaten the principles of tolerance and co-existence upon which our societies depend.

We express our sincere condolences to the families of the victims of these attacks. The resounding solidarity of the French people in response to these events reminds us all that we share a common humanity and a common purpose: to defend and uphold the fundamental freedoms to which every human being is entitled.

Joining 1.6 million people on the streets of Paris at the Unity March on Sunday, 11 January, Taoiseach Enda Kenny said, *"Voltaire wrote that 'tolerance is the consequence of our humanity'. And today we march here in his city to defend that tolerance and humanity against the hatred and extremism that would dismantle and destroy them. In our solidarity we show the agents of such destruction that to us their actions are anathema, their propositions absurd ... In the face of terror may our humanity sustain us and renew us."*

Ireland is a proud member of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, and is committed to the Declaration of the Stockholm International Forum on the Holocaust. We continue to commemorate the millions of innocent men, women and children who perished during the Holocaust, and to teach the lessons learned from it. This weekend, the President of Ireland, Mr. Michael D. Higgins, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade of Ireland, Mr. Charles Flanagan T.D., will participate in Ireland's National Holocaust Memorial Day commemoration.

Ireland remains resolved in our commitment to combat racism, xenophobia, religious persecution and related intolerance, including all forms of anti-Semitism.

Thank you