Madame Director General,

Dear Ambassadors,

My dear friend, H.E Yossi GAL, the Israeli Ambassador to France,

Mister Eric de Rotchild,

Excellencies, dear colleagues

Yesterday the Symphonic Orchestra of Jerusalem, played here, on this stage, the 13th symphony of Shostakovich, entitled Babi Yar. Babi Yar was the place where
almost forty thousand Jews were murdered within only two days by the Nazi troops. This was only one of many massacres within the actions taken by the Nazi, causing the death of six million Jews.

I wish to send my gratitude and appreciation to those who worked hard in organizing the thematic round table today and to those who participated actively in the different activities dedicated to
international Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Holocaust Victims.

Seventy years have passed since the red army marched in to Auschwitz-Birekna and the allied forces' liberated the prisoners of the camp. Three years later the state of Israel was established, providing the Jewish people all over the world a safe home, far from anti-Semitism and persecution.
The survivors might be free but not their souls, *nor their stories and mind*. It took over 30 years for the survivors to open their hearts and tell their stories, their nightmares, their memories of the days before the raise of the Nazis and the memories after. Many of them died without telling their story. Some told stories that the human mind could not comprehend. Stories of pain and suffering.
The survivors are left only with the memories of far, almost forgotten times. They live with those memories between us. It is therefore the responsibility of each and every one of us, every person, every human being, and every state to safeguard those memories.

Sadly some countries, member states in this noble Organization, deny the saddest chapter of humanity. Ignoring the holocaust or denying it is actually a double crime: the first - disrespecting the victims.
The second – raising a whole generation that might be able to repeat the same kind of atrocities.

Teaching the holocaust and safeguarding testimonies are the main pacific tool we can use in order to ensure that the darkest time in the modern era will not have any continuation nor repetition.
2015 is a symbolic year: the Stockholm Declaration for the International Holocaust Remembrance has been reaffirmed this year by the member states who co-signed it 15 years ago. UNESCO is one of the Permanent International Partners which also reaffirmed this declaration.

They live! We have the obligation to listen, to remember and the obligation to learn from their suffering.
Holocaust survivors live also out of Israel. If they chose your country to live in, this means they trust this country to never let someone hurt them again. Not to surrender to extremism. Not to look away when power is abused. Not to stand by when actions of an anti-Semite are being carried out in our backyard.

Unfortunately, we still witness anti-Semitism in many countries. Even here, in the heart of Europe, we witnessed several
terror attacks against Jews: the kosher supermarket in Paris, the Jewish museum in Brussels last year, the shooting in the Jewish school in Toulouse three years ago and list goes on. If we don’t fight the anti-Semitism, it will remain one of the oldest and most dangerous diseases of Europe.

When one human chooses to hurt the other for his color, gender, religion or political opinions, for his or her race - for things that one is born with – we are no
longer a free world, nor do we represent a free humanity.

When we let people who harm, rape, murder to walk freely, destroying memories made in stones and bricks, made in the city, or in the desert, eliminating communities, villages, cities, heritage, cultures- that is when we become observers of the next genocide, but nothing more.
The state of Israel is the home land of the Jews. Some countries don't recognize its existence and wish to abolish it. As the Jews during the Second World War lived under permanent threat, Israel lives under the same permanent threat. During the holocaust it was the Nazi regime that asked to destroy the Jewish people and today extremism, political and religious, asks to do the same thing and destroy the state of Israel.
Ladies and gentlemen, holocaust is an important lesson to all mankind. The second world war changed the globe and right afterwards we witnessed the rise of international organizations and NGOs which were funded in order to defend the most important values. Freedom of expression, cultural diversity, mobilization of youth, tolerance, protection of heritage, the right for education and
more, all values that Israel was founded upon and cherish.

Thank you for your attention,