

FINAL CONCLUSIONS

Holocaust education and intercultural understanding in South-East Europe: renewing the “Ex-Yugoslav” Pavilion in Auschwitz-Birkenau

Second meeting of the international steering group

Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. 5 December 2012

A meeting organized within the initiative

We, participants to the international meeting “Holocaust education and intercultural understanding in South-East Europe: renewing the Ex-Yugoslav Pavilion in Auschwitz-Birkenau” (Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 5 December 2012), organized by the Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, with the support of the UNESCO Regional Bureau For Science and Culture in Europe (Venice) and the UNESCO Intersectoral Platform for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence, agree on the following:

- 1) We thank **Bosnia and Herzegovina** for hosting on 5 December 2012 this meeting of the international steering committee, organized with a view to the preparation of a joint exhibit in the Ex-Yugoslav pavilion (Block 17) in Auschwitz-Birkenau.
- 2) We take good note of the conclusions of the **static report, geotechnical report and material investigations**, as well as of the concept for the securing of the structure and rehabilitation of Block 17, commissioned by the National Fund for the Victims of National Socialism (Austria), completed in September 2012 and shared with the State Museum Auschwitz-Birkenau.
- 3) We take good note that the National Fund for the Victims of National Socialism (Austria) is to take the financial measures necessary for the works to be carried out under the provisions of the pertinent **Austrian law** (amendment to the National Fund Law, Federal Law Gazette I No. 128/2011).
- 4) The successor States acknowledge that they will need to jointly cover costs for the renovation of the exhibition area on the **first floor of Block 17**, comprising in particular measures for electricity, heating, ventilation and safety systems, to be planned in close coordination with the National Fund for the Victims of National Socialism (Austria).
- 5) The successor States agree to establish a coordinated and **regular exchange of information on existing data and available inventories and archives** (including, in particular, on list of victims) within the thematic sub working group and support the establishment of **a shared and harmonized database**, with a view to the preparation of the joint exhibit.
- 6) In this regard, each successor State agrees to appoint a focal point and to form two restricted joint working groups for
 - i) the collection of information and elaboration of a shared **database**;
 - ii) the **inventories** of available documents in relevant archives.
- 7) As a result of the discussions, successor States confirm their agreement to structure the collection of information and the elaboration of the concept of the joint exhibit around the **four following themes**: Time and Space; Victims; Perpetrators and Collaborators; Resistant. The exhibition will focus on people deported to Auschwitz, in the context of persecution policies during World War II in the territory of former Yugoslavia.

- 8) The 6 successor States agree to envisage the creation, on the basis of the joint exhibit, of a **common website** for educational purposes.
- 9) We thank the generous offer made to host the next meeting in **Skopje in March 2013**, in order to focus the discussions on the first results of the working groups, the general concept and outline of the exhibit, the use of materials and standards; we also foresee to hold another meeting in **Auschwitz-Birkenau in June 2013**.
- 10) We thank **UNESCO** for its efforts, within its global initiative “**Culture: a Bridge to Development**” and its intersectoral Platform for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence, to support the process for the renewal of the Ex-Yugoslav Pavilion in Block 17, in Auschwitz-Birkenau.