

***Statement on Remembrance Day***  
***(Sofia, 11.11.2020)***  
***Amb. Stefano Baldi***

Dear Colleagues, Dear Friends,

The Remembrance Day is an occasion to pay tribute to those who lost their lives in all wars.

The simplicity of the Ceremony this year does not mean giving less attention or less importance to the celebration of this day. We are forced by the current difficult situation to adapt our Ceremony and I am afraid that this year will remain for a long time in our collective memory.

Our strong will to gather here today despite these adverse conditions, is a clear sign of the relevance of memory. We want and we need to remember what happened in the past, the atrocities of wars and the loss of lives. We need to confirm our engagement for a peaceful world where friendship and tolerance prevail over violence and hate.

Today we have no formal prayer, but let me quote the words of a great man, Saint John Paul II, who said: *“Let us remember the past with gratitude, live the present with enthusiasm, and look forward to the future with confidence”*.

I believe that today we need to keep in mind these words more than ever before.

It is my honour to celebrate the Remembrance Day here in a cemetery that hosts the remains of people from countries, once enemies and now friends. It is a very powerful symbol.

Let us remember all those, known and unknown, who gave their life for the freedom of our people and of our countries. May they rest in peace and may we live in peace.