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**STATEMENT BY
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THE KINGDOM OF MOROCCO TO THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
IN VIENNA, AT THE THIRTY-FIRST MEETING OF THE
OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

Malta, 5 and 6 December 2024

Mr. Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It gives me particular pleasure to address my sincere congratulations to the Republic of Malta for the excellent organization of this Ministerial Council meeting, which marks the crowning achievement of a remarkable and productive year of work. I should also like to commend all the efforts of the Maltese Chairmanship of the OSCE and the Finnish Chairmanship of the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation Group for the success and smooth running of our work.

Mr. Chairperson,

During the course of the coming year we will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act, which laid the initial foundations for dialogue and co-operation between the OSCE and the Mediterranean countries by including a dedicated section on “Questions relating to Security and Co-operation in the Mediterranean”, thereby underlining the organic and inextricable link between security in Europe and in the Mediterranean.

For us all, this anniversary will offer a good occasion to evaluate the progress achieved, deal with the obstacles identified and take the necessary measures to further buttress the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. In that regard, we appreciate the long road we have travelled together, in particular the establishment of a host of important legal instruments that have paved the way for the consolidation of dialogue and co-operation, with a view to laying the foundations for comprehensive, inclusive and indivisible security in the three OSCE dimensions.

We nevertheless believe that uncertainties and persisting political tensions continue to affect the balance in today’s world, particularly in the Mediterranean region. For that reason, there is a need to take initiatives and agree on specific and bold measures to preserve the highly strategic and so indispensable Mediterranean Partnership in the interests of maintaining peace and regional and international security.

Mr. Chairperson,

Morocco's adherence to the principles of the Helsinki Final Act and its consistent and long-standing commitment to bolstering the Mediterranean Partnership with the OSCE are factors that make it incumbent on us to concentrate on the geostrategic dimension of the Mediterranean region and on the necessity of encouraging contributions to international efforts to maintain international peace and security while respecting the territorial integrity and sovereignty of States.

In that context, the Kingdom of Morocco has always sought to strengthen mutual trust by prioritizing dialogue, negotiation and co-operation in order to find realistic and lasting solutions in the framework of its Euro-Mediterranean relations. We firmly believe that this Partnership should be built on an "action platform" capable of producing ideas conducive to fostering dialogue, increasing mutual trust, strengthening co-operation and, ultimately, shoring up peace in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

Morocco has therefore always insisted that the involvement of all actors should be at the heart of this co-operation for settling regional differences by dialogue and negotiation and in a spirit of realism and compromise so as to confront the new complex challenges facing us all and the threats emerging in connection with separatism, terrorism, transnational crime, trafficking in human beings and climate change.

Mr. Chairperson,

The dialogue with the Mediterranean Partners embodied in the Helsinki Final Act has helped to create a framework for wider co-operation within the OSCE. This framework, which was strengthened with the launch of the Barcelona Process in 1995, has further confirmed the role of the Mediterranean as a key region where the issues of security, migration and development call for strong and renewed co-operation between Europe and the Southern Mediterranean countries.

By the same token, while reaffirming its attachment to the values of democracy, freedom of expression, promotion of human rights and political empowerment advocated by the OSCE, Morocco has always had a clear and lucid vision aimed at making the *Mare Nostrum* a place of convergence, cohesion, coexistence and peace.

This vision, which rests upon the implementation of a comprehensive and multidimensional strategy to respond to common challenges such as violent extremism, terrorism, radicalization and transborder crime, reflects the vital importance that Morocco accords to subregional, regional and international co-operation. We remain convinced that joint efforts are necessary to face up to the global challenges confronting us, because no country, however powerful and whatever its capacities, can address and resolve complex transnational issues on its own.

With that in mind, Morocco has hosted major international events to discuss these problems, including the Parliamentary Conference on Interfaith Dialogue in Marrakesh in June 2023, the Ninth Global Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations in Fez on 22 November 2022, and the joint meeting with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Rabat in October 2012 that led to the adoption of the Rabat Plan of Action on the prohibition of the advocacy of national, religious or racial hatred.

Mr. Chairperson,

Unfortunately, our Organization is currently having to contend with an unprecedented climate of tension, particularly in the Middle East, contrary to the aims of the founders and authors of the Helsinki Final Act, who placed a premium on dialogue and co-operation as means of consolidating peace.

Faithful to its commitment to peace, Morocco has always endeavoured to promote peaceful solutions, to encourage rapprochement between the parties and to support international initiatives aimed at establishing harmonious and sustainable coexistence in the Middle East.

In furtherance of this commitment, on 26 November 2024 His Majesty King Mohammed VI addressed a message to the Chairperson of the United Nations Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People on the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, in which he emphasized, I quote: "In light of these difficult and unacceptable circumstances from a human, legal and moral standpoint, and consistent with its usual policy in various regional and international forums, the Kingdom of Morocco reiterates the following:

First, the need for an immediate and permanent ceasefire in the Gaza Strip, and for an end [to] be put to the repeated attacks on the defenceless inhabitants of the West Bank and Al-Qods;

Second, the need to make sure that civilians are protected, that they are not targeted and that there is no further bloodshed in the entire Palestinian territories;

Third, the need to open all crossings immediately, permanently and unconditionally, without any restrictions, so as to ensure the unhindered flow, in sufficient quantities, of humanitarian and relief aid as well as medical supplies to meet the basic needs of the inhabitants of the Gaza Strip and the other Palestinian territories;

Fourth, the need to preserve, strengthen and support the role of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNWRA);

Fifth, the need to reject any displacement of Palestinian citizens and ensure full compliance with international law and international humanitarian law;

Sixth, the need to start serious, meaningful negotiations to revive the peace process, in accordance with United Nations resolutions and international legitimacy."

In the same message, His Majesty the King reaffirmed that the Kingdom of Morocco "will keep up its unstinting, customary efforts and use its influence as well as its special relationship with the parties concerned and with the influential international powers to bring about conditions conducive to a return to the negotiating table. That is the only way to put a final end to the conflict and achieve security and stability in the Middle East region." End of quote.

With its attachment to the values of peace and the virtues of dialogue, the Kingdom of Morocco continues to believe that lasting peace in the Middle East can only be achieved through a two-State solution: a Palestinian State with the borders defined in June 1967 and with East Jerusalem as its capital living side by side with an Israeli State.

Mr. Chairperson,

Morocco is firmly committed to achieving the objectives of the Helsinki Final Act, which aims to help improve mutual relations with neighbouring countries and to ensure conditions in which nations can live in peace and tranquillity, free from any threat or attack on their security.

From this platform, my country reaffirms its commitment to making a positive and substantial contribution to efforts and initiatives aimed at turning the spirit of the historic Helsinki Final Act into a continuing, increasingly viable and comprehensive process with a view to establishing a fruitful, balanced and dynamic partnership with the Euro-Mediterranean countries.

Thank you for your attention.