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**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR TAOUS FEROUKHI,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ALGERIA, AT THE MEETING
OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

10 April 2008

**In response to the presentation by the OSCE Secretary General
on the first Forum of the Alliance of Civilizations**

Mr. Chairman,

I should like to thank the OSCE Secretary General for his detailed report on the first Forum of the Alliance of Civilizations, which was held in Madrid, and for his presentation that will stimulate discussion on a possible partnership between the OSCE and this new structure, the Alliance of Civilizations.

In this regard, the Algerian delegation takes note of the innovative process of co-operation that may be envisaged with the Alliance of Civilizations. There is no doubt that a combination of the comparative advantages of the Alliance of Civilizations and the OSCE, which, as if we needed reminding, has gained considerable experience in combating racism, intolerance, xenophobia and other forms of discrimination, will help to strengthen their respective potential for promoting dialogue, respect and mutual understanding.

While not wishing to elaborate on this subject, which is of particular interest for the Algerian delegation and which will certainly be discussed within the Mediterranean Contact Group, especially in the light of the conceptual framework formulated at the Madrid meeting, to which the OSCE Secretary General also referred, this topic provides an opportunity to give further thought to sensitive issues, in particular the upsurge in Islamophobia, which is taking on worrying proportions with negative repercussions on relations between the Islamic and Western world that pose a serious threat to international peace and security.

I should like to take this opportunity to raise a question that is very much in keeping with the issues dealt with by the Alliance of Civilizations, namely Geert Wilders' film "Fitna", which continues to be circulated on the Internet. I should like to read to you the statement that I will deliver on behalf of the ambassadors of the Arab Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.