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Delegation of Morocco

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR OMAR ZNIBER
AT THE MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

14 January 2010

**In response to the address by His Excellency Mr. Kanat Saudabayev,
Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE**

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I should like first of all to associate myself with the other delegations that have spoken before me in welcoming His Excellency Mr. Kanat Saudabayev and to congratulate Kazakhstan once again on its assumption of the Chairmanship of the OSCE.

The considerable importance attached by Morocco to the Helsinki principles and our country's commitment to strengthening its relations with the OSCE will be reaffirmed this year both through its active participation in all the seminars, conferences and workshops to be held by the Organization to deal with its three dimensions – the politico-military, the economic and the human – and through its contributions to the security dialogue within the framework of the Corfu Process, with which the partners have now associated themselves following the ministerial decision on that subject.

In this context, my delegation reaffirms its readiness to contribute to this process in the form of specific proposals having to do with the strengthening of co-operative and indivisible security as part of a comprehensive approach also concerned with the Mediterranean region. On this point, my delegation would like to underscore the importance of reconfirming, within the framework of the European security dialogue and the creation of a new security architecture for Europe, the achievements of the Helsinki Final Act of 1975, which calls for the interdependence of security within the OSCE area and of security in the Mediterranean region. My delegation believes that we would be well advised to review the arrangements governing co-operation by the OSCE with its partners, to examine the relevance of those arrangements and to consider ways in which they might be updated and brought into line with the outlook for the current dialogue on European security.

My delegation supports your proposal regarding the need to follow up the work in the area of migration through the effective implementation of the Ministerial Council decision adopted in Athens on migration management, which calls for a comprehensive approach and encourages co-operation among countries of origin, transit and destination, in this way

highlighting the importance of circular migration and respect for the rights of migrants and their families.

My country also attaches great importance to the promotion of tolerance and non-discrimination as manifested with respect to Muslims, Jews and Christians. In this regard, my delegation welcomes the proposal of the Kazakh Chairmanship to organize a High-Level Conference on Tolerance and Non-Discrimination in Astana on 29 and 30 June 2010, in which representatives of governments and non-governmental organizations in the partners for co-operation and the 56 OSCE participating States would take part.

Similarly, my delegation supports the Chairmanship's proposal to organize this year a conference on the prevention of terrorism in collaboration with the Action against Terrorism Unit.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation is also pleased with the consultations held by Kazakhstan on the projects to be carried out under the Partnership Fund in 2010, and welcomes the fact that Kazakhstan has taken into consideration some of the proposals contained in the Moroccan document (PC.DEL/213/09/Rev.1) of 31 March 2009 entitled "The Future of the OSCE Mediterranean Partnership: The Moroccan Vision", notably its proposal for the establishment of a set of projects to be implemented under the Partnership Fund.

Lastly, I should like to express my delegation's firm belief that under your country's leadership the OSCE's relations with its partners will be strengthened. As regards the Mediterranean partnership, the specific initiatives drawn up during your chairmanship of the Mediterranean Contact Group attest to this fact. Allow me to cite a few of them: the seminar on self-regulation of the media or the seminar for the OSCE Mediterranean partners on tolerance and non-discrimination organized by Kazakhstan in Astana on 30 June 2009 and characterized by the participation of representatives of the Troika (Greece, Lithuania and Kazakhstan) and of the OSCE Mediterranean partners and Palestine.

As regards the expansion of the Mediterranean partnership, my delegation would like to take advantage of your presence here today to reiterate its appeal to the OSCE participating States to respond positively to Palestine's request that it be accorded the status of an OSCE Mediterranean partner. In our opinion, this would represent an important step towards expanding the OSCE's confidence-building measures in the Mediterranean region.

In conclusion, my delegation would like to restate its complete and unreserved support for a successful Chairmanship and assures you that you can count on Morocco to provide the assistance needed for a better structuring of the OSCE partnership.