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Delegation of San Marino

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR FAUSTA MORGANTI OF THE
DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SAN MARINO TO THE OSCE,
AT THE 802nd SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

8 April 2010

**On the occasion of the visit of the Secretary-General of the United Nations,
His Excellency Ban Ki-moon**

Mr. Secretary-General of the United Nations,
Mr. Chairperson-in-Office,
Mr. Secretary General of the OSCE,
Distinguished representatives,

The Republic of San Marino takes this exceptional opportunity today to welcome His Excellency Ban Ki-moon, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, on his visit to our Organization.

The United Nations is one of the OSCE's most important partners and shares with it the principles that underlie our Organization. Active and constructive co-operation between a worldwide international organization and a regional organization is designed to produce the best possible results.

In view of the extremely limited time that you shall be spending with us here today at this special meeting of the Permanent Council, San Marino would like to refer briefly to the subjects regarding which our two organizations can work together to achieve better results.

San Marino has defined, in the Council of Europe as elsewhere, its priorities: the promotion of democracy and good governance, the pursuit of intercultural and interreligious dialogue, the defence and further development of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the strengthening of co-operation among international organizations in a way that respects the mandate of each of them and avoids duplication of efforts.

Peace is based on justice and on international co-operation, both of which are vital if society is to survive and both of which are founded on moral and spiritual values, on individual freedom, on political freedom and on respect for democracy.

Terrorism is clearly one of the issues of greatest importance confronting the international community. The recent attacks in Moscow – and we associate ourselves with the

speakers who have preceded us in expressing our condolences to the families of the victims – remind us that this burden is transnational and international in nature, in the face of which we are all potential victims and to deal with which we must all become engaged in co-operation so as to wipe it off the face of the earth forever. San Marino expresses its willingness to co-operate in the extermination of this evil and to work for the prevention of terrorism and the re-education of the terrorists.

Tolerance is another subject area in which the United Nations and the OSCE can work together to foster respect for the rights of others and the acceptance of what is different. The promotion of intercultural and interreligious dialogue represents the most tangible means of advancing the values in which we believe. Our societies are becoming increasingly multicultural and multireligious, and it is essential that the new generations be educated so as to reject the intolerance, hatred and discrimination that are so deeply rooted throughout our area. San Marino can offer its own example of peaceful coexistence, based as it is on a century-old tradition of hospitality and welcoming, recalling that during the Second World War San Marino, despite its small territory, granted asylum to 100,000 persons.

The development of interreligious dialogue can in addition contribute to the prevention of conflicts and clashes and guarantee peace and justice. Education in this field is essential. The Republic of San Marino has launched, and continues to preside over, during its chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, the “Annual Exchanges on the Religious Dimension of Intercultural Dialogue”, which have now reached their third edition (the next exchange will take place on 13 and 14 September in Ohrid in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia).

Closely linked to tolerance and respect for persons is respect for the rights of women and measures to combat trafficking in human beings, which represents the new slavery of the twenty-first century. We must come together to combat this traffic at all levels: national, regional and international. In this field the work carried out by the United Nations, in particular under the GIFT programme, is closely linked to the activities conducted by the OSCE’s Office of the Special Representative for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, aimed as they are at increasing social awareness, and promoting and mobilizing the efforts of States and non-governmental organizations to eradicate human trafficking by reducing the vulnerability of the potential victims and the demand for exploitation in all forms, by ensuring the protection of and support for the victims, and by prosecuting those guilty as a means of upholding human rights.

Mr. Secretary-General,

There are a great many more points of contact between our two organizations. San Marino sincerely hopes that the international community will profit from and achieve peace through the efforts of both.