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

14 January 2010

**On the occasion of the inauguration of the Kazakh Chairmanship**

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me to wish once again all those present a happy new year, conscious as we are of the fragile nature of human happiness as made clear by the terrible earthquake that has just devastated Haiti and plunged that country into mourning. On behalf of the Algerian delegation, I should like to express to the people of Haiti our solidarity and our compassion.

I want to take this opportunity to warmly congratulate Kazakhstan on its assumption of the Chairmanship of the OSCE Permanent Council for 2010 and to wish it every success in discharging that office. I wish also to express our appreciation to the Head of State of the Republic of Kazakhstan for the inspiring message he delivered to us in his video address, a message based on the four Ts – trust, tradition, transparency and tolerance, values that we share.

I should like to take this opportunity to thank the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Kanat Saudabayev, for his statement outlining an ambitious programme of work that we hope will strengthen the OSCE's Mediterranean dimension.

In this context, I should like to return to two subjects mentioned by the Kazakh Foreign Minister: first, the fight against terrorism, and then the new European security architecture.

**The fight against terrorism**

We welcome the Kazakh Chairmanship's proposal to hold a high-level meeting in Almaty on the prevention of terrorism. The Algerian delegation hopes that the fight against terrorism will continue to be waged in a spirit of co-operation and respect, free of any stigmatization, particularly when that stigmatization is directed against countries like Algeria, which has paid a high price in its efforts to combat this transnational phenomenon, efforts that it has undertaken on its own, with great determination and, fortunately, with success.

For its part, Algeria, relying on its experience, is continuing its efforts within the framework of international co-operation with the aim of intensifying the fight against terrorism. I should like to take this opportunity to ask the OSCE to support and contribute to the establishment of an international instrument aimed at making the payment of ransoms for terrorism-related hostage-taking a criminal offence.

### **The new European security architecture**

The Kazakh Chairmanship is planning to organize an informal meeting of the foreign ministers of the participating States in Almaty this summer following the meeting held in Corfu in June 2009 under the auspices of the Greek Chairmanship of the Permanent Council, to which we should like to express our gratitude.

On this point the Algerian delegation would like to reaffirm its commitment to the indivisibility of security and to the decision adopted at the 17th OSCE Ministerial Council meeting in Athens on the Corfu Process, and in this connection to ask the Kazakh Chairmanship to expand the informal meeting of foreign ministers to include partners who, like Algeria, are affected by the informal discussions on the new European security architecture in view of its direct impact on the southern shore of the Mediterranean.

In conclusion, I should like to assure you, Mr. Chairman, of the co-operation of my delegation in strengthening the Mediterranean partnership. The Algerian delegation is ready to make its contribution to the implementation of the recommendations on the OSCE's three dimensions of security as agreed upon at the annual Mediterranean Conference in 2009, as part of the rationalization process initiated by Ambassador Kairat Abdrakhmanov, to whom I should like to pay tribute for his wise chairmanship of our Contact Group.

Permit me to express to the Ambassador of Lithuania as the new Chairman of the Mediterranean Contact Group my delegation's pleasure at the prospect of working with him in a spirit of co-operation and confidence.

Thank you.