

MC.DEL/43/18
10 December 2018

ENGLISH
Original: FRENCH

**STATEMENT BY MS. MOUNIA BOUCETTA,
SECRETARY OF STATE TO THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN
AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION OF THE
KINGDOM OF MOROCCO, AT THE TWENTY-FIFTH MEETING OF
THE OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

Milan, 6 and 7 December 2018

Mr. Chairperson,
Ministers,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I should like first of all to express my gratitude to Italy for its hospitality and the excellent organization of this Twenty-Fifth Meeting of the Ministerial Council.

As a partner country in the south of the Mediterranean, I should like to reiterate my thanks to Italy for all the attention it has paid to our region during its OSCE Chairmanship.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Our societies are undergoing major transformations and facing global and increasingly complex challenges, be it in terms of security, climate change or migration, to which we need to respond in a collective and pragmatic manner and with coherent actions in the framework of an extended and inclusive interregional approach based on the values of openness and the integration of all actors.

Peace and lasting stability in countries remain decisive priority issues. The appeals made today by all OSCE participants confirm the urgency and relevance of stepping up efforts to maintain respect for shared principles and values.

The disagreement on certain issues within the OSCE should not prevent us from collaborating and taking a common stand against the regional and global dangers that threaten our societies. It is our shared responsibility to co-operate and respond effectively to the threats lying in wait for us and holding our future hostage.

The security measures to combat terrorism and extremism will remain inadequate if they are not framed in a comprehensive and multidimensional approach that takes account of other initiatives in areas as diverse as combating propaganda or promoting genuine religious values, but beyond that if they do not attack the underlying causes of radicalization, namely marginalization, underdevelopment and the resolution of conflicts affecting our populations.

We know that transnational crime and terrorism are two sides of the same coin. The OSCE's holistic approach to security and its concept of indivisible security could contribute to the regional responses in the Mediterranean and the Sahel region.

Morocco is strongly committed to this co-operation and reaffirms its support for the OSCE's efforts to confront the risks that threaten our region.

Furthermore, the OSCE could help to develop synergies at the regional level and extend the use of its instruments to the Partners for Co-operation.

Moreover, in the framework of combating terrorism, we call for the restoration of religious, cultural, spiritual and human values and the promotion of an environment of tolerance and peaceful coexistence aimed at depriving terrorist groups of the ideological capital they exploit to justify their barbaric acts.

Regarding migration, I regret that this question is instrumentalized to such an extent and sometimes reduced to a non-constructive and often simplistic discussion that could deprive the international community of an important focus and opportunity to take a responsible and innovative approach to this highly sensitive issue for our societies and to use it as a lever to foster the emergence of a common agreement on lasting and appropriate solutions, far removed from internal and North-South tensions.

As you know, on 10 and 11 December 2018, Morocco will play host to the Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, providing for the adoption of the first reference document on this complex issue in the history of humanity.

Morocco will call for the emergence of innovative ideas and pragmatic approaches that can be transformed into specific actions and projects, going beyond measures that focus solely on the migrants themselves and addressing in particular the exacerbating element of irregular immigration, and human trafficking networks, but also the causes, including exclusion and the absence of socio-economic prospects.

Morocco will also continue to defend an approach that is not limited to the security aspect of irregular immigration but also confronts the problem in the framework of economic development.

This belief underpins the migration policy of the Kingdom of Morocco initiated by His Majesty King Mohammed VI on the basis of solidarity, responsibility and international action.

In conclusion, I should like once again to state my profound belief that dialogue within the OSCE can help us to make progress in all of these questions.

Thank you.