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**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF ALGERIA IN EXERCISE OF THE RIGHT
OF REPLY AT THE OSCE CONFERENCE ON COMBATING
DISCRIMINATION AND PROMOTING MUTUAL
RESPECT AND UNDERSTANDING**

Bucharest, 7 and 8 June 2007

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to transmit to you the text of the right of reply of the Algerian delegation in response to the allegations made by Mrs. Julie Finley, Ambassador of the United States of America to the OSCE.

I would be grateful to you if arrangements could be made to reproduce this text in full in the report that will be published on the work of the plenary session on anti-Semitism.

“The Algerian delegation wishes to express its surprise at the reaction of the representative of the United States of America, while emphasizing that it is not our intention to become involved in any controversy on matters as sensitive as those on the agenda of the Bucharest conference. The fact is that the Algerian delegation intends to take the floor during the third session on the question of attacks against Islam and Muslims.

This having been said, the Algerian delegation cannot accept the simplistic interpretation given by the Ambassador of the United States regarding the co-operation of Algeria — an OSCE partner — in which she referred only to the non-participation of my country in a seminar organized in Israel.

While I do not wish to return to this subject, which incidentally has nothing to do with the work of the Bucharest conference, I should like to recall that the considerations on which the Algerian position is based, which have been made public before the Permanent Council and the Contact Group, are well known to the United States delegation.

I should like to take this opportunity to underline the readiness of Algeria to continue its participation and co-operation in the work of the OSCE on the basis mutual understanding and respect”.