

Address by H.E. Mr. Shehab A. Madi
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To

The 12th Meeting of the
Organization of Security and
Cooperation in Europe OSCE
Ministerial Council

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Mr. Chairman

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish at the outset, to express my deep appreciation to the Bulgarian government for giving us the opportunity to meet in this magnificent venue as well as for their warm and generous hospitality.

Mr. Chairman,

I believe you have invited us, the Mediterranean countries, to be your partners for co-operation and we intend to capitalize on this partnership to achieve our common goals of peace and security. In Jordan, we believe that the OSCE remains one of the most successful organizations that join three continents in an effort to build a safer and better world. OSCE's soft power, that is its expertise in crisis prevention and post-conflict resolution, is far reaching than traditional power. Its active involvement in promoting democracy, rule of law and respect for human rights are evident examples of the achievements that could be applied in other regions of the world. Indeed, the work of the OSCE can be an example for post-conflict confidence building measures in the Middle East after a just and durable peace is achieved in our region.

We are pleased to see that the Mediterranean Dimension of the OSCE is developing so significantly to note the interest on both sides of the Mediterranean to look for possibilities for further coordinated action. It's worth mentioning here the debates at last year's Mediterranean Seminar in Aqaba-Jordan that centered on possible future framework by which the six Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation of the OSCE might best benefit from the existing OSCE experience in confidence and security building measures CSBMs, along side with what had been discussed in Sharm El Sheikh Seminar regarding the establishment of a Mediterranean Conflict Prevention Centre or a regional Code of Conduct.

Mr. Chairman,

Jordan also welcomes the initiative presented during the Sharm El Sheikh Seminar of an OSCE participation in the observation of the upcoming Palestinian elections as a good area for cooperation between the OSCE and the Mediterranean Partners. We recommend that the OSCE follow up with the concerned regional parties in order to set specific modalities for sending observers to Gaza, the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

Mr. Chairman,

Jordan believes that the OSCE-specifics in that dialogue could also make a contribution to help solve some problems in the Middle East. Unsolved problems related to intolerance, discrimination and xenophobia may give rise to a wider scale of violence.

We also emphasize on the importance to adopt education strategies for tolerance that should be implemented at all levels. Education in different forms and at several levels is one key factor when fostering tolerance and acceptance. Inter-religious dialogue could contribute to mutual understanding and enrichment and helps overcome divisions.

We commend the Permanent Representative of Finland for his excellent report on the implementation of the Permanent Council Resolution 571 which includes very comprehensive and practical methods of enhancing the future strategy of cooperation with the Partners in the outreach activities and to explore and share wider spectrum of OSCE norms, principles and commitments.

Mr. Chairman;

Fighting international terrorism entails taking measures that affect international relations, a meaningful and effective global campaign against this phenomenon requires consensus on many principles such as the respect for the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the rules of international law, and non-transgression against the sovereignty of states; striking a balance between the counter-terrorism measures taken by states and the principles of human rights and public freedoms and non-abuse of the state of emergency to justify the

counter-terrorism measures; providing a clear and specific legal definition for “terrorism” as well as for the concept of “terrorist groups”, which would not allow any justification for the commission of terrorist acts.

Jordan has suffered from terrorism repeatedly, because of its principled rational position and moderation. Jordan has also stood firmly against extremism and resort to war as means to conflict resolution. We have also participated in and supported all efforts aimed at combating terrorism. We can't win the war on terror if we don't act together. Jordan has played a significant role in the global alliance against terrorism, and more: we have led a regional effort for reform and development to counter the voices of hatred.

What we are witnessing today, though, are acts of such heinous character that are threatening to move the whole region outside the circle of humanity. We are witnessing taking of children as hostages in Russia. We are witnessing beheadings in Iraq. We are witnessing acts that are falsely committed in the name of Islam but that are labeling the whole region in a very dangerous way. And we believe in Jordan as His Majesty King Abdullah II says that the silent majority cannot stay silent anymore and cannot suffice just with mere condemnation of these acts when they occur. We have to start a countermeasure of some sort to explain to the world that this is not Islam and to explain what Islam is all about. And we feel that if we don't do that soon, we might find ourselves soon outside the circle of humanity. It is something, it is an issue that is paramount on our minds, and it's an issue that we will continue to pursue with a lot of vigor.

Mr. Chairman,

On November 9th ' 2004, Jordan launched The Amman Message which seeks to reveal a message of tolerance and humanity; it opposes extremism, exaggeration, and intransigence. These phenomena are veils against right thinking - they conceal the repercussions of one's actions, and encourage a reckless disregard for religion, reason, and civilized behavior. Indeed, Islam rejects extremism as a deviation from true faith and a form of injustice. Furthermore, it is not a trait that characterizes a particular nation; it is an aberration that has been experienced by all nations, races, and religions

The Amman Message emphasize that Islam's principles provide common ground among different faiths and peoples. The origin of divine religions is one, and Muslims believe in all messengers of God; denying the message of any of them is a deviation from Islam. This furnishes a wide platform upon which peoples of different faiths can meet together, with respect for others' ideas and faiths, and act in common in the service of human society.

Mr. Chairman

The Arab Israeli conflict is the central challenge of our day - not just in the region but around the world. It has brought untold suffering to the parties. It has held back regional development. And it is causing worldwide collateral damage - including extremist violence and a serious loss of faith in international justice.

Time has indeed come to focus more than before on re-starting the Peace Process in the Middle East on the basis of the Road Map and the terms of reference reiterated therein, including the Arab Peace Initiative and the implementation by both the Israeli and Palestinian sides of their respective obligations under it.

Thank you