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Delegation of Egypt

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF EGYPT
AT THE MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

11 January 2007

**In response to the statement by Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos Cuyaubé,
OSCE Chairman-in-Office**

The delegation of Egypt would first of all like to congratulate Spain on assuming the Chairmanship of the Organization. We are confident that this is a responsibility that Spain will exercise in an effective, balanced and fruitful manner.

Second, we should like to assure you of Egypt's firm support for the Spanish Chairmanship and the priorities set by Minister Moratinos in the three areas in which the Organization operates, and in particular for its intention to strengthen co-operation with the Mediterranean partners and to turn recommendations into practical action. We particularly support the interest Spain has demonstrated in the fight against discrimination and intolerance. Egypt believes that your idea of organizing a conference on discrimination against Islam in Cordoba during the second half of the year is very useful and comes at a most opportune time. We are counting on your efforts to develop the role of the Organization in a manner that is in keeping with the needs and priorities of the Mediterranean partners, as expressed during the Mediterranean seminar organized at Sharm El-Sheikh last November.

In this connection we should like to draw your attention to the importance that the majority of the Mediterranean States attach to the problems in the Middle East. We are very grateful to Spain for the role it has played in seeking a peaceful settlement of this conflict at the bilateral level and in other multilateral forums, and we hope that these efforts will be reflected in the activities undertaken by the Organization during your Chairmanship.

In conclusion, we must not forget to thank the Belgian Chairmanship for all its efforts to strengthen co-operation with the partners during the past year, and we wish you good luck and every success in your new tasks.