



**WELCOMING MESSAGE FROM**  
**THE SPANISH MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND COOPERATION**  
**Courtesy Translation**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the Cordoba OSCE Conference on Anti-Semitism and Other Forms of Intolerance.

From the incomparable setting of the city of Cordoba, birthplace of Maimonides, a showplace of peaceful co-existence and a traditional meeting point for cultures, we seek to cooperate in the fight against anti-Semitism and intolerance. In today's world of more heterogeneous societies, it is time to show our commitment to the values of tolerance and respect towards other people. We seek to deepen the involvement of our countries in this task, which is one that must concern all sectors of society, including the government, the country's institutions and the general public. Therein lies the importance of this Cordoba Conference, which follows on from earlier such meetings and identifies new challenges to be faced.

Both anti-Semitism and intolerance in general are evils lurking within our societies. No State and no individual can feel free from their threat. We must be watchful and by means of education and the media, promote mutual respect, tolerance, dialogue and, thus, peaceful co-existence.

Where better to express this than from Cordoba, an iconic figure of tolerance and understanding between people of different religions and cultures? From this very special setting, we support this hope-inspiring project and propose new goals to provide a meaningful boost to the fight against anti-Semitism and intolerance. Today, especially, in a world where the challenges facing us are manifold but where there are also great possibilities that have to be grasped. I trust Cordoba will serve as an inspiration for us all so that this noble undertaking may achieve the success it deserves.