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Delegation of Morocco

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AT THE 2010 OSCE REVIEW CONFERENCE**

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**Economic and environmental dimension (EED)
Session 4: Economic cluster (continued) – Migration; energy security;
the way forward**

Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Migration is a structural issue with deep-rooted causes and it must therefore be dealt with on the basis of shared responsibility and concerted joint action by the countries of origin, transit and destination. Migration management calls for a comprehensive and balanced approach with account taken of the ever widening disparities in development.

The approach taken to migration management at the international level has been based to date on three pillars, namely migration and development, facilitating regular migration and fighting illegal immigration. This approach is based on the conviction that discussion of international migration cannot be productive unless it is multidimensional in scope, taking account of the diversity of the phenomenon and within a framework of partnership that reconciles the various aspects of dealing with migration with the challenges of development and combating illegal immigration.

It has been clearly established since the Helsinki Final Act, which includes a section on “Economic and social aspects of migrant labour”, that migration has a manifest security dimension and offers enormous potential for co-operation.

The migration issue has taken on increasing importance today and fortunately the Helsinki Final Act managed to anticipate its scope and complexity by regarding it in a comprehensive way going beyond security in the strictest sense.

I shall confine my comments here to the handling of this issue within the OSCE since the subject was revived, specifically in March 2005 at the 13th Economic Forum in Prague under the Slovenian Chairmanship.

The question of migration within the OSCE

The question of migration was already a focus of attention in 1975, with a section entitled “Economic aspects of migrant labour” being devoted to it in the Helsinki Final Act.

The subject has been discussed intensively again in the OSCE since 2005, when the 13th Economic Forum in Prague under the Slovenian Chairmanship in March of that year was devoted to migration. This was followed by the OSCE Mediterranean Seminar on migration and integration held in Rabat on 8 and 9 September 2005 and Ministerial Decision No. 2/05 of 6 December 2005 adopted at the Ministerial Council in Ljubljana.

In 2006 a ministerial statement was adopted under the Belgian Chairmanship (MC.DOC/6/06 of 5 December 2006) encouraging OSCE institutions and structures “to continue their work on migration and integration issues in all three dimensions, in particular on the potential contribution of migration to sustainable development and co-development; promoting integration with respect for cultural and religious diversity; addressing forced migration while respecting relevant international legal obligations, and combating illegal migration as well as trafficking in human beings and the exploitation, discrimination, abuse and manifestation of racism directed towards migrants, with special attention to women and children; and facilitating dialogue, partnership and co-operation between the OSCE participating States and the Partners for Co-operation on migration-related issues.”

Since then, migration has been discussed at all the annual Mediterranean Conferences and seminars, from the seminar at Sharm el-Sheikh in 2006 to the annual Mediterranean Conference held in Malta last week (14 and 15 October 2010).

In addition, the OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum held in Athens from 17 to 20 May 2009 maintained the continuity and made migration management one of the priorities of the Greek OSCE Chairmanship, leading to the adoption in December 2009 by the Ministerial Council in Athens of Decision No. 5/09 on Migration Management.

Through this decision, as my delegation has stressed on several occasions, the ministers of the 56 OSCE participating States undertook to elaborate and implement an effective migration management policy as part of a comprehensive approach (link between migration and development, facilitating regular migration and fighting illegal immigration). The decision underlined the need to improve data collection on migration in order to facilitate dialogue and the exchange of best practices, foster partnership and co-operation between countries of origin and destination by facilitating legal migration schemes such as circular migration and other forms of voluntary labour mobility programmes, for the benefit of the development of countries of origin and destination, respect the human rights of migrants and increase efforts to combat discrimination, intolerance and xenophobia towards migrants and their families.

I should also like to take this opportunity to welcome the important contribution made by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly to consideration of the migration issue and recall by way of example its Resolution on Recognizing the Economic, Cultural, Political and Social Contributions of Migrants adopted in Astana in 2008, whose recommendations include engaging “in actions to commemorate the positive economic, cultural, and social contributions to both countries of origin and destination by migrant communities, such as introducing legislation, speaking out against antimigrant sentiments in their parliaments.”

Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Migration is a priority item on the agenda of the Kazakh Chairmanship and on the agendas of the three review conferences leading up to the Summit (Warsaw, Vienna and Astana).

As part of the Corfu Process, the revised food-for-thought paper entitled “Enhancing the role of the OSCE on migration issues, for the benefit of security and stability in the OSCE area” (PC.DEL/487/10/Rev.2) and the document “Migration Issues Network terms of reference” (PC.DEL/487/10/Rev.2/Add.1), both dated 13 October 2010 and presented by the delegations of Greece, Slovenia, Malta, Serbia and Cyprus, contained several elements confirming the outlook and approach taken by Morocco with regard to migration management, based on migration and development, facilitating new forms of regular migration and fighting illegal immigration.

These documents nevertheless contain questionable elements that are in conflict with OSCE Ministerial Decision No. 5/09 on Migration Management. Whereas illegal migration is generally regarded at the international level as a collective challenge, these documents describe it as a transnational threat, suggesting that there is a potential link between illegal immigration, radicalism, extremism and terrorism. To quote paragraph 3 on page 2 of document PC.DEL/487/10/Rev.2: “Illegal migration, in particular, is generally perceived as the most dangerous part of migration flows and a transnational threat, due to its uncontrolled character. The possible link between illegal migration and extremism and radicalization should not be ignored. Also, possible links with terrorism and trafficking (human beings, drugs, weapons) should not be ignored.”

Illegal migration should not be described as a “threat” but as a collective challenge, given that the main objective should be to identify forms of development co-operation that would offer valid alternatives to illegal migration by way of measures fostering development and at the same time by combating organized international networks that threaten to ensnare potential migrant workers in illegal networks and rings or in trafficking in human beings.

Alongside police and judiciary co-operation it would be useful in confronting this scourge to advocate measures that comprehend the entire chain: combating criminal networks, identifying and assisting victims, particularly women and children, integration or reintegration of victims in the country of destination or origin, and legal proceedings against traffickers and smugglers.

Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

The repressive and narrow-minded view of migration that makes foreigners into scapegoats as a way for extremist parties to attract votes needs to be strongly condemned. This view, which comes particularly to the fore during crisis periods, reinforces a popular conception shaped by negative and alarmist forces who talk of a migrant “invasion”, whereas in reality migrants represent barely 3 per cent of the world population, no more than the number recorded at the beginning of the last century. Likewise, all attempts to link migration,

even illegal migration, directly or indirectly with extremism, radicalism or terrorism are to be rebutted.

I should like to emphasize that apart from the security aspects, the issue of migration is above all a consequence of economic imbalances that affect relations in particular between the countries on either side of the Mediterranean. The undesirable effects of migration can best be countered and controlled through economic development and reducing imbalances.

For other reasons and according to the estimates of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), in the year 2050, the number of people who will be obliged to move because of changes in the climate or deterioration of the environment could amount to tens or even hundreds of millions – hence the need for further consideration and more targeted work to confront these challenges.

In its capacity as a Mediterranean Partner for Co-operation, the Kingdom of Morocco will continue to make a positive contribution in the framework of the platform for dialogue on migration that the OSCE is proposing to establish in order to implement the Ministerial Declaration on migration adopted in Brussels and the Ministerial Declarations adopted in Ljubljana and Athens in the spirit of the Rabat conference, which calls for a comprehensive, balanced and concerted approach to migration management.

In this regard, the Ministerial Decision on Migration Management adopted in Athens could serve as a basis for a mandate to create the permanent discussion platform that the delegation of Morocco has been demanding for several years within the Mediterranean Partnership made up of experts from OSCE participating and partner States and the relevant OSCE institutions in co-operation with competent organizations, with an annual meeting to follow up the above-mentioned Decision and in particular to study the following aspects:

- Examination of the means required for effective migration management as part of a comprehensive approach without understating or placing too much emphasis on the security dimension.
- Establishment of a long-term vision of migration management by way of a balanced approach taking account of the demographic pressures in certain OSCE participating and partner States and the population decline in a large number of participating States and also bearing in mind the fact that the policy by destination countries of turning inward ignores the medium- and long-term needs of the economies of the industrialized countries and demographic trends that clearly show that without immigration the working-age population in developed countries will decrease by 23 per cent by the year 2050 while the working-age population in Africa for example will triple, going from 408 million in 2005 to 1.12 billion in 2050.
- Strengthening of confidence-building measures in the OSCE's migration management work, for example by conducting awareness-raising campaigns in the OSCE area on the contribution of migrants to development in the host country so that integration policies are properly understood and accepted by all citizens, and also to counteract migrant stereotypes.
- Assistance to States to ensure that effective integration policies include respect for cultural and religious diversity and promotion and protection of human rights and

fundamental freedoms, which are vital to the promotion of stability and social cohesion.

- Promotion of the exchange of good practice regarding new forms of migration (seasonal, temporary, circular). In this regard, my delegation welcomes the publication by the OSCE in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and International Labour Organization (ILO) of the Handbook on Establishing Effective Labour Migration Policies in Countries of Origin and Destination and the Handbook on Establishing Effective Labour Migration Policies, Mediterranean edition, which was presented during the seminar organized by the OSCE in Rabat on 12 and 13 December 2007.
- Prevention of illegal migration by ramping up transborder co-operation and combating the trafficking of migrants.
- Development of tools (handbooks for the media, schools and universities) on this issue by the OSCE (Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, office of the Co-ordinator of Economic and Environmental Affairs, office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media) in collaboration with relevant international organizations and institutions.
- Conduct and/or presentation of research on the effectiveness of financing training in the countries of origin to enable them to respond to the needs of the labour migrant destination countries in the light of the growing phenomenon of population ageing in the OSCE area.
- Incentives and awareness-raising to redirect migrant savings and investments through a partnership with banks with a view to development in the countries of origin, particularly in the regions from which illegal migration originates.

Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

In conclusion, it would be useful if the Astana Summit documents (declaration and/or action plan) were to provide the necessary stimulus for dealing with this issue, which is so important not only from the point of view of the participating States, of course, but also in the framework of the Partnership, given the fact that migration management has been identified as one of the main priorities of co-operation with the OSCE Partners.

The dialogue and discussion that have taken place in the last few years within the OSCE have already provided us with important elements and guidelines for work that should enable us to identify a common structure to frame our discussion and define specifically and in detail the objectives to be achieved with a view to managing migration so as to enhance stability, security and development.