

PC.DEL/558/06  
13 June 2006

ENGLISH only

**ALMATY TOLERANCE IMPLEMENTATION MEETING ON PROMOTING  
INTER- CULTURAL, INTER-RELIGIOUS AND INTER-ETHNIC DIALOGUE.**

**SPANISH STATEMENT**

**SPAIN FULLY SUBSCRIBES TO THE STATEMENT MADE BY AUSTRIA ON  
BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION. AT THE SAME TIME, GIVEN THE  
IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO THIS EVENT WE HAVE DECIDED TO  
INTERVENE ON OUR NATIONAL CAPACITY.**

**FIRST OF ALL WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE BELGIUM CIO, THE  
SECRETARIAT, THE INSTITUTIONS AND, PARTICULARLY, OUR KAZAKH  
HOSTS FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF THIS MEETING. THE PRESENCE OF  
PRESIDENT NAZARBAYEV IN ITS INAUGURATION IS A CLEAR SIGNAL OF  
THE IMPORTANCE KAZAKHSTAN GIVES TO THE ISSUES OF TOLERANCE,  
RESPECT AND NON DISCRIMINATION, AS BEFITS A COUNTRY WITH A  
REMARKABLE TRADITION OF INTER-ETHNIC AND INTERCULTURAL  
DIALOGUE AND, AS WE SAY IN A UNIVERSAL SPANISH WORD,  
*CONVIVENCIA*.**

**THIS MEETING IS, THEREFORE, ANOTHER SIGNIFICANT STEP FORWARD IN  
THE INCREASING PARTICIPATION OF OUR HOST COUNTRY IN THE OSCE.  
WE SINCERELY HOPE THAT ITS CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS  
WILL PAVE THE WAY FOR A FRUITFUL DEVELOPMENT OF THE HUMAN  
DIMENSION UNDER OUR CIO NEXT YEAR.**

**INDEED, SPAIN ATTACHES A GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE TOLERANCE, RESPECT AND NON DISCRIMINATION ACTIVITIES OF OUR ORGANIZATION. A YEAR AGO, ALMOST DAY BY DAY, WE WERE MEETING IN CORDOBA. FOLLOWING ON THE WORK ALREADY DONE IN PREVIOUS CONFERENCES, THE CORDOBA DECLARATION WAS A MEETING POINT FOR THE DIFFERENT APPROACHES TO THE ISSUES WE ARE NOW DISCUSSING. IT ALSO PROVIDED US WITH A FRAMEWORK FOR OUR CONTINUOUS WORK IN OUR COMMON EFFORT TO FACE THE THREATS OF INTOLERANCE AND DISCRIMINATION IN OUR INCREASINGLY DIVERSE SOCIETIES. PRECISELY, WE THINK THAT THE WAY WE DEAL WITH THE CONCEPTS AND REALITIES OF DIVERSITY AND PARTICIPATION IN PLURALISTIC SOCIETIES IS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE FOR ALL THE OSCE PARTICIPATING STATES. WITH YOUR HELP WE WOULD LIKE TO GIVE TO THIS TOPIC A SPECIAL ATTENTION DURING OUR INCOMING CHAIRMANSHIP. WE THINK THAT A SHARING OF OSCE EXPERIENCES AND BEST PRACTICES IN THIS FIELD WOULD BE AN INTERESTING AND USEFUL EXERCISE.**

**IN THIS CONTEXT, WE ARE GRATEFUL TO THE BELGIUM CIO, TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL AND TO THE PARTICIPATING STATES AND PARTNERS FOR COOPERATION FOR THE IMPORTANCE THEY ARE ATTACHING TO THE INITIATIVE OF THE ALLIANCE OF CIVILIZATIONS. AS YOU KNOW, LAST YEAR THE LJUBLJANA MINISTERIAL MANDATED THE SG IN COOPERATION WITH PARTICIPATING STATES TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TO THE UN ON THIS INITIATIVE. THIS WORK IS ALREADY WELL ADVANCED. WE ALSO HOPE THAT THIS MEETING WILL PROVIDE US WITH SOME ADDITIONAL INSIGHTS TO DEMONSTRATE THAT THE OSCE IS ALREADY AN ALLIANCE OF CIVILIZATIONS AT WORK.**

**LET ME FINALLY CONCLUDE WITH SOME LITERARY REFERENCES. JORGE LUIS BORGES, THE ARGENTINIAN WRITER, USED TO SAY THAT HUMAN HISTORY IS A GARDEN OF FORKING PATHS, ALWAYS SEPARATING AND ALWAYS CONVERGING IN THE XIII CENTURY, TWO SUFI POETS, IBN ARABI IN SPAIN AND AHMED YASAWI IN KAZAKHSTAN MERGED THEIR PATHS AND, WITHOUT KNOWING EACH OTHER, FROM THE TWO EXTREMES OF OUR COMMON EURASIAN HOME, THEY BOTH WROTE IN VERY SIMILAR TERMS ABOUT THE UNIVERSAL VALUES OF RESPECT AND TOLERANCE. THANKS TO THE OSCE AND TO OUR KAZAKH HOSTS THEIR WORDS STILL RESONATE WITH US. LET US CARRY THEIR LEGACY FORWARD.**

**THANK YOU.**