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STATEMENT BY TUNISIA AT THE FOURTEENTH MEETING OF THE OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

Brussels, 4 and 5 December 2006

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Tunisian delegation, I should like first of all to congratulate the Belgian Chairmanship on the excellent organization and success of the Fourteenth Ministerial Council and to thank the OSCE for giving us the opportunity to share with the participating States our thoughts on the future relations between the OSCE and the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation (MPC) with a view to making this partnership even richer and more human.

While we agree on the identification of the risks and challenges and the definition of the concepts and approach to security, we are still seeking suitable instruments for co-operation between the OSCE and the MPC that will establish a comprehensive partnership with a balance between the security and development agendas. This calls for a review of the approach to and substance of the co-operation and the establishment of a working basis that takes account of the common concerns and specific features of the region. A mechanism in the form of an OSCE/MPC monitoring committee would provide an appropriate framework for joint reflection and action.

The growing interdependence between security in Europe and the Mediterranean calls for an active, cohesive and comprehensive partnership capable of:

- Elaborating a framework for continuous dialogue and regular consultation to ensure widespread co-operation in matters of common strategic interest,
- Ensuring regular participation by the MPC in all OSCE institutions,
- Strengthening the Mediterranean dimension of the OSCE,

with a view to being able to act effectively together to meet the demands of our peoples.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.