

English translation

**STATEMENT BY MONSIGNOR MICHAEL W. BANACH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE HOLY SEE,
AT THE 763rd PLENARY MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

4 JUNE 2009

**RE: REPORT BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL ON THE “OSCE
CONTRIBUTION TO THE IMPLEMENTATION PHASE OF THE
ALLIANCE OF CIVILIZATIONS INITIATIVE”**

Madam Chairwoman,

1. The Delegation of the Holy See joins previous speakers in thanking the Secretary General for his report on the “OSCE Contribution to the Implementation Phase of the Alliance of Civilizations.”

2. My Authorities have attentively studied the aforementioned report and my Delegation has equally followed with attention the statements of the previous Delegations, the majority of which have expressed the desire to see a greater involvement of this Organization with the Alliance of Civilizations.

In this regard, it is important to note that any future relationship with the Alliance of Civilizations should not increase the current OSCE budget. Practically speaking, as the Secretary General himself has suggested, contacts could be maintained through the respective Secretariats, considering the appropriateness of participating in the more important meetings of the Alliance of Civilizations.

In any event, these relations should take place within the framework agreed upon at the last Ministerial Meeting in Helsinki: an eventual co-operation in specific projects, in areas of common interest and mutual benefit. Preferably, this co-operation should be undertaken in an informal way. The choice of possible projects should be decided by the Permanent Council.

3. My Delegation will continue to follow the discussions on the Alliance of Civilizations within our Organizations.

Thank you, Madam chairwoman.