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**STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY CLAUDE GIORDAN, HEAD OF
THE DELEGATION OF MONACO, AT THE FIFTEENTH MEETING
OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

Madrid, 29 and 30 November 2007

Mr. Chairman,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Like all of the speakers before me, I wish first of all to thank the Spanish Chairmanship for the quality of its work and for the excellent hospitality we have been accorded here in Madrid.

For very small States like Monaco, international organizations are privileged places where they feel that their sovereignty is fully recognized and that they are officially on an equal footing.

However, beyond the affirmation of our desire to share wholeheartedly the values of the OSCE, we should like to be appreciated within the Organization for providing concrete and targeted support.

It is for this reason that Monaco wishes above all to develop specific co-operation projects with the Organization to the extent that our resources permit in areas we have chosen.

The year 2007 thus marks the effective start of our involvement in supporting the OSCE's efforts to combat trafficking in human beings, especially with regard to the protection of children. This is in fact a major component of our work within international organizations, which is backed in particular by the involvement of our civil society.

The Principality welcomes the work already undertaken with Ms. Eva Biaudet, the OSCE Special Representative for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings. It was both an honour and a pleasure to receive a working visit from her.

I can assure you that my country has made a long-term commitment in this area.

The protection of the environment is another area where Monaco would like to focus its efforts. To that end, the Principality will be hosting a United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) session in February 2008.

I have no doubt that it will be possible in the future to co-operate here too with the OSCE on the basis of specific projects.

In addition to these initiatives, we shall of course join any consensus that the OSCE achieves to foster the positive development of the Organization and promote its values. Specifically, I refer to:

- The efforts being made to give the Organization an international legal personality, which would constitute a significant step towards the provision of better support for its field activities;
- A draft decision on combating the sexual exploitation of children on the Internet.

Monaco will also support all of the decisions adopted on combating terrorism and international crime. This is unfortunately an area where all States, regardless of their size, are potentially affected and threatened; we must therefore ensure that we do not become a weak link within the essential international co-operation that is taking shape in this area. We are and will remain totally committed to these efforts.

Lastly, Monaco particularly welcomes the efforts made to reach consensus on the question of the future chairmanships of the Organization. We believe that when a State sits among us, it has both:

- The duty to make progress in the implementation of the OSCE standards;
- The right to exercise all responsibilities there.

This is why we shall support any solution that would enable Kazakhstan to assume the Chairmanship of the OSCE as soon as possible.

I shall conclude by assuring the incoming Finnish Chairmanship of our support and availability.

Thank you for your attention.