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PRANË ORGANIZATAVE
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PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
TO THE INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS

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S T A T E M E N T

**by Ambassador Gilbert Galanzhi
on the Report of the Secretary General
on “OSCE Contribution to the Implementation Phase of the Alliance of
Civilizations Initiative”,
at the 763th meeting of Permanent Council**

Vienna, 4 June 2009

Thank you Madame Chairperson,

Albania aligned its self with the statement maid by the EU, but I would like to add few words in my national capacity.

The Albanian delegation would also like to thank the Secretary General for his report on the outcome of the Second Forum of the Alliance of Civilizations, held in Istanbul on 6 and 7 April 2009.

As a member of the Group of Friends, Albania is energetically engaged with the action of the United Nations to turn the Alliance of Civilizations into an effective mechanism of fostering the culture of peace, cohabitation and mutual understanding among peoples and civilizations.

The Government of Albania has already in place the whole infrastructure for the implementation of the Alliance goals. It has adopted the Strategy on the Inter-Cultural Dialogue and the Two-Year Plan, as well as an Inter-Ministerial

Committee which will enable the materialization of these two essential documents.

In keeping with the spirit of this Strategy and the Work Platform adopted at the Madrid Forum, the Government of Albania hosted in Tirana, on 16 January 2009, the Forum of the Inter-Faith Dialogue for South East Europe. Through a Joint Declaration, the representatives of the Governments of South East Europe committed themselves to the further improvement of relations among our communities and peoples, to the benefit of fostering harmony and inter-connection, free from prejudices, stereotypes and inter-faith misunderstandings.

According to Albania's vision, the Alliance of Civilizations is a tangible reality. The principles of this Initiative are a natural part-and-parcel of the patrimony of the Albanian world, which relies on a valuable and long-term harmonious cohabitation amongst the major existing faiths, alongside the whole ancient and modern history.

We strongly believe that the Alliance of Civilizations and the OSCE share common values and commitments, especially in the field of tolerance and non-discrimination. Albania believes that OSCE should continue to cooperate with the Alliance of Civilizations and other international and regional organizations involved in the "battle" for dialogue and peace among civilizations.

Thank you Madame Chairperson!