



## **United States Mission to the OSCE**

# **Response to the Report on the 2006 Mediterranean Seminar**

As delivered by Ambassador Julie Finley  
to the Permanent Council, Vienna  
January 25, 2007

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

The United States thanks the Government of Egypt for hosting the Mediterranean Seminar and providing such fine organization and such warm hospitality. We appreciate the strong interest – an ongoing interest - the Government of Egypt has shown in this partnership process.

The United States is confident that rotation of the seminar is important to raise the level of interest in and knowledge of the OSCE within Partner States. In addition, we think it allows participants from participating States to gain a better understanding of the unique perspective of each Partner State, and we support this practice.

The United States believes the OSCE partnership process can promote further cooperation, build mutual understanding and confidence between participating and Partner States in order to deal with common threats to security and stability. We applaud wholeheartedly the Spanish efforts to intensify this partnership.

At the November 2006 Mediterranean Seminar, the United States suggested three priority areas for cooperation, counter-terrorism, the management of multi-ethnic societies and strengthening democratic institutions and practices, three fields in which we believe both participating States and Partners have a strong interest. These fields also reflect areas in which the OSCE has particular expertise. We look forward to tangible dialogue and cooperation on these topics - and others of common interest - throughout the year.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.