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

S T A T E M E N T

by Ambassador Gilbert Galanxhi in response to the
Head of OSCE Mission in Kosovo, Ambassador Tim Guldemann
698th OSCE Permanent Council
Vienna, 24 January 2008

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

Please allow me Mr. Ambassador Guldemann that on behalf of the Albanian Government to express the deepest gratitude and thanks for the excellent and difficult work the OSCE Mission in Kosova has done and is doing. It is one of the best examples which illustrate the fundamental existence meaning of the OSCE as a whole. More than ever, your everyday efforts and commitment serve the Security and Cooperation, not only in the region, but also in Europe.

The Albanian Government remains in full support of the continuation of the mandate of the OSCE Mission in Kosova, with the aim and belief that it is the people of Kosova, be them Albanians, Serbs or other minorities, who directly benefit. The Albanian Government also believes that the universal right of self-determination through free and fair democratic election process is fully applicable in Kosova's case. There is no justification to draw parallel comparisons with other cases, because this does not contribute for the solution of the problem, but on the contrary creates confusion, uncertainty and hopeless situations. We are fully convinced that the

solution of the final status for Kosova and the implementation of Ahtisaari package will produce long-term Stability, long-term Security and long-term Cooperation in the region and beyond; because we believe that this package is SMART:

S – for Specific

M - for Measurable

A – for Achievable

R – for Realistic

T – with well-stated Time boundaries

Mr. Chairman,

The Albanian nation has given the world a very special and precious gift, Mother Theresa, the symbol of Hope, Nobility and Tolerance. Let's view the future with optimism and hope!

My Government sticks to the idea that the only well-thought and long term solution is a democratic Serbia and a democratic independent Kosova, both of them integrated in the EU. History has provided us with good examples which can easily serve as a model for the establishment of future relationships between these two countries.

It is true that we all have feelings, emotions and an historical background. In many cases this is an advantageous element; just as it is also true that in many cases it can be a hindering element because all people believe in what they perceive. And what happens is that instead of looking forward with optimism, we move backwards in confusion. It is also very true that we have a Reality there in Kosova: some may like it, some may love it as well as some may disagree with it. But the fact is that it is there. There are people living there their own daily life and they want to live in peace and freedom. Isn't this the driving force of the history of civilization, which made the human society progress from slave ownership to democratic societies and systems?

Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished Ambassador Guldemann,

Allow me to conclude by assuring you that the Government of Albania will continue to be a very constructive factor in the region. We have shown this in the recent past and we are fully committed to be very supportive to the initiatives undertaken by the OSCE and specifically by the OSCE Mission in Kosova.

We wish you the very best of success and we remain hopeful and optimistic that your presence in Kosova will be considered positively by all Participating States.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.