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**STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY AMBASSADOR OMAR ZNIBER  
OF THE KINGDOM OF MOROCCO AT THE FOURTEENTH  
MEETING OF THE OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

Brussels, 4 and 5 December 2006

Mr. Chairman,

Permit me to congratulate you on the excellent organization of this Ministerial Conference, which is taking place as your greatly appreciated mandate comes to an end — a mandate distinguished by the determined commitment of Belgium to strengthen the OSCE's Mediterranean partnership.

Morocco's reaffirmed interest in the OSCE has been illustrated again this year both through its active involvement in the work of the Organization and through its setting of political priorities at the national and international level.

Morocco has confirmed its irreversible choice in favour of democratization by finalizing the establishment of democratic institutions that respect the universal values of freedom and justice and that are open to the outside world.

These efforts gained particular recognition in 2006 through the publication and presentation of the final report of the Equity and Reconciliation Commission, which marked a watershed in the establishment of the primacy of human rights.

This Commission has proposed many reforms concerning justice, human rights education, a greater role for the media and civil society's contribution to the strengthening of democratic values and fundamental freedoms.

As the guardian and guarantor of these rights and freedoms, His Majesty King Mohammed VI has involved Morocco in an intense process of reform with a view to ensuring sustained and lasting human development by building a modern democratic society open to today's world and convinced of the need for dialogue between civilizations and cultures.

These are the fundamental principles which inspire and guide Morocco in its contacts with the OSCE and in all activities intended to strengthen the Mediterranean partnership.

Mr. Chairman,

In this regard, I should like to mention some important initiatives undertaken by Morocco in view of the need to develop the Mediterranean partnership.

In the light of the questions of security in the Mediterranean region, Morocco welcomed the meeting of the North Atlantic Council with the political directors of NATO's Mediterranean Dialogue in April 2006. The aim of this meeting, which was the first of its kind to be held in a country on the southern shore of the Mediterranean, was to strengthen dialogue between NATO and the members of the Mediterranean Dialogue through implementation of the decision of the NATO Istanbul summit of 2004 and through the development of specific co-operative action to deal with the emergence of new threats and challenges to security and stability in the region, such as terrorism, organized crime and, in particular, trafficking in human beings.

In the wake of that meeting, Morocco hosted the first meeting of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism in October 2006. Launched at the G8 summit in St. Petersburg in July 2006, this initiative is intended to examine ways and means of combating nuclear terrorism.

The OSCE cannot remain indifferent to this subject either; we are convinced that it will not fail to accord it the necessary attention.

As regards the economic dimension of the partnership and in conformity with the policy it has pursued for several years, Morocco has hosted a number of meetings dealing with the development and strengthening of the EuroMed process. In this connection, it is worth emphasizing again the ever more urgent nature of the question of bridging the economic gulf and the imbalances that separate the two shores of the Mediterranean, if only to be able to ensure the security and stability that are our common objective.

It is with that in mind that Morocco also gave strong support to the Agadir initiative, intended to develop as much as possible the economic and commercial relations between the countries of the southern shore of the Mediterranean, as evidence of their involvement in the creation of a space for co-operation, security and stability.

Morocco, which sees the creation of a *grand Maghreb* as one of its main priorities, is today weighing up the threats hanging over this region, which so needs security, peace and co-operation among its members in order to avoid the intensification of such threats and to ensure that they are dealt with successfully.

Mr. Chairman,

It is on the basis of these clear and specific ideas that Morocco has been resolutely involved in recent years in strengthening the OSCE's Mediterranean partnership.

This has been illustrated by our delegation's numerous proposals. On questions concerning the basis and substance of expanding co-operation, Morocco has formulated specific suggestions to deal with migration and development. It has also encouraged the work of the three Personal Representatives of the Chairman-in-Office on combating intolerance and all forms of discrimination.

We believe that these subjects are in need of attention and that the participating States of the OSCE should more willingly implement the numerous recommendations pertaining to these issues.

There are important events ahead of us in 2007 and I should like to make particular reference to the conferences to be held on the subject of tolerance which, we hope, will support the project of the Alliance of Civilizations, for which we have high expectations, especially from the point of view of its impact on the revival of the Middle East peace process, a region to which Morocco accords decisive importance and whose stability and security is no less crucial for the entire Mediterranean region.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, my delegation would like to reiterate its intention to continue engaging in the fullest possible co-operation with a view to consolidating and strengthening the Mediterranean partnership within the OSCE.

While congratulating the Belgian Chairmanship on its dynamism and enthusiasm, we should like to encourage the Spanish Chairmanship, which we also congratulate on the quality of the work undertaken in the Contact Group this year, to continue in this positive vein so as to achieve concrete results through partnership and in close collaboration with the Finnish delegation, which is to chair the Contact Group in 2007.

Thank you for your attention.