

STATEMENT ON THE 2008 UNIFIED BUDGET

As delivered by Ambassador Guttorm Vik to the Permanent Council, Vienna 21 December 2007

Mr. Chairman,

Like others, the Norwegian delegation also regrets that the participating states were not able to agree on the budget in time. We have just heard the able Finnish Chair of ACMF explain very clearly the serious consequences of this unfortunate situation. We also deeply regret that there is no consensus on the scale of contributions for 2008-2010.

As we have stated during the budget discussion, we are ready to accept the budget proposal as presented by the Secretary General, since we believe it all in all reflects the priorities and tasks set by the decision making bodies of this organisation. We are also satisfied with the information and explanations provided by the Secretariat during the budgetary process. We would urge all participating states to spare no effort to come to a speedy agreement on these important matters.

I would like to thank the Spanish chairmanship as well as the Finnish Chairmanship of the ACMF for their tireless efforts to achieve a positive result in time.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman