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Delegation of Morocco

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF MOROCCO AT THE
MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

17 February 2011

**In response to the respective statements by the
United States Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism,
Ms. Hannah Rosenthal, and the Department of State's
Special Representative to Muslim Communities, Ms. Farah Pandith**

Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I should like first of all to thank the United States Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism, Ms. Hannah Rosenthal, and the Department of State's Special Representative to Muslim Communities, Ms. Farah Pandith, for their admirable work in combating discrimination against Jews and Muslims.

In reiterating my country's condemnation of all forms of intolerance and discrimination, I should like to express the growing concern of the Kingdom of Morocco regarding the tendency towards the isolation of communities and, specifically, the development of Islamophobia in the OSCE area.

In view of its profound conviction that the question of combating manifestations of discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance is indivisible and that the various manifestations must therefore be combated with equal determination, my delegation reiterates its proposal that a declaration or decision on combating Islamophobia should be adopted by the OSCE following the example of the declaration on combating anti-Semitism adopted at the OSCE conference held in Berlin in 2004, and Permanent Council Decision No. 607 on Combating Anti-Semitism (PC.DEC/607 of 24 April 2004), so as to give the necessary impetus to the Organization's activities in this area.

Furthermore, any OSCE strategy on cyber security must take into account the importance of combating the incitement of hate crimes via the Internet and of combating intolerance and discrimination, including efforts to combat the Islamophobia that results from generalizations, prejudices and stereotypes regarding Muslims and Islam.

Ms. Farah Anwar Pandith, I should like to mention that you visited Morocco from 4 to 7 June 2010 as a special guest at the Fez Festival of World Sacred Music (a highly symbolic cultural demonstration to promote dialogue among peoples and civilizations) and

that you held talks with Mr. Taïb Fassi Fihri, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, with Mr. Ahmed Abbadi, the Secretary General of Morocco's Rabita Mohammadia des Ouléma, and with Mr. Ahmed Kostas, the Director of Islamic Affairs in the Ministry of Habous and Islamic Affairs.

I should like to wish you, Ms. Pandith, every success in your mission aimed at creating a dialogue with civil society and with the broadest spectrum of Muslims so as to establish partnerships for the long term and not only during periods of crisis, as you rightly emphasized in Morocco.

I should also like to pay tribute to Ms. Hannah Rosenthal, the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism, who has on various occasions underscored the considerable contribution made to American society by Muslims at all levels.

I should like to highlight the deep roots of Moroccan Judaism and the peaceful coexistence of different cultures and religious confessions in Morocco, characterized by mutual respect, and to recall in this regard the visit paid to Morocco from 2 to 5 November 2007 by Professor Gert Weisskirchen, the former Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Combating Anti-Semitism.

Lastly, I should like to take this opportunity to commend the remarkable work carried out by the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and to pay tribute to the personal representatives (past and present) of the Chairperson-in-Office for combating discrimination and intolerance against Christians, Muslims and Jews respectively. These representatives must be provided with the necessary resources to deal with the challenges facing them.