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Statement by Tomás Rodríguez Pantoja-Márquez,
Special Ambassador for Disarmament,
Department for Security, Disarmament and Terrorism,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

WORKING GROUP C
SECURITY RISKS AND CHALLENGES ACROSS THE OSCE REGION

Viena, 26-06-03

Mr. Co-ordinator,

Indeed, terrorism has become a pressing thread against peace in our international community that is governed according to the rule of law.

This is a terrifying challenge of the 21st century. The least indulgence before it should be a crime; passivity, a mistake for which we should pay fully. Those who believe that this problem does not affect them are wrong. History proves sadly that what looks distant for certain countries, some heartless people may make it become something daily and cruel.

Since millions people around the world cannot walk freely down the street without realizing that they are the target of terrorist attacks, terrorism is one of the main concerns of our democratic societies. Because our fellow citizens are perfectly aware of the fact that murders, killings and destruction are themselves not an end but a means. The true end of terrorism is to undermine the basic values of our life together: democracy, freedom and the rule of law.

In Spain, we have soon realized that terrorism is no longer a problem of police in each country, but a problem of the international community. If there is some lesson learnt from the terrorist attacks, it is that security is not a divisible good and that the different states and regions are not watertight compartments. And that is the way understood by the international community, when reacting

together in regional and world wide fields. Not only at the United Nations but also at the European Union, where Spain has supported the creation of a common justice and freedom area, NATO, the Council of Europe and, particularly now at the OSCE where our Delegation participates actively in the works of the Group of Friends led by the Ambassador of Denmark.

Since terrorism worries us all, since it is a thread to us all, our Organization must make a contribution in the fight against terrorism.

Mr. Co-ordinator, we believe that the four following items should be taken into consideration in our strategic plan:

- First, concerning the Strategy document, terrorism should be the first of the threads in the list of threat categories;
- Secondly, we should concentrate on a common definition of terrorism, something that is in some way already being discussed in other fora of this Organization. To that end, we should underline that the terrorist phenomenon can not be international nor domestic. Terrorism should be considered as a global phenomenon, without boundaries and, thus, it must be combated making use of the international cooperation, using all means available;
- Thirdly, to be efficient, we must cut the sap that feeds terrorism cutting out its financial networks;
- And, fourthly, we should be implacable towards those who help, protect or encourage terrorists, particularly if they have or can have access to weapons of mass destruction, or any other kind. Thus, our Delegation welcomes the French proposal presented yesterday to the Working Group A, that has already received the support of a number of Delegations, in order to see in what way our Organization can make a contribution to the international efforts for preventing the terrorists from having access to Manpads (Man-portable Air Defence Systems).

I am sure that the discussions in this Working Group of the Conference will contribute positively to the review of our work concerning the challenges we face in this new century. Therefore, I hope that our insistence on this issue will help everyone to understand that Spain considers terrorism the first and most important thread that our society faces today and, secondly, that international cooperation in this area must be the pillar that will allow us, sooner or later, to put an end to this blot.

Thank-you, very much