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**STATEMENT BY MS. TAOUS FEROUKHI,  
HEAD OF THE DELEGATION OF ALGERIA, AT THE  
SEVENTEENTH MEETING OF THE OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

Athens, 2 December 2009

Mr. Chairman,

I should like on behalf of the Algerian delegation to express my thanks to the Greek authorities for their hospitality and organization of this 17th OSCE Ministerial Council meeting in Athens and congratulate them on the dynamic Chairmanship during 2009.

This meeting of the Ministerial Council is taking place in the context of international developments that have also had an impact on collective security.

As a Partner for Co-operation, Algeria would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm its support of the multilateral system and the role in peacekeeping of regional organizations, including the OSCE, which has been notable for its comprehensive and indivisible approach to security that provides the framework for our participation in the various Euro-Mediterranean discussion platforms.

The ongoing informal pan-European discussions on a new security architecture in Europe initiated by Greece in the Corfu Process represent a turning point for the Organization. Algeria is following this process with interest in the belief that it will take place in accordance with the commitment undertaken in Helsinki in 1975 and confirmed by the Charter of Paris to integrate the Mediterranean dimension in the overall concept of European security.

The search by the participating States for a security system more capable of responding to the challenges of the twenty-first century and based on the OSCE's inclusive approach is without doubt a source of inspiration for the Mediterranean partnership.

There are a number of subjects of common interest that open up promising prospects for co-operation and collaboration with the Organization in the three interdependent security dimensions. This applies in particular to safe border management, combating transnational scourges such as organized crime, trafficking in arms, human beings and drugs, and fighting terrorism.

In this regard, Algeria is doing its utmost to block the sources of financing for terrorism and calls on the co-operation of the OSCE to assist it in its efforts to promote an international legal instrument that would criminalize the payment of ransoms for hostage-taking in connection with terrorism.

Within the Contact Group, the Algerian delegation is continuing its constructive efforts to make the partnership more profitable and to improve its functioning. The implementation of some of its contributions and proposals, notably to the Harkonen report, spur it on to persevere in this direction. Among the contributions by my delegation are the initiatives on new protocol provisions and provisions permitting the regular participation by the partners in meetings of the Permanent Council and the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC), the creation of the Partnership Fund, the holding of the conference in Cordoba on Islamophobia and the seminar on freedom and responsibility of the media.

This progress is encouraging, but there is still a lot to be done in order for the Mediterranean dimension to occupy the position it deserves in the Organization's objectives and priorities. In that context, the integrity of the partnership would be safeguarded if its members were accorded equal treatment and the sense of ownership strengthened.

Another subject that concerns us is the inclusion of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) in the Mediterranean partnership following an official request going back to the year 2005. Algeria reaffirms its support for this request, which would help consolidate the OSCE as an indispensable forum for conflict prevention and resolution. It might also be pointed out that the PNA belongs to the other Euro-Mediterranean partnerships.

Mr. Chairman,

Although the list is not exhaustive, I should like to mention the main points of interest for my delegation, elaborated during consultations with the members of the Troika, to which I should like once again to express our appreciation.

- Participation in the Corfu Process as demanded by the principle of indivisibility of security on which the Mediterranean partnership is based;
- Promotion of institutional co-operation between the OSCE and regional organizations including the African Union so as to strengthen capacities;
- Follow-up of the recommendations of the seminar on the environment and security in Valencia including the prevention and control of fires that devastate the fragile vegetation cover in many countries on both sides of the Mediterranean;
- Organization of a conference on tolerance in Astana in 2010 as a contribution to the fight against the rise of an ideology that associates Islam with terrorism, not to mention the follow-up and implementation of the recommendations by the Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office on Combating, Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims.

In conclusion, I should like to assure you, Mr. Chairman, of the willingness of the Algerian delegation to continue to contribute constructively to the Mediterranean partnership. In that context, we support the offer by Malta to host the annual Mediterranean Conference in 2010, all the more so as it continues the tried and tested practice of holding this conference in countries on both sides of the Mediterranean.

Thank you.