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**STATEMENT BY
AMBASSADOR FERNANDO VALDERRAMA, PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF SPAIN, AT THE 882nd MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

Vienna, 13 October 2011

Regarding the forthcoming general elections in Spain

Mr. Chairperson,

I should like to inform the delegations of participating States that, on 26 September 2011, on the proposal of the Prime Minister, His Majesty the King of Spain issued a decree dissolving Parliament and calling general elections for 20 November.

Pursuant to the 1990 Copenhagen Document and the 1999 Charter for European Security, Spain has invited the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly to observe these elections.

I can also tell you that the ODIHR has already sent a needs assessment mission to Spain. It is now in Madrid.

In accordance with OSCE commitments, participating States that wish to do so are also invited to observe these elections.

Thank you for your attention.